

**ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Administration Building**  
**Tuesday, July 14, 2020**

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:46 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford, Mr. Anthony Dixon (arr. 5:47 p.m.)

Absent: None

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel that the Board **hold** an executive session to consider the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; student disciplinary cases; the placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students; collective bargaining matters; security procedures, school building safety and security; the purchase, sale or lease of real property; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act.

**Yeas:** Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

Pursuant to a Motion made in accordance with the Illinois Open Meeting Act and approved on a roll call vote, the Board, utilizing Zoom, was in executive session from 5:49 p.m. to 6:49 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano, utilizing Zoom, called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call  
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford  
Absent: Mr. Anthony Dixon  
*Mr. Scrivano thanked Conner Childers for hosting the Zoom meeting.*
4. Petitions & Communications  
There were no public speakers
5. Board Member Comments.
  - Mrs. Makulec spoke of Rock Valley College Board of Trustees decision of choosing Belvidere as the location for the Advanced Technology Center. She spoke of her hope that Rock Valley College (RVC) will work with the population from Rockford to develop some type of transportation system. She acknowledged why the decision was made, based on the geographical area the college serves; although the core of the population served is in Rockford. Mrs. Makulec expressed that she hoped, as part of their (RVC) planning, consider it would be available and accessible to all. She is aware that Dr. Jarrett has held conversations with community members as well as RVC regarding these issues. She asked Dr. Jarrett to speak to these issues.  
Dr. Jarrett thanked Mrs. Makulec for the opportunity to speak to her comments. He emphasized the continued importance of working with Rock Valley College to ensure students have access to the Belvidere location, or an alternate site. Administration is deeply committed to working with RVC. Three separate meetings have been held with the RVC management team. Ms. Bridget French and Mrs. Heidi Dettman have been a part of the conversations. Dr. Jarrett also had a conversation with trustee President Murphy expressing both concerns and hope that both entities can work together. The District will continue conversations with partners including Alignment Rockford, Collins Aerospace, and Woodward, Inc. The RVC management team and Trustees also invited Ms. French to present at the August RVC board meeting.
  - Mr. Rollins spoke of people being curious, concerned, and anxious regarding what will take place in the fall. He assured the community there has been a lot of time and effort put into plans. He thanked

Administration and teachers who have worked on these issues. Information will come out with more details in follow up communications. He asked for the community's patience and understanding as a lot of thought has been given to these issues.

- Mr. Seigel agreed with Mr. Rollins' comments. The Administration has been very good in communicating Board members, listening to stakeholders, and speaking with other school districts. Tremendous efforts are being made to make the best decisions for everyone. He also asked for community members to be patient and understanding.
- Mr. Scrivano followed up on Mrs. Makulec' s comments stating it is critical that some type of arrangement is made for ease of transportation of students from Rockford and RPS 205 to Belvidere is that is the choice made. The District will do anything it can to help.

6. \*Consent Items

- A. Meeting Minutes: 6-23-20
- B. Payroll
- C. Accounts Payable
- D. Purchase Orders (FY20)
- E. Purchase Orders (FY21)
- F. Contracts Under \$10,000

7. \*Bid Recommendations

- A. IFB 21-01 Printing of Student Handbook and Code of Conduct

8. \*Recurring Contracts

- A. ~~McGuire Woods LLC – Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Superintendent – pulled by Mrs. Makulec~~
- B. ~~Consolidated Contracts – Dr. Matthew Vosberg, Deputy Superintendent – pulled by Mrs. Makulec~~
- C. ~~National Equity Project – pulled by Mr. Connor~~
- D. Telesolutions Consultants (e-rate)
- E. Network Enhancement and Improvement Project Addendum 1
- F. ~~Sunrise Transportation, LLC Amendment – Mr. Michael Slife, Executive Director of Transportation – pulled by Mr. Connor~~

9. \*Other Consent

- A. ~~Memorandum of Understanding – November 3, 2020, School Holiday – pulled by Mr. Rollins~~
- B. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement
- C. Freedom of Information Log

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Connor to **approve** Consent items not pulled.

**Yeas:** Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Recurring Contracts pulled 8A, McGuire Woods LLC.

Dr. Jarrett spoke of the tumultuous year and the limited access to lobbying in 2020. Facilities rules are in place that are favorable to the District, although Evidence Based Funding remains flat. The Legislature is more active as the State is in Phase 4. McGuire Woods will continue to keep the District's interests in the forefront.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Yeas:** Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Rollins

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Recurring Contracts pulled 8B, Consolidated Contracts.

This is the second year of consolidating contracts for the schools. Many are technology based and used at specific schools. The Curriculum Department purchased Newsela for all the schools. By consolidating contracts, there is a \$28,000 savings. Discussion also included asking for metrics and usage of the programs.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Yeas:** Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Recurring Contract pulled 8C, National Equity. Board members expressed the equity is crucial and the work needs to be more visible. They asked for regular follow up and apply thought to what metrics to use. Comments included there had not been updates and that there wasn't any participation from Board members. The proposal addresses the concerns with the creation of a District Equity Leadership Team. There will also be the addition of involving more student voice as the ultimate outcomes involve them. The greatest change will be the focus on building the capacity of District building administrators to continue to learn about themselves in terms of equity.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Yeas:** Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Recurring Contract pulled 8F, Sunrise Transportation LLC Amendment.

Administration is recommending continuation of the contract. With the shutdowns, many school districts continued payment to their contractors as well as their employees. Originally, it was recommended to continue paying the contract, although it was not required. There is one additional year on the current contract, and the District attempted to bid out the service for the 2020-2021 school year. It will be bid out for the 2021-2022 school year. Bringing the service in-house is not recommended as the District does not have the capacity for storing the vehicles in addition to the significant investment in vehicles and drivers. Mr. Rollins stated for the record that what was being done is referred to as duress. The vendor states they will not perform the contract unless the District approves the raise. It is too late for the District to bid this in an orderly fashion for the upcoming school year. He will vote for it under duress.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Yeas:** Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec (*under duress*), Mr. Seigel (*under duress*)

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Other Consent Item pulled 9A, Memorandum of Understanding – November 3, 2020 School Holiday.

The Illinois General Assembly approved November 3, 2020, Election Day, as a legal holiday. This applies to all public schools, State and local governments. The October 12, 2020 Columbus Day holiday will be a regular school/workday and November 3, 2020 a paid holiday. Administration was tasked with quickly communicating the change with parents and staff, as many may have made plans for the Columbus Day weekend.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Yeas:** Ms. Stanford, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

10. \*Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Appointment of Daniel Phelps as 10 Month Assistant Principal at Eisenhower Middle School
- B. Appointment of Ryan Spears as 10 Month Dean at RESA Middle School
- C. Appointment of John Cornacchia as 10 Month Dean at West Middle School
- D. Appointment of Amy Gannon as 12 Month Director of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- E. Appointment of Joyce Matos as 12 Month Internal Auditor
- F. HR Organization Report & Addendum

11. \*Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline

*"Expelled students are to be prohibited from school and all school-sponsored activities and prohibited from being on school grounds without the prior written permission of the principal. In the event a student is expelled, the suspension is affirmed, and the student may be recommended for alternative placement."*

- A. GDM-4365-20 – expelled through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year
- B. GDM-4366-20 – expelled for the entire 2020-2021 school year
- C. GDM-4367-20 – expelled for the entire 2020-2021 school year
- D. GDM-4369-20 – expelled through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year
- E. GDM-4368-20 – expelled through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year
- F. GDM-4370-20 – expelled through the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year

12. \*Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs

- A. GDM-8117-20
- B. GDM-8121-20
- C. GDM-8130-20
- D. GDM-8132-20
- E. GDM-8138-20
- F. GDM-8144-20
- G. GDM-8149-20
- H. GDM-8155-20
- I. GDM-8151-20

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Closed Session Consent items.

**Yeas:** Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

13. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett began by complimented the District's partners including the REA and other bargaining units, along with the management team, and Board members. Robust conversations have taken place for months and a high level overview press conference will take place on July 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be shared first with employees and then made public. A more detailed and robust communication to employees and community members will take place July 29, 2020. Administration will be focused on three areas: safety, meeting the social and emotional needs of students, and academic achievement and driving equity through achievement.

14. Action Items

- A. Foundational Digital Tools

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Connor to **approve** item 14A, Foundational Digital Tools.

Comments included members looking forward to iteration of standards and visualization of the products.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Yeas:** Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Rollins

**Absent:** Mr. Dixon

**Approved: 6-0-1**

15. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

- A. United Way of Rock River Valley – Dr. Matthew Vosberg on behalf of Lincoln Middle School

The proposal is to add an additional Achievement Advocate at Lincoln Middle School. The first position is funded by the United Way, this is funded by the District. The Advocate will review attendance, behavior, course performance, and social emotional data to identify students who are off-track. This second position will better support students. The fiscal impact is \$24,378.

This will return for a vote at the August 11, 2020 meeting.

- B. Board Member Action Steps

1. Follow up from Administration for Foundational Tools and how this will fit with current items.
2. Mr. Scrivano spoke of the upcoming Committee of the Whole (CoTW) on August 4<sup>th</sup> and the Board meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. He and Mr. Rollins will be absent on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Fromm will poll members to see availability. Mrs. Makulec of her disappointment that the July CoTW was cancelled and felt it would have been a time to have a discussion about the start of the school year.
3. Mrs. Makulec requested information regarding students attending Page Park School, and where they will be placed as the building is being closed. Long term solutions need to be discussed.

4. Mr. Connor commented regarding Foundational Tools, and how Administration has diligently worked in the background with the iteration of standards and visualization of the products.

16. Adjournment

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to adjourn.

**Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.**

Approved: 8/11/20

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*