

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

**Administration Building**  
**Tuesday, September 22, 2020**

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 6:07 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford

Absent: None

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins 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.

**Approved: 7-0-0**

The Board was in executive session from 6:08 p.m. to 6:48 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:01 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. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford  
Absent: Done  
Mr. Scrivano thanked Conner Childers and Rod Weddle who produce the Board's broadcast on Channel 20, Zoom, and YouTube Live.
4. Petitions & Communications  
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
  - REA President Mel Gilfillan spoke in support of the teachers and how many compare it to being first year teachers again. He also spoke of recent comments from the Winnebago County Board of Health and how it upset staff. Teachers are working very hard in the schools, making sure students comply with rules, and cleaning students' desks. They are going above and beyond their duties.
5. Board Member Comments
  - Mr. Connor commented on the difficult year for teachers. There is a lot of technology they haven't had to use until now. The shut down in March surprised everyone, but teachers have been flexible, have learned a lot new things, and many are balancing between remote and in person. The teachers need to be given a lot of credit for what they learned and attitude along with all staff members. This is a difficult situation, and everyone is pulling together.
  - Mr. Seigel spoke of receiving e-mails from teachers and one reported this is the best year they've had. They are seeing great connections made with their students, and student responding to the curriculum when it's presented. Another teacher spoke of a lot of work going into delivering education this, feeling a little overwhelmed about the new items coming down the road; however, seeing a silver lining and a great potential in these programs. The common thread regardless of the feedback, teachers are feeling fairly exhausted as are administrators but there is a sense of exhilaration of being back in school. He ended wishing them luck, health, and success.
  - Mrs. Makulec read a quote from Patricia Leary, as she felt it was powerful and enlightening. She read this in response to some issues about an article in the newspaper regarding a bulletin board in one of the schools. She heard from both sides of the issue and felt this quote is illuminating. *"There is a difference between focus and exclusion. If something matters, this does not imply that nothing else does if I say '...Students Matter' it does not imply that my colleagues, friends, Board Members, and family do not. Here is something else that matters: context. The Black Lives Matter movement arose in a context of evidence that they don't. When people are receiving messages from the culture in which they live that their lives are less important than other lives, it is a cruel distortion of reality to scold them for not being inclusive enough."* She thanked members for letting her read this.

- Mr. Scrivano commented that at least two school districts in the United States, on their first day of school have had ransomware/cyber-attacks. Mr. Scrivano expressed his sympathies and wish them good luck.

6. \*Consent Items

- A. Meeting Minutes: 09-08-20
- B. Payroll
- C. Accounts Payable
- D. Purchase Orders
- E. Contracts Under \$10,000
- F. Construction Bid Request Log – 09/08/20
- G. Construction Bid Request Log – 09/22/20

7. \*Bid Recommendations

- A. ~~20-2250 Tree Maintenance – Unit Bid Prices (Rockford Park District and RPS205 Joint Purchase)~~ – pulled by Mr. Rollins

8. \*Other Consent

- A. Closed Session Minutes release
- B. RPS Managed Work Change Order
- C. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – August 2020 – Jamie Murray – Executive Director of Finance
- D. Freedom of Information Log

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

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Connor to approve Bid Recommendation pulled 7A, 20-2250 Tree Maintenance – Unit Bid Prices (Rockford Park District RPS205 Joint Purchase).

Mr. Rollins commented the bid recommendation is an example of collaboration between other government agencies. He urged the District to look for more opportunities.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

9. \*Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Appointment of Talarie Bilharz as 10 Month Assistant Principal at Johnson Elementary School
- B. Appointment of Jeremy Brown as 10 Month Assistant Principal at Jefferson High School
- C. Appointment of Michael Szpisjak 12 Director of Technology Services
- D. Appointment of Danny Echols as 12 Month Executive Director of Nutrition Services
- E. Request for Administrative Student Transfer – AB
- F. Notice to Remedy – Matthew Fields
- G. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

10. \*Closed Session Consent Items – Student Discipline

- A. GDM-2049-20 – expelled for the entire 2020-2021 school year.

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

- A. GMD-8191-20

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

**Approved: Unanimously**

12. Superintendent's Report

- A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett extended his appreciation for all the hard work with starting the school year to faculty, staff, students, and families. A lot of work and effort has gone into the work. He expressed his appreciation for the school nurses and their partnership with the health department. They have closely worked together, and the District will continue to add resources to provide the support. Dr. Jarrett also thanked Board members for the continued commitment to improve communication through Board Governance with the training earlier in the evening. The session was a good preview of the work that will take place. He gave a shout-out to the extra work done by the committee chairpersons as well as the chief staff liaisons for the preparation.

13. Action Items

- A. Resolution to Adopt 2020-2021 Budget – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 13A, Resolution to Adopt 2020-2021 Budget.

Ms. Jahr reviewed highlights of the 2020-2021 budget including a revenue shortfall, and a decrease in CPPRT (Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax). COVID-19 impacted everything on the revenue side including a decrease in interest revenue. The District will take \$9.3MM from the reserve fund in order to make-up for the shortfall. The Board was complimented on keeping the levy flat and maintaining fiscal discipline.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

14. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Board Member Action Steps

- Mr. Scrivano reminded Board members to review the CEO Centric goals.

15. Adjournment

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

**Adjournment: 7:31 p.m.**

Approved: 10/13/20

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*