

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

**Administration Building**  
**Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, 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: 6-0-0**

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 6:03 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

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*As four board members were temporarily quarantined, the Board met via Zoom under the Open Meetings Act exception related to the Governor's disaster declaration.*

1. Call to Order – President Scrivano, utilizing Zoom, called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00p.m.
  - A. Roll Call  
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford  
Absent: None  
Mr. Scrivano thanked Conner Childers who produce the Board's broadcast on Channel 20, Zoom, and YouTube Live.
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
  - C. Recitation of Mission Statement: The Mission of Rockford Public School is to collaboratively engage all students in a first class education for a changing world
2. Public Hearing
  - A. ~~Public Hearing: E-Learning Plan~~ – pulled by Administration
3. Petitions & Communications

Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.

  - Mel Gilfillan, President of the Rockford Education Association (REA), expressed his concerns of the higher positivity rate and spoke of safety for students.
  - Amanda McCallister spoke of the high positive and death rates of COVID-19.
  - Erick Czerwin spoke of discouraged staff and the difficulties at school.
  - Dani Parrotte spoke of rising COVID-19 rates and staff not being properly supported.
  - Tea Lojanica spoke of District staff testing positive for COVID-19.
  - Weston Brabeck commented that Board members were quarantined but why students and staff were in buildings.
  - Chrisi Perri spoke of the hybrid model in secondary schools and its difficulties.
  - Tania Paterick spoke of the high positivity rate.
  - Claudia Marshall spoke in support of remote learning.
  - Julie Kidder spoke of teaching hardships due to COVID-19.
4. Board Member Comments
  - Mr. Scrivano spoke of his excitement regarding the news with Rockford Promise. Mr. Scrivano thanked three people who have been working hard with this; Dr. Matt Vosberg who started the idea of the Kalamazoo Promise coming to Rockford, Elaine Breck who was the leader of Rockford Promise for many years, and Susan Fumo, who is a District employee, has been very involved in Rockford Promise. If RPS205 students meet certain criteria, graduating with 3.0 GPA or higher, they can attend Northern Illinois University tuition free. Mr. Scrivano gave a big shout-out to Mayor McNamara, who helped create the opportunity for funding. He thanked all the people that have been involved.

5. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Jarrett also spoke of the historic announcement and expanding the current partnership with Rock Valley College and Rockford University to Northern Illinois University. He thanked Mr. Scrivano for acknowledging the work of the Rockford Promise Board, Matt Vosberg, and Susan Fumo. He also wanted to acknowledge the partnership with Northern Illinois University, part of the reason this is possible. Northern Illinois University is offering their tuition reduced from \$14,000 to a maximum cost to Rockford Promise of \$6,000. This is available to students whose family's income is less than \$75,000. This is very exciting. He also spoke to the District will do as part of their work. Currently, there are 469 students with a 3.0 GPA, it is the District's aspiration to see they significantly increase the number of students who qualify for this. This will involve an all-in effort of faculty, staff, and community members working together to help students make progress whether they attend Rock Valley, Rockford University, or the new opportunity with Northern Illinois University. Significant progress has been made with offering Advanced Placement and Dual Credit classes to students, which helps decrease college costs and increases student readiness. The District has committed to continue with early college work to enhance student opportunities. The District also plans to commit to offer opportunities for content area master certifications for teachers at high school level, so that additional dual credit in content area by building more partnerships. Dr. Jarrett will continue reporting on the progress, and the Intergovernmental Agreement will be presented at a future Board meeting.

6. Report and Action on Items that Proceeded through the Performance Monitoring Committee

A. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Audited Financial Statements – Jamie Murray/Baker Tilly

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 6A, Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Audited Financial Statements.

**Approved: Unanimously**

B. Board Policy 4.60 Operational Services; Purchase and Contracts

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve, 6B, Board Policy 4.60 Operational Services; Purchases and Contracts

**Approved: Unanimously**

C. Board Policy 5.180 Personnel; Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 6C, Board Policy 5.180 Personnel; Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity.

**Approved: Unanimously**

D. Discussion: Metrics regarding Multi-Classroom Leaders, Instructional Coaches, Curriculum Implementation Leaders

Board members and Administration members conducted a robust discussion regarding Multi-Classroom Leaders (MCLs), Instructional Coaches, and Multi-Classroom Leaders (MCLs). Comments included what metrics is the District using, are they working, and are the right things being measured. In addition, are programs being correctly implemented. Accurate information has been difficult to compile due to the ransomware attack and COVID-19 quarantine. There were positive comments regarding Instructional Coaches. Reading Horizons was included in the conversation, as similar concerns were raised by Board members including metrics for success and should a measure of success for Reading Horizons be measured with third grade Illinois Assessment Readiness scores. Also included was implementation fidelity, and whether all five levels implementation has been accomplished. The links to the PDSAs are [Reading Horizons](#), [CILs](#), [Instructional Leaders](#), and [MCLs](#).

E. Follow up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole

*Follow up items were separately discussed.*

7. Report and Action on Items that Proceeded through the Planning and Development Committee

A. Resolution to Approve Notice of November 10, 2020 Public Hearing: E-Learning (Public Hearing 11/24/20)

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 7A, Resolution to Approve Notice of November 10, 2020 Public Hearing: E-Learning (Public Hearing 11/24/20).

This is a State directive for the District to change to E-Learning if there are snow days in the future. This approves the notice of public hearing. The School Code and the Regional Office does not allow the District to exceed the five emergency days. The resolution allows the District to conduct classes remotely on days that would otherwise be snow days. This eliminates the need to make up the days at the end of the school year, and the District would not exceed the number of school days on its calendar.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

B. Public Sale of the Operations Support Center Building 1907 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford, Illinois – Michael Phillips, Executive Director of Facilities

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve item 7B, Public Sales of the Operations Support Center Building 1907 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford, Illinois

**Approved: Unanimously**

C. Resolution to Approve 2020 Tax Levies – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 7C, Resolution to Approve 2020 Tax Levies.

Three proposals were presented; the first one to keep the levy flat, the second one was not to take CPI (Consumer Price Index), but to take new property, and the third proposal was to take CPI and new property. The District's proposal is to not take CPI but to take new property.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

D. Resolution Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2020 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Review Source), Series 2016 (Qualified School Construction Bonds) – Michelle R. Jahr, Chief Financial Officer

**Motion** by Mr. Conner seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 7D, Resolution Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2020 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Review Source), Series 2016 (Qualified School Construction Bonds)

**Approved: Unanimously**

E. Discussion: Reading Horizons

*Discussion of this topic occurred under item 6D.*

F. Discussion: Facilities Condition Assessment

Mr. Jensen gave a brief report regarding the Facilities Condition Assessment. \$31MM from the Facilities Master Plan was spent mainly on boilers, Univents, replacing air handling systems, and controls. Additional HVAC requirements were reviewed for Welsh and Westview Elementary Schools, Eisenhower Middle School, East High School, and Roosevelt. Additional expenses in the Facilities Condition Assessment are based on life-cycle. They consist of distribution systems, exhaust systems, duct work, ventilators, air handlers, and controls. Mr. Rollins asked members to review the report and forward questions to Mr. Phillips. [HVAC Cost Binder](#).

G. Discussion: County Sales Tax

Mr. Rollins led discussion of the regarding County Sales Tax. The State adopted legislation allowing a school facilities sales tax to be adopted a county level to benefit all the schools in that county. Discussion first took place not long after the legislation was enacted. Currently, more than half the counties in Illinois have adopted this tax. This would have to be done by referendum up to one cent (1¢). The money would have to be used for facilities including bond payments on facilities. He spoke of the Facilities Condition Assessment report which shows a very large facilities need condition assessment, and there are limited number of ways to pay for them. The amount of funds needed are unlikely to come out of the District's operations budget. He posed the question whether the Board/District should run a referendum for the county sales tax. The referendum can only be put on a ballot in a county, if a school district is representing more than fifty percent (50%) of the students enrolled in public school in that county. RPS205 meets that definition. None of the other districts in the county can do this without the District (RPS205) and the decision is the District's/Board's. Mr. Rollins has been quietly advocating for this as there are facility needs and operating budget funds cannot be used. One reason he favors this is the City of Rockford used it for its roads. At one time the City paid for all its road improvements with bonds. Those are expensive as interest has to be paid. The road sales tax was implemented, and the City doesn't pay interest that has amounted to a large cost savings. A referendum has to be well run, and more than half the counties in Illinois have passed this. Recently, a mental-health was passed. It is believed the District has the same arguments and justification the City has. Currently, the District does not receive any sales tax revenue. Currently, the District is completely dependent on State funding and property taxes. The County Sales Tax would give the District a third revenue source, and would give the District the ability to put funds towards facilities. To get the funds for facilities, the District would have to present a referendum either for bonds or sales tax. Research is needed to move forward, and Board members cannot advocate for this. Ms. Jahr will reach out to Anne Noble of Stifel to bring assumptions and projections.

Follow up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole

8. Report and Action on Items that Proceeded through the Internal/External Stakeholder Committee

A. Student Attendance Boundary Realignment—Michael Phillips, Executive Director of Facilities— pulled by Administration

B. Follow up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole

Mr. Seigel and Mr. Dotson are scheduled to meet with the District's lobbyist on November 17, 2020. Items for discussion include capital improvement plans. Evidence Based Funding, and unfunded mandates.

9. Board President's Announcements and Report and Action on Items that proceeded through the Governance Committee  
 A. Board Policy Board of Education 2.50 Board Member Term of Office  
**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 9A, Board Policy Board of Education 2.50 Board Member Term of Office.  
**Approved: Unanimously**  
 B. Follow up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole  
 There were no follow-up items.
10. \*Consent Agenda – Performance Monitoring Committee  
 A. Payroll  
 B. Accounts Payable  
 C. Purchase Orders  
 D. IFB 21-02 Electronic Message Boards  
 E. PDSA Tier 1: Third Party Security Renewal and Upgrade  
 F. PDSA Tier 1: Tierney – Smart learning Suite Software Renewal
11. \*Consent Agenda – Planning and Development Committee  
 A. PDSA Tier 1: Learning Ally  
 B. PDSA Tier 1: Music First  
 C. PDSA Tier 1: Senior Semester (RVC)
12. \*Consent Agenda – Internal/External Stakeholders Committee
13. \*Consent Agenda – Governance Committee  
 A. Meeting Minutes: 10-27-20  
 B. Contract Purchase Orders  
 C. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement – MB  
 D. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement - LM  
 E. Freedom of Information Log  
**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Consent items not pulled.  
**Approved: Unanimously**
14. \*Closed Session Consent Items  
 A. HR Organization Report & Addendum  
**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mrs. Makulec to **approve** Closed Session Consent Items.  
**Yeas:** Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec  
**Abstain:** Mr. Rollins  
**Approved: 5-0-1**
15. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations  
 A. Board Member Action Steps  
 Mr. Scrivano reminded members of the Chamber's Education Outlook meeting on 11/19/20. There is a Special Board meeting on November 30, 2020 that will be in person. He also reminded Administration to follow up with Anne Noble.
16. Adjournment  
**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **adjourn**.

**Adjournment: 9:27 p.m.**

Approved: 11/24/20

**President:** *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

**Secretary:** *Jude B. Makulec /s/*