

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, December 8, 2020

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:49 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. 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.

Approved: 6-0-0

The Board was in executive session from 5:49 p.m. to 6:18 p.m.

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 and Rod Weddle 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. Petitions & Communications
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
 - Diane Boone spoke in opposition to the closing of Wilson ASPIRE
3. Board Member Comments
 - Mr. Connor spoke of his two annual reminders; first he spoke of Veterans’ Day and expressed his sincere gratitude for veterans Mr. Rollins, Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr., and Mr. Barthel. Next, he mentioned his Christmas tie he was wearing, a present from his daughter-in-law.
 - Mr. Seigel welcomed community member Denise Pearson to the Board and thanked Tanya Bates, and Julian Holt for attending the candidate’s forum. All were great candidates. He also thanked Shanika Kilpatrick and Victor Rivera for applying. He also reminded everyone that it was the last meeting of 2020, and wished everyone a happy New Year.
 - Mr. Scrivano spoke of a positive e-mail he received from a staff/community member expressing positive their experiences since the District moved to the Adaptive Pause. Teachers and staff are working hard, and their efforts are appreciated as they engage their students doing the best they can under these unbelievable circumstances.
 - Mrs. Makulec spoke of participating in Lincoln Middle School’s Alternative Energy with students and teachers. It was a great opportunity to see how remote learning works with their presentations and slide decks. They were practicing what they were going to present to their teachers. One presentation was on tidal energy as an alternative energy source. It was a great job by the teacher and there was a parent liaison helping out, applauding them and the students.
4. Superintendent’s Report
 - A. Superintendent’s Report
Dr. Vosberg filled in for Dr. Jarrett, echoing Mr. Seigel’s sentiments and welcoming the newest Board member, Denise Pearson. There were many quality candidates to choose from, and expressed how the Board has done great work in stabilizing leadership and priorities for the District, and focusing on students. He spoke of visiting schools, either in person or via Zoom, how it’s been a challenging year for many both professionally and personally for many, and his

question he asked “What are you forced to do this year that always should have been doing?” This starts a conversation and shines a light on District struggles. Many of the conversations are on the use of technology and teachers are navigating this well. New innovations have been created due to the use of technology in the District. He also participated as a judge, along with Mrs. Makulec with Mrs. Griffith’s science class at Lincoln Middle School. It was very energizing seeing the presentations. One was on tidal energy the other on solar energy. The students did a lot of research and put together their cases for the new alternative sources of energy. He also spoke of the innovation of using Zoom with schools, teachers, and students to do these projects and engage community partners. Engineers from the community and Collins Aerospace participated.

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

A. *Board Policy 4.80 Operations; Accounting and Audits

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 5A, Board Policy 4.80 Operations; Accounting and Audits.

Approved: Unanimously

B. *Board Policy 4.90 Operations; Activity Funds

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 5B, Board Policy 4.90 Operations; Activity Funds.

Approved: Unanimously

C. *Wilson ASPIRE

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mrs. Makulec to approve item 5C, Wilson ASPIRE.

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to amend to postpone the vote until the January 12, 2021 Regular Board meeting.

The intention to postpone the vote was to give parents, staff, and community members the opportunity to engage in feedback with Administration. Members of the Administration reviewed negative impacts if the vote was delayed including placement of students and staff. Due to parliamentary rules, the closure of Wilson ASPIRE could not take place due to the active motion on the floor.

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded Mr. Connor to suspend the rules in order to discuss the closure of Wilson ASPIRE.

Approved: Unanimously

Jennifer Lawrence, Executive Director of Special Education, explained moving students to the least restrictive environment provides more opportunities for them. The District has programs that can provide these opportunities. Robust discussion took place regarding this. Mr. Scrivano called the vote to postpone the vote.

Yeas: Mr. Connor

Nays: Mr. Seigel, Ms. Stanford, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec

Motion Failed: 1-5-0

Mr. Scrivano called the vote for the original motion.

Yeas: Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano

Nays: Mr. Connor

Approved: 5-1-0

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

There were no follow-up items.

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

A. *Memorandum of Agreement – BinaxNOW Testing

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Connor to approve item 6A, Memorandum of Agreement – BinaxNOW Testing.

The District has contacted Crusader Clinic for administering the test, and also reviewing staffing options. Plans are being put in place. Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

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

There were no follow-up items.

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

A. *Property Transfer to the Northern Illinois Land Bank – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 7A, Property Transfer to Northern Illinois Land Bank.

Approved: Unanimously

B. *Memorandum of Understanding – Rockford Promise and Rockford Public Schools

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve item 7B, Memorandum of Understanding – Rockford Promise and Rockford Public Schools.

Mr. Scrivano commented this is one of the biggest deals to happen in Rockford in a long time. This is a great opportunity for the children in Rockford Public Schools, with a 3.0 GPA, attend Northern Illinois University tuition free.

Approved: Unanimously

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

There were no follow-up items.

8. Board President's Announcements and Report and *Action on Items that proceeded through the Governance Committee

A. *Board Policy 2.100 Board of Education; Board Member Conflict of Interest

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 8A, Board Policy 2.100 Board of Education, Board members Conflict of Interest.

Approved: Unanimously

B. *Board Policy 2.110 Board of Education; Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 8B, Board Policy 2.110 Board of Education; Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers.

Approved: Unanimously

C. *Board Policy 3.40 General School Administration; Superintendent

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 8C, Board Policy 3.40 General School Administration; Superintendent.

Approved: Unanimously

D. *Board Policy 5.130 General Personnel; Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 8D, Board Policy 5.130 General Personnel; Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information

Approved: Unanimously

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

Mr. Scrivano had no follow-up items.

9. *Consent Agenda – Performance Monitoring Committee

A. Payroll

B. Accounts Payable

C. Purchase Orders

D. Construction Bid Request Log

E. IFB 21-04 McIntosh School Window Replacement Project

F. West Middle School HVAC Upgrades, Architectural & Engineering Services – Scott Jensen, Director of Design and Construction

G. Architectural Services for Interior Finish Improvements – Scott Jensen, Director of Design and Construction

H. Recurring Contracts: IXL Math, NoRedInk, and Learning A-Z

I. PDSA Tier 1: Systems Monitoring and Customer Support Software Renewal

J. Recurring Contract – Rockford Park District

10. *Consent Agenda – Planning and Development Committee

A. E-Learning Plan – Mrs. Heidi Dettman, Executive Director of Academic

11. *Consent Agenda – Governance Committee

A. Meeting Minutes: 11/24/20

B. Contract Purchase Orders

C. Freedom of Information Log

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

Approved: Unanimously

12. *Closed Session Consent Items

A. HR Organization Report & Addendum

13. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs

A. ~~GDM-1069-20~~ – PULLED BY ADMINISTRATOR

B. GDM-8203-20

C. GDM-8204-20

D. GDM-8205-20

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Closed Session Consent Items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

14. New Board Member Oath of Office

A. Sub District A Selection and Administration of Oath of Office to New Board Member

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Sub District Selection and Administration of Oath of Office to Ms. Denise Pearson.

Approved: Unanimously

Mr. Scrivano administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Pearson, who was then seated at the Board table.

15. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Board Member Action Steps

There were no action steps.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to adjourn.

Adjournment: 8:15 p.m.

Approved: 01/12/21

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*