

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:41 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec (via Zoom), Ms. Denise Pearson (via Zoom), 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: 7-0-0

The Board was in executive session from 5:45 p.m. to 6:51 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:06 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec (via Zoom), Ms. Denise Pearson, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford
Absent: None
2. Mr. Scrivano thanked Conner Childers who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, Zoom, and YouTube Live.
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. 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.
3. Petitions & Communications
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
 - Sofia Buchanan spoke on behalf of Trevor Christopher, and not in support of his dismissal.
4. Board Member Comments
 - Ms. Pearson thanked members of the Rockford Park District, Nikki Lynch, Danielle Potter, and Kamrin Muhammad for having a panel discussion representing Black History Month. It was a joy speaking with the teens at high school level. She encouraged them understanding these are challenging times, and stay the course. She encouraged them to continue doing what they need to do, and soon everyone will be back in the in the classroom. She ended by advising to stay focused and to do the best they can.
 - Mrs. Makulec spoke of District students having the privilege to participate in sports, and the responsibility of correctly wearing masks. Currently, Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has this rule and it’s up to the District, coaches, referees, and athletic directors to follow this. She spoke of reaching out to Dr. Jarrett regarding this and he has reached out to all the Districts regarding this. There has been progress, but masks are still be incorrectly worn. Correct mask wearing is also not consistent among all the schools. She showed an example of a Jefferson basketball player incorrectly wearing his mask. She noted that Guilford students were correctly wearing their masks. She ended her comments reiterating playing sports was a privilege, there were rules to follow, and the need for consequences if masks weren’t properly worn. The thanked Dr. Jarrett and the coaches at Guilford.
5. Superintendent’s Report
 - A. Superintendent’s Report
There was no report.
6. Report and *Action on Items that Proceeded through the Internal/External Stakeholder Committee
 - A. Follow up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole
Mr. Seigel presented his observations regarding the Student Listening sessions. He will have a full report at the March 2, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. His three observations were:
 - Continued listening session in the coming years. At the last session, there were more students all engaged in high-level discussion.

- Comments made took a lot of courage to share with a group of adults, and how students at other schools affirmed the comments and the commonality of their experiences.
- There was more participation, but there hasn't been any from Jefferson High School. He stated the importance of receiving contributions from all schools.

Upcoming events include a staff listening session and future listening session with middle school students.

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

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

There was one follow-up item not covered at the meeting. This was a rebid for the Walk-In Freezer/Cooler, as only one bid was previously received. There were no additional items

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

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

There were no follow-up items.

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

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

Mr. Scrivano opened up discussion regarding the Operating Guidelines, and the issue of committee chairs.

Suggestions included change it to coincide with the Organization of the Board, or in October, allowing the liaisons and committee chairs extended opportunity to work together. Atty. Hoadley explained her decision was to keep the current chairpersons until the April 2022 Organization of the Board. At that time, Board members elect the President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Board. The Board President typically appoints the chairpersons to the committees.

This aligns, but the current term would extend for a 1-1/2 years. Comments included if there were a change in Board officers, to retain the current chairpersons until April 2022. Members reached a consensus to continue with the current committee structure in the event of Board officer changes through to April 2022.

10. *Consent Agenda – Performance Monitoring Committee

A. Payroll

B. Accounts Payable

C. Purchase Orders

D. Construction Bid Request Log

E. Financial Results: January 2021 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance

F. Fiscal Year (FY)2021 Second Quarter Treasurer's Report – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA – Chief Financial Officer

G. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – January 2021 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance

H. RPS Managed Work Change Order

I. IFB 21-18 OSC Walk-In Cooler/Freezer - Rebid

11. *Consent Agenda – Governance Committee

A. Meeting Minutes: 02/09/21

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

*Closed Session Consent Items

A. Appointment of Jennifer Lawrence as 12 Month Executive Director of Student Services

B. Appointment of Morgan Gallagher as 12 month Executive Principal of Adaptive Learning

C. ~~Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

D. ~~Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of 4th Year Probationary Teachers~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

E. ~~Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of a Non-Tenured District Administrator~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

F. ~~Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Certain Non-Certified Educational Support Staff (RIF)~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

G. HR Organization Report & Addendum

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Closed Session Consent item pulled 11C, Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teacher.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Closed Session Consent item pulled 11D, Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of 4th Year Probationary Teachers.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Closed Session Consent item pulled 11E, Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of a Non-Tenured District Administrator.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Closed Session Consent item pulled 11F, Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Certain Non-Certified Educational Support Staff (RIF).

Approved: Unanimously

12. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Board Member Action Steps

- Mr. Scrivano will rewrite the guidelines regarding committee chairpersons.
- Dr. Jarrett spoke of a follow-up regarding a Closed Session item of employee compensation and supervision. Dr. Woulfe will follow up on that.
- Mrs. Makulec requested a conversation with Board members regarding masks and sports. Mr. Scrivano stated the rules need to be followed and the responsibility falls under the Athletic Department and coaches. He continued this is an administrative action that needs to be handled by District coaches. This is not the job of the Board but Administration's. Ms. Pearson commented for those with difficulty breathing with masks, perhaps the Athletic Department can invest in the breathe easy devices that can be worn under the masks. Mr. Connor commented of not being too rigid on how this issue is approached. Mrs. Makulec agreed with Mr. Scrivano that this is not the job of the Board but that of Athletics and Administration. She spoke of Dr. Jarrett working with the athletic directors, of Mr. Mat Parker working with the athletic directors and coaches; however, there still are issues and no consequences for the students or coaches. Mr. Scrivano finished by stating he will continue to keep Dr. Jarrett accountable for this issue.

13. Adjournment

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

Adjournment: 7:39 p.m.

Approved: 03/09/21

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*