

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, April 13, 2021

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:33 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, , Secretary Jude Makulec, Ms. Denise Pearson (via Zoom), Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford

Absent: Vice President Tim Rollins

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: 6-0-1

The Board was in executive session from 5:31 p.m. to 6:41 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:02 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Secretary Jude Makulec, Ms. Denise Pearson, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford
Absent: Vice President Tim Rollins
Mr. Scrivano thanked Conner Childers who produces 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. Recognitions
 - A. National Merit Scholarship Award Semifinalists – Earl Dotson, Jr.
Auburn High School seniors , Emma Ottes and Ayush Bhalavat were named National Merit Scholarship Award semifinalists in September, along with approximately 16,000 students across the country recognized for their exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.
Emma recently learned that she is a finalist for the award, and now she is competing for one of more than 7,000 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered in the spring from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. National Merit Scholarship winners are chosen from the pool of finalists based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments.
 - B. Poetry Out Loud – Earl Dotson, Jr.
Jefferson High School students Raeanna Tremethick and Emma Carmona! Raeanna finished in first place, and Emma finished second at the Poetry Out Loud Regional Competition. They are among only 16 students across the state to advance to the Illinois State Poetry Out Loud Competition and compete virtually.
The competition is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance and competition. Congrats to Raeanna and Emma’s teachers and coaches Doug McArthur and Amanda Ellis, and congratulations to their families and friends for supporting them through this season.
3. Petitions & Communications

There were no speakers.
4. Board Member Comments
 - Mr. Seigel welcomed back Mrs. Makulec who attended the Board meeting in-person.
 - Mr. Scrivano of the District Leadership Team and their monthly meetings every month with 25-30 people. Members include the Superintendent, some Cabinet members, teachers, principals, and REA members. Mr. Scrivano gave a shout-out on how the District can do a better job of communicating. This was worthwhile on how the Board, District, REA group, on how information can be sent out. This has been critical this year due to the pandemic. Improvements are beginning in how messages are sent, how questions are answer, etc., however more work is needed. Mr. Scrivano suggested to Mr. Dotson, Jr., of the possibility of sharing these updates in the

Stakeholders report at the Committee of the Whole meetings. This would be a good way of sharing to Board and Cabinet members activities summarized from the District Leadership Team meetings.

5. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Jarrett spoke of developing a high set of systems to ensure he is receiving firsthand experience listening to people in the District. Currently he is eight months in meeting on a monthly basis with a group of African American principals and principals. He gave a shout-out to Maurice Davis for arranging these and Taren Turner, currently doing administrative internship with Dr. Jarrett, with coordinating and giving him insights. Currently, Administration is three meetings in with African American students, receiving insight and the students' perspectives. Dr. Jarrett also highlighted a staff group and complimented Mr. Seigel of speaking of the meetings.

School visits have taken place this year, but conducted differently from the past. He has increased the time he spends with one on one conversations with all staff in the buildings. There are big plans for staff appreciation in May. Dr. Jarrett spoke of the importance of extending this to faculty and staff, as well as students and their families for all the hard work during the past year.

Dr. Jarrett spoke of graduation ceremonies for the current school year. He thanked Dr. Vosberg and principals who worked with Mr. Dotson, Jr. to enable these ceremonies. Dr. Vosberg explained in-person ceremonies will take place at the stadiums. Multiple rain dates are scheduled in the event of bad weather. The ceremony has been broken into two parts, by academy per high school. In addition, there will be a prom on June 4 for seniors, which will be on school sites.

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

There were no follow up items. Mr. Seigel presented Recognitions.

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

A. *Board Policy 6.30 Instruction; Organization of Instruction

B. *Board Policy 6.170 Instruction; Title I Programs

C. *Board Policy 6.260 Instruction; Complaints about Curriculum and Instruction Materials

D. *Board Policy 6.340 Instruction; Student Testing and Assessment Program

Board members agreed to vote for items 7A-7D with one motion and one vote.

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** items 7A-7D, Board Policy 6.30 Instruction; Organization of Instruction, Board Policy 6.170 Instruction; Title I Programs, Board Policy 6.260 Instruction; Complains about Curriculum and Instruction Materials, Board Policy 6.340 Instruction; Student Testing and Assessment Program

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

Absent: Mr. Rollins

Approved: 6-0-1

E. Tier 3 Updates – Freshman Academy

Ms. Peterson presented the update to Board members. Success is defined as Freshman on Track and Student Engagement. The percentage of freshman students who are on track to graduate in 2020-2021 school year increased by ten percent (10%) compared to the 2018-2019 school year. Due to the pandemic, numbers from the 2019-2020 school year were not used. The number in 2018-2019 school sixty-five percent (65%) with the goal being set at seventy-five percent (75%). Currently, the Freshman on Track number is sixty-nine percent (69%). Student Engagement is the second definition and five questions from the Five Essentials survey were modified in order to express the freshman experience. The survey is administered in the fall and spring; the goal being at least a fifty percent improvement from the fall to the spring. Currently that information is not available as the spring survey has not been administered. The actual metric will be presented at the next report. Mr. Lowary reviewed the segment data.

These were first semester On Track percentages by ethnicity, gender, learning location (in-person, full-time remote), attendance, last year's Level 2+ incidents, engagement survey, and unweighted GPA. Ms. French reviewed key program components; small learning communities, freshman class seminar, and involvement in community. She spoke of the issues including a high failure rate this year in core content areas and developing professional development to ensure teachers are comfortable. Due to the pandemic, the Academy Expo was not held; however, Jefferson and Guilford High Schools hosted explorations. Alignment Rockford also created a video library for students. She will return at the end of the school year with more information. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [Tier 3: Freshman Academy](#).

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

Mrs. Makulec spoke of the added item to the Consent agenda, Fee Waiver for Winnebago County Health Department to hold vaccine clinics at the District's facilities. There were no other items.

8. Report and *Action on Items that Proceeded through the Planning and Development Committee
 A. *Resolution for Advanced Spending – Fiscal Year 2022 Tentative Budget – Michele Sather, Executive Director of Budget
Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 8A, Resolution for Advanced Spending – fiscal Year 2022 Tentative Budget.
Yeas: Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Ms. Pearson
Absent: Mr. Rollins
Approved: 6-0-1
 B. Follow up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole
 There were no follow up items to present.
9. Board President’s Announcements and Report and *Action on Items that proceeded through the Governance Committee
 A. *Intergovernmental Agreement Between Rockford Public Schools, District 205 and the Rockford Park District – Guilford Tennis Center, Community Use – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
Motion: by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 9A, Intergovernmental Agreement Between Rockford Public Schools, District 205 and the Rockford Park District – Guilford Tennis Center, Community Use.
 Board members discussed the operating hours during the school year and spoke of including the information in the IGA.
Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **amend** the motion to change the IGA to state the following hours: during the school year, the hours are Saturday and Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and summer hours Monday – Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Yeas: Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Ms. Pearson, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec
Absent: Mr. Rollins
Approved 6-0-1
 Mr. Scrivano called for the vote on the original motion.
Yeas: Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford, Ms. Pearson, Mr. Scrivano
Absent: Mr. Rollins
Approved as Amended: 6-0-1
 B. Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements
 Mrs. Dettman presented the Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements to Board members. The Administration is asking the Board to waive up to six physical education or elective credits attempted during the spring of 2020, the fall of 2020, or spring of 2021 for students in the Class of 2021. Students in the Class of 2021 will earn a minimum of 42 core credits including all core course requirements.
 This will return for a vote at the April 27, 2021 Regular Board meeting.
 C. Follow up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole
 There were no follow up items to present.
10. *Consent Agenda – Performance Monitoring Committee
 A. Payroll
 B. Accounts Payable
 C. Purchase Orders
 D. ~~RFP 21-17 Custodial Services~~ – pulled by Mr. Connor
 E. IFB 21-29 Electronic Message Boards
 F. ~~IFB 21-30 Multi-Carrier-Cellular/Public Safety 700/800 Distributed Antenna System~~ – pulled by Mr. Seigel
 G. IFB 21-31 Athletic Trainer Services – Rebid
 H. IFB 21-32 Propane Fuel – Rebid
 I. IFB 21-24 Smartboards
 J. Data Access and Evaluation Agreement
 K. Recurring Contracts for Title Summer Programming – Dr. Travis Woulfe
 L. RPS 205 and PowerSchool Group, LLC
 M. Winnebago County Health Department Facility Rental Fee Waiver – Mr. Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
11. *Consent Agenda – Governance Committee
 A. Meeting Minutes: 03/030/21
 B. Contract Purchase Orders
 C. Workers’ Compensation Settlement Agreement - IK
 D. Freedom of Information Log
Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Consent items not pulled.

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

Absent: Mr. Rollins

Approved: 6-0-1

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Consent item pulled 10D, RPF 21-17 Custodial Services
As this is not a bid request, the District is not required to take the lowest one. Mr. Phillips spoke to the vendor's references and the reasons for choosing them.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

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

Absent: Mr. Rollins

Approved: 6-0-1

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Consent item pulled 10F, IFB 21-30 Multi Carrier Cellular/Public Safety 700/800 Distributed Antenna System.

This will enable better cell reception in areas where there are repeaters.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

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

Absent: Mr. Rollins

Approved: 6-0-1

12. Closed Session Consent Items

A. Appointment of Scott Dimke as 10 Month Assistant Principal at Auburn High School

B. Salary Adjustments for Non-Bargaining Employees – Additional Information

C. ~~Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Certain Non-Certified Educational Support Personnel – Reduction in Force~~ – pulled by Administration

D. Notice to Remedy Shana Alex

E. HR Organization Report & Addendum

13. ~~*Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsion~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

Unless otherwise modified below, the Board adopts and accepts the Hearing Officer's findings and recommendations in the following cases in which students expelled or suspended are prohibited from being on school grounds and school-sponsored activities without the prior written permission of the principal.

A. GDM-2052-21 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year through the second trimester of the 2021-2022 school year.

14. ~~*Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

A. GDM-8215-21

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

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

Absent: Mr. Rollins

Approved: 6-0-1

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Closed Session Consent items pulled, 13A, GDM-2052-21 and 14A, GDM 8215-21

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

Nays: Ms. Pearson

Absent: Mr. Rollins

Approved: 5-1-1

15. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Board Member Action Steps

Mr. Lowary was asked to provide the first semester 19/20 Freshman On-Track data to members

16. Adjournment

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

Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.

Approved: 04/27/21

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*