

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

**Administration Building**  
**Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:32 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Ms. Denise Pearson (via Zoom), 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 5:32 p.m. to 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.
  - A. Roll Call  
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Ms. Denise Pearson, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford  
Absent: None  
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. Petitions & Communications  
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
  - Angelia Craig spoke of her concerns with the District’s contract with the recently approved Custodial Services.
  - Jaimie Smith spoke of her concerns with the District’s contract with the Custodial Services bid approval.
3. Public Hearing – Janice Hawkins/Rockford School Dist. 205
  - A. Janice Hawkins/Rockford School District 205  
Atty. James Pirages, representing Rockford School District 205, read the Statement of Facts to Board Members. Atty. Stamatoglou, representing Ms. Hawkins, spoke on her behalf.  
Mr. Pirages announced the conclusion of the public hearing requested by Ms. Hawkins, and the Board may reconvene in executive session to consider the matter, and to review it at the Board’s next meeting.
4. Board Member Comments
  - Mr. Rollins recognized the loss to the RPS community of long-time member, Peter Damby. Mr. Damby was his older children’s principal at King Elementary School on Montague Street. He was also a neighbor of Mr. Rollins and their children became fairly good friends, spending a lot of time at each other’s homes. Peter retired, but was an interim principal, substitute principal, principal mentor, and the conclusion was reached that Peter would not retire. Mr. Rollins extended his condolences to Mr. Damby’s family and to the RPS community as a whole. Mr. Rollins then spoke of how ten year can quickly pass. Ten years ago, Ken Scrivano, Laura Powers, and Mr. Rollins were the new members on the Board, as they were newly elected. They were elected at a time when people would say money could be raised by watching Board meetings as reality television. The District had many issues including poor or non-existent technology, unresponsive Human Resources department, no aligned curriculum, poor school climate that led many people to not enroll their children in District schools, and facilities that had not been maintained. In ten years, the Board has accomplished some things. Mr. Rollins spoke of his appreciation for Mr. Scrivano, his calm, almost unflappable demeanor. Board members do not get paid, do not receive benefits, and there is literally no decision made that will not upset someone. Mr. Rollins stated Mr. Scrivano has earned time to play more golf. He presented Mr. Scrivano with a plaque in appreciation for his service.

- Mr. Connor commented on his friendship with Mr. Scrivano. He spoke of the difficulty of balancing comments, interests, and desires of multiple people across diverse groups. Mr. Scrivano has been outstanding with these since being President of the Board for the past eight years. Mr. Scrivano has balanced perspectives, listened to many, worked as an executive at Swedish American. Mr. Scrivano and his family are Rockford natives, attended Summerdale, Roosevelt, and graduated from West High School. Mr. Scrivano's children and grandchildren have attended Rockford schools, and still attend. Mr. Scrivano has quietly volunteered with many committees seeking little recognition. Mr. Connor thanked Mr. Scrivano for his dedication, temperance and for great work.
- Mrs. Makulec spoke of how much Mr. Scrivano accomplished, that he will be missed, and how everyone will appreciate the effort he has put in as a Board member. She encouraged him to enjoy his second retirement, as being a board member is a full time job.
- Mr. Scrivano commented that it has been an honor to serve and that it takes a team effort. The District has the strongest leadership team in place since his time as a member. He thanked the following people for making his job more enjoyable and successful because of their work: Dr. Jarrett, Dr. Vosberg, Lori Hoadley, Michelle Jahr, Earl Dotson, Jr., Michael Phillips, Jason Barthel, Heidi Dettman, Matt Zediker, and Amy Linnabary. He spoke of what was accomplished, speaking of the cyber-attack in 2019 that shut down the District for months. The District recovered from that. Following that, the pandemic occurred with the State shutting down the schools; yet staff, administrators, teachers, janitors, and bus drivers, stepped up to take care of the kids. Many school districts were not able to offer a hybrid model until January, yet the District did. It is an amazing group of people that did great work. Mr. Scrivano also thanked past and present Board members for their support and commitment to the board governance role they play. His most important message to the Board has been, "our job is not to run the District. We hire a superintendent to run the District. Our job is governance, and the most important part is making the decisions that make sure the District runs well." The end result is doing what is best for the students to be successful. Mr. Scrivano also thanked the REA leadership; they have been great partners. Previously Dawn Granath and Paul Goddard as president and vice president, and Mel Gilfillan and Chad Anderson as current REA officers, for being engaged in the partnership process. Two years ago, Mr. Scrivano was nominated and won the Those Who Excel Award, and thanked Pamela Green from RESA Middle school for her nomination, and the leadership team from the REA for giving him the award. Mr. Scrivano again thanked Lori Hoadley and Dr. Jarrett who has been a great partner. Mr. Scrivano recognized Laura Fromm for her partnership with Board members for Administrative Assistance day.
- Mrs. Makulec thanked the custodians, those speaking at the meeting, and those working throughout the District. She expressed her appreciation for their time and investment they have made in the District schools and the students.
- Mr. Scrivano also thanked Mr. Diehl, Ms. Bridget French, Ms. Jennifer Lawrence, and Ms. Kim Nelson. He spoke of having great people in the District who do a lot of work and do not receive a lot of recognition.
- Mr. Seigel congratulated Ms. Kamrin Muhammad on her election and spoke of looking forward to working with her.

5. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Jarrett commented he had expressed his appreciation for Mr. Scrivano privately and in writing, again thanking him for his service. He also welcomed Ms. Muhammad to the Board and to the District.

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.

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

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

Mrs. Makulec spoke of added items to the consent agenda and will pull them to speak to them.

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 to present. Mr. Rollins spoke of the ESSER funds that will be on the May 4, 2021 Committee of the Whole agenda.

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

A. \*Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 8A, Class of 2021 Graduation Requirements.

**Approved: Unanimously**

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

Mr. Scrivano asked for Mr. Phillips' assurance the tennis courts at Guilford High School were unlocked. They were.

9. \*Consent Agenda – Performance Monitoring Committee

- A. Payroll
- B. Accounts Payable
- C. ~~Purchase Orders~~ – pulled by Mr. Seigel
- D. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – March 2021 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- E. Financial Results: March 2021 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- F. Construction Pay Request Log
- G. RPS Managed Construction Change Order Logs
- H. ~~IFB 21-11 Masonry Restoration and Repointing at 10 Schools~~ – pulled by Mr. Rollins
- I. IFB 21-25 Roosevelt Switchgear Replacement
- J. Recurring Contracts: UCCM Phone System Upgrade
- K. ~~Renaissance Learning – Champions Academy~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
- L. ~~DMG – Accelerated Learning Institute~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec

10. \*Consent Agenda – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 04/13/21
- B. Contract Purchase Orders
- C. Prevailing Wages
- D. Freedom of Information Log

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

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Consent item pulled 10C, Purchase Orders.

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

**Abstain:** Mr. Seigel

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Consent item pulled 10H, IFB 21-11 Masonry Restoration and Repointing at 10 Schools.

The bid is significantly over budget as there is further deterioration at District schools. The original budget for this was set in 2015.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Consent item pulled 10K, Renaissance Learning – Champions Academy.

The District is preparing to implement a system-wide K-12 academy progress monitoring tool beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Approval of this agreement is initial Champions Academy training for each school's core leadership team of up to 6 staff members. This will enable them to learn about the Star 360 platform and how it can be used to monitor student progress. The fiscal impact is \$24,600.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Consent item pulled 10L, DMG-Accelerated Learning Institute.

Due to funding from the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP-ESSER), the District will have the opportunity to invest in learning recovery through 2024. The Accelerated Learning Institute through District Management Group (DMG) is a plan review, coaching, professional development, and peer review. The District will join a cohort of no more than 15 Districts across the country. The cost includes three institute session, two coaching session, and peer review of the plan. The fiscal impact is \$14,500.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

11. \*Closed Session Consent Items

- A. HR Organization Report & Addendum

12. \*Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsion

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-2053-21 the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

- B. ~~GDM-4376-21—expelled for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year through the entire 2021-2022 school year.~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson
- C. GDM-4377-21 the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

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

- A. GDM-8216-21
- B. GDM-8217-21
- C. GDM-8218-21
- D. GDM-8219-21

**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 13B, Student Discipline GDM-4376-21.

**Yeas:** Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mr. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford

**Nays:** Ms. Pearson

**Approved: 6-1-0**

14. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

- A. Board Member Action Steps

There were no action steps.

15. Reconvene into Closed Session

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **reconvene** into Closed Session to consider employee compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act."

**Approved: Unanimously**

The Board was in executive session from 8:08 p.m. to 9:04 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:10 p.m.

16. Organization of the Board

- A. Administration of Oath of Office to the New Board Members

President Kenneth J. Scrivano administered the Oath of Office to the following Board members:

- Sub District A – Ms. Denise Pearson
- Sub District C – Ms. Kamrin Muhammad
- Sub District F – Mr. Michael Connor
- Sub District G – Ms. June Stanford

- B. Adjournment Sine Die (9:22 p.m.)

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Ms. Pearson to **adjourn** sine die.

**Approved** on voice vote

- C. Selection of President Pro Tempore

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins seconded by Ms. Pearson that the Board **approve** Mr. Tim Rollins as President Pro Tempore.

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

**Abstain:** Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 6-0-1**

- D. Call to Order by President Pro Tempore

- E. Election of Board President – *Mr. Connor nominated Mrs. Makulec*

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **close the nomination and cast the ballot.**

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

**Abstain:** Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 6-0-1**

- F. Election of Board Vice-President – *Mr. Connor nominated Mr. Rollins*

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **close the nomination and cast the ballot.**

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

**Abstain:** Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 6-0-1**

- G. Election of Board Secretary – *Mr. Connor nominated Ms. Stanford*

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Connor to close the nomination and cast the ballot.

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

**Abstain:** Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 6-0-1**

H. Establishment of Regular Meeting Dates and Place

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Establishment of Regular Meeting Dates and Place.

*Board members reviewed the schedule. Attorney Hoadley spoke of Spring break in 2022 will occur the week of the March 22, 2022 meeting. The second meeting in March is scheduled for March 29, 2022. In addition, the Board meets only once in July and December. Mrs. Makulec asked Ms. Fromm to poll members regarding their availability for the July Committee of the Whole meeting, as two members will be absent.*

**Approved: Unanimously**

Mrs. Makulec made the following announcements. Mr. Connor will be the chairperson of the Performance and Monitoring Committee. Mr. Seigel will be on the DLT Committee, Ms. Stanford will serve as the Board member on the Alignment Rockford Committee. The seating arrangement will be changed, and Board members were asked to look for their places at the next meeting. There will be an upcoming Board Retreat and Ms. Fromm will e-mail the available dates. This will include many items, including future individual meeting.

17.

Adjournment

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

**Adjournment: 9:29 p.m.**

Approved: 05/11/21

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

**Secretary:** *June Stanford /s/*