

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

Rockford Public Schools, District 205
501 7th Street
Third Floor Board Room
Rockford, IL 61104
Saturday, May 15, 2021

The On-Boarding Board Member Retreat was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: President Jude Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Denise Pearson, Ms. Kamrin Muhammad, Mr. David Seigel Mr. Michael Connor

Absent: None

Administration: Superintendent Dr. Ehren Jarrett, , Jr., Chief Human Resources Officer Mr. Matt Zediker (dept 11:25), Chief Financial Officer Ms. Michelle R. Jahr (dept. 10:12 a.m.), Executive Director of Academics Mrs. Heidi Dettman, Legal Counsel Atty. Lori Hoadley (11:45 a.m.), Chief Information Officer Mr. Jason Barthel, Deputy Counsel Atty. Yashkia Goldsmith, Atty. Venita Hervey (arr. 10:25), Manager, Superintendent Office, Ms. Amy Linnabary, Board Coordinator Ms. Laura Fromm

1. Board Governance Mrs. Makulec & Atty. Hoadley

A. Board Governance Mrs. Makulec & Atty. Hoadley

Mrs. Makulec reviewed the history of the Governance structure and development of Board agendas for the committee of the whole, and Board members. She also reviewed the Board is responsible for three evaluations; self-evaluation, Superintendent's evaluation, and General Counsel evaluation.

B. Planning and Development Committee: Mr. Rollins and Ms. Jahr

Mr. Rollins explained new items/proposals begin in the planning and development committee, and once approved move the Performance and Planning. He then spoke of two cycles; budget year based on the Fiscal year, July 1 to June 30, and then levy year, January 1 to December 30. The budget process begins internally with Administration, once complete, each department of the District bring their individual budgets to the Board for discussion and questions. Mr. Rollins explained Evidence Based Funding (EBF), Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT), Federal Grants.

Ms. Jahr will provide a breakdown of the District's funding, State and Federal.

C. Performance and Monitoring Committee: Mr. Connor and Mrs. Dettman

Mrs. Dettman spoke of the duties. There are three tiers all based on academic performance. She reviewed the process of Academic Return on Investment, AROI. The highest level is Tier 3 and include Reading Horizons and Freshman Academy and is overseen by the Board. Tier 2 consists of 20 initiatives and updates are provided in reports and overseen by Cabinet. All other initiatives are Tier 1, and are managed at the department level by Cabinet members. Mrs. Dettman also spoke of the System-Wide Framework for improvement.

D. External/Stakeholder Relations Committee: Mr. Seigel and Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr.

Mr. Seigel explained the work being in three sections, National Equity Project, relationships with local legislations, speaking and listening sessions with community members. The most effort has been with the National Equity Project, and involves meetings with community and members of other school districts. Beginning to have a relationship building process with representative. Mr. Seigel encouraged board members to engage in speaker opportunities. Mrs. Makulec encouraged members to meet with Mr. Seigel and Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr. for speaking opportunities.

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2. Legal Overview Atty. Hoadley

A. Board Employees: Chief Counsel and Superintendent

B. Board Policy

- C. Legal Update/Communications
- D. Personnel Matters
- E. Robert's Rules: voting, public speaking rules, action items, consent, decision making process
- F. Contracts and contract rule/approval, including Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs)
- G. Charter Schools
- H. FOIA/OMA Training Supplement
- I. Bargaining

Atty. Hoadley spoke of what governs the District beginning with Board Employees. Employees include approximately half licensed teachers, paraprofessionals, Hearing Interpreters, Bus Drivers, RBMA, EOPA, and nutrition services which fall under collective bargaining. The board oversees direct employment of the superintendent and general counsel. She also explained the differences between the two, as the superintendent's contract is multi-year with performance goals. General counsel's agreement. Board member individually do not have authority but only as a whole. Board policy are the rules that govern the District, explaining the different categories. Also covered were the criteria for Closed/Executive session.

Atty. Goldsmith reviewed the structure and reporting of Charter Schools.

- 3. **Legal: Code of Conduct and Student Discipline – Atty. Hoadley & Atty. Hervey**
 - A. **Code of Conduct and Student Discipline – Atty. Hoadley & Atty. Hervey**

Attorneys Hervey and Goldsmith introduced themselves to Board members. Atty. Hervey is the Hearing Officer for the District and reviewed with members what constitutes student discipline. The Student Code of Conduct determines which behaviors constitute suspensions and expulsions. Board members and Attys. Hervey, Hoadley, and Goldsmith conducted a robust conversation regarding the structure and criteria of discipline packets. Atty. Hervey reviewed and explained the Robinson Factors and Senate Bill 100 to everyone.

- 4. **Superintendent Communication & Evaluation – Dr. Jarrett**
 - A. Communication Structure
 - B. Evaluation

Due to time constraints, Dr. Jarrett will cover the communication structure and evaluation with Board Members during his one-on-one meetings. He also asked members, if they wished, they could also meet with members of his team during their one-on-one sessions with him.

- 5. **Board Takeaways & Dialogue**
- 6. **Next Steps: Schedule Meetings with Cabinet Members**
 - A. Schedule Meetings with Cabinet Members
- 7. **Petitions & Communications (Limited to 30 Minutes)**
There were no speakers.
- 8. **Adjournment**
Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **adjourn**.
Adjournment: 12:41 p.m.

Approved: 5/25/21

President: Jude B. Makulec /s/

Secretary: June Stanford /s/

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