

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

**Administration Building  
Tuesday, June 8, 2021**

President Jude Makulec called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Jude Makulec, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Denise Pearson (via Zoom ), Ms. Kamrin Muhammad, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor

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 6:01 p.m. to 7:05 p.m.

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1. Call to Order – President Makulec called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:12 p.m.
    - A. Roll Call  
Present: President Jude Makulec, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Denise Pearson, Ms. Kamrin Muhammad (via Zoom), Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor  
Absent: None  
Mrs. Makulec 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

*Mr. Seigel presented the recognitions.*

    - A. 2021 Rockford University Education Pathway Students  
The following Rockford Public Schools senior are the 2021 Rockford University Pathway students. Due to a partnership with Rockford University, these students will study education at a steeply discounted rate. They will do their student teaching in District schools and have priority placement for available District teaching jobs when they receive their degree.  
Auburn High School: Julisa Gutierrez, Allyson Ware  
East High School: Jennifer Pina, Matthew Renton, Addison Corey  
Guilford High School: Sara Goodger  
Jefferson High School: Kyle Reed, Iris Acosta
    - B. State Qualifiers – Winter & Spring Athletics and Activities  
The following students were State Qualifiers in the following categories:  
IHSA Journalism: Guilford High School  
Students Maggie Thomas and Isabel Rundall won first place at the IHSA Journalism Sectional. They qualified to complete in the IHSA State Journalism Tournament.  
IHSA Bass Fishing: Guilford High School  
Students Noah Kowalski and Isaiah Smith competed in the IHSA Bass Fishing Sectional and qualified for the IHSA State Tournament.  
IHSA Chess: Guilford High School  
The chess team qualified for the IHSA State Chess Tournament in February. Senior Jeremiah Davis won five of his seven rounds in the tournament and holds every team record for the Vikings. Team members are Jeremiah Davis, Joey Domino, Charles Kang, Nathan Czerwin, Minjmaa Amarsaikhan, Spencer Kang, Cedric Taylor, Wade Little, Kyle Reed, Judah Salberg, Sophia Nelson, Trinity Miller, and coaches Erik Czerwin and Joaquin Santillan.  
IHSA Scholastic Bowl: Auburn High School  
The Auburn Knights dominated the regional and sectional tournaments; however, the State tournament was cancelled. The team completed eleven online tournaments and are looking forward to the Stateline Quiz Bowl. Team members

are Justin Abel, Alex Crowell, Jay Gupta, Eddie Hoffman, Huan Lin, Sinecio Morales, Nam Pham, Brielle Rach, Ashley Thammavong, Coby Thammavong, and their coach, Nevagay Abel.

3. Petitions & Communications

There were no speakers

4. Board Member Comments

- Mr. Connor commented on how please he was to see recognitions return to Board meetings, especially Chess. He gave kudos to the Administration and State for recognitions of academic pursuits.
- Mr. Rollins commented the last day of school on June 11, 2021, and expressed the hope to never have a year as this past year. The District did a better job than most districts its size in handling the challenges it was given. People this year have worked incredibly hard to try to salvage something out of the school year. Everyone in the District is owed a debt of gratitude for this work. Ended by hoping for a better year next year and again thanked everyone in the District who worked very hard this past school year.
- Mr. Seigel echoed Mr. Rollins' comments and thanked everybody for their efforts. Everyone lived with a lot of unknowns but worked very hard to make things work. He spoke of teachers sending him pictures of their set-ups and also messages from parents. Messages were positive and hopeful, in the spirit of making the school year work.
- Ms. Pearson echoed everyone's comments regarding the hard work and effort that everyone put forward to trying to have the best year in the midst of a pandemic. She also brought attention to teachers, having friends both within and outside the District. This was not an easy task for any of them; the element in common was struggling students learning remotely; which was a significant hurdle. Ms. Pearson acknowledged the teachers and encouraged them to continue on and put forth the effort.
- Mrs. Makulec spoke of being a parent of a chess player and gave extra kudos to those watching as it is a completely different experience than watching basketball. She again thanked student Jeremiah Davis for attending the meeting, and thanked teachers for making this year happen.

5. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report

B. System-Wide Framework

Dr. Jarrett gave a brief update, beginning with how the Pandemic impacted the District Scorecard. Changes made included lowering participation thresholds. Changes include IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness), and SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) participation rate is typically 97%, the minimum threshold is 95%. This was waived this year by the State due to the challenges of remote learning. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the District's students took the IAR and SAT tests; which will provide data that can be used, but not reliable for year-over-year comparisons. The recommendation is to show it as N/A, or not applicable. The 5Essentials survey was impacted. Normally, the response rate is 82%, but that fell to 71% this year due to many students being unavailable for remote learning or more difficult to reach. The recommendation is dropping the threshold from 80% to 75%. An additional challenge for the District was tests not being available or administered to some students. The Early Childhood Early Learning Scale test was not given to remote students. The PSAT, usually administered to some students in eighth, ninth, and tenth grades allowing the District to calculate growth, was cancelled. The SAT was taken, but not the essay portion. The recommendation is high school growth and proficiency measures will have to rely on SAT measures alone. The essay portion on the scorecard will have to be marked as no data. Changes for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond include adding middle school on-track measure, align with Board goals and focus on survey results, and add benchmark performance to the 5Essential survey measure. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [System-Wide Framework](#).

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

A. Board Policy 2.172 Board of Education; Use of Consultants

B. Board Policy 5.90 General Personnel; Abused and Neglected Child Reporting

C. Board Policy 5.100 General Personnel; Staff Development Program

D. Board Policy 5.120 General Personnel; Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest

E. Board Policy 5.150 General Personnel; Personnel Records

*Board members agreed to vote for Board Policies 6B-6E with one motion and one vote. A separate vote will take place for Item 6A, Board Policy 2.172 Board of Education; Use of Consultants.*

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** items 6B-6E, Board Policy 5.90 General Personnel; Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, Board Policy 5.100 General Personnel; Staff Development Program, Board Policy 5.120 General Personnel; Employee Ethics; Conduct; and Conflict of Interest, Board Policy 5.150 General Personnel; Personnel Records.

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 6A, Board Policy 2.172 Board of Education; Use of Consultants.

Ms. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the District's budgeting process with members. Spend requests are entered and analyzed by completing a PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) during the budget process. The detail of the departments contracts is added and presented at the Committee of the Whole meetings during budget presentations. These are then summarized and included in the tentative budget twenty-five spend brought forward in April. A resolution for advance spends is approved that allows the entering of purchase requisitions as long as the dollar amount is less than or equal to the amount on the attachment. If it exceeds the amount, the contract must go to Board. For all purchase requisitions over \$10,000 approvals are made by the department's cabinet member, Chief Financial Officer, and Superintendent. These are brought forward to Board on the contracts and purchase order listings at each meeting. Concerns were raised that with the preapproval process, members are not able to read through or see the contracts and expressed a preference to review the full contracts. Robust discussion continued regarding the process and policy.

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to amend the motion to delay the vote to no later than the second Board meeting in August. This will return for more follow up, discussion, and possibly a vote at the June 22, 2021, meeting. Mrs. Makulec called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

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

A. Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Use of ARP ESSER Funds – Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer and Michele Sather, Executive Director of Budget

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Connor to approve item 7A, Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Use of ARP ESSER Funds. The Administration will be prepared with information for the Public Hearing.

**Approved: Unanimously**

B. Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for 2021-2022 – Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer and Michele Sather, Executive Director of Budget

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Connor to approve item 7B, Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for 2021-2022.

**Approved: Unanimously**

8. \*Consent Agenda – Performance Monitoring Committee

A. Payroll

B. Accounts Payable

C. Purchase Orders

D. Construction Pay Request Log

E. RFP 21-39 Workers' Compensation Administration

F. IFB 21-44 Marshall M.S. Parking Lot Renovation Project

G. IHSA Renewal 2021-2022 – Dr. Matthew Vosberg and Mr. Mathew Parker

H. ~~Rockford Park District Facility Rental Fee Waiver – Michael Phillips, Chief Operating Officer – pulled by Ms. Muhammad~~

I. ~~2021-2022 BlueCross-BlueShield Plan Administration Renewal – pulled by Mr. Connor~~

J. Tier 1 PDSA – OpenSciEd PD for NGSS Instructional Shifts

K. Recurring Contract: Nearpod

L. Midwest Dairy School Nutrition Grant Opportunity – Danny L. Echols, Executive Director of Nutrition Services

M. No Kid Hungry School Nutrition Grant – Danny L. Echols, Executive Director of Nutrition Services

N. Impact Networking Maintenance Agreement – Steve Krysztopa, Director of Logistics and Support Services

9. \*Consent Agenda – Governance Committee

A. Meeting Minutes: 05-25-21

B. Superintendent's Contract Addendum – Atty. Lori Hoadley/Matthew Zediker, Chief Human Resources Officer

C. Freedom of Information Log

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

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Ms. Pearson to approve Consent item pulled 8H, Rockford Park District Facility Rental Fee Waiver.

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

**Abstain:** Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Consent item pulled 8I, 2021-2022 BlueCross BlueShield Plan Administration Renewal.

Originally, the contract was on the Budget Attachment list, approved at the April meeting for advanced spending. The cost is higher than budgeted which is why it is going to Board. Mrs. Makulec called for the vote.

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

**Abstain:** Ms. Pearson

**Approved: 6-0-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Consent item pulled 8K, Recurring Contract: Nearpod.

This is a digital resource for interactive lessons for synchronous and asynchronous learning. This allows teachers to co-teach and interact with students. This contract is coterminous with the current three-year contract. Mrs. Makulec called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Ms. Pearson to approve Consent item pulled 8L, Midwest Dairy School Nutrition Grant. Approval of the grant will enable the District to receive two smoothie machines. The District will purchase two additional smoothie machines to increase breakfast opportunities at the high schools. Mrs. Makulec called for the vote.

**Approved: Unanimously**

10. \*Closed Session Consent Items

A. Appointment of Matthew Russey as 10 Month Dean at Lincoln Middle School

B. Omissions/Corrections to Salary Adjustments for Non-Bargaining Employees

C. HR Organization Report & Addendum

11. \*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-2055-21 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year through the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

B. GDM-2056-21 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year through the first trimester of the 2021-2022 school year.

C. GDM-4381-21 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year through the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

D. GDM-4382-21 – expelled for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year through the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

A. ~~GDM-8225-21~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

B. ~~GDM-8228-21~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

C. ~~GDM-8229-21~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

D. GDM-8230-21

E. ~~GDM-8231-21~~ – PULLED BY ADMINISTRATION

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

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

**Nays:** Ms. Muhammad

**Abstain:** Ms. Pearson

**Approved: 5-1-1**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approved Closed Sessions Consent items pulled 12A-12C, GDM-8225-21, GDM-8228-21, GDM-8229-21.

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

**Nays:** Ms. Pearson, Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 5-2-0**

13. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Board Member Action Steps

Revisit at the June 22, 2021, meeting; Board Policy 2.172 Board of Education; Use of Consultants.

14. Adjournment

**Motion** by Mr. Seigel second by Ms. Pearson to adjourn.

Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.

Approved: 06-22-21

President: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*

Secretary: *June Stanford /s/*