

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

**Administration Building  
Tuesday, January 25, 2022**

President Jude Makulec called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

**Motion** by Ms. Pearson seconded by Ms. Stanford 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:**

The Board was in executive session from 5:00 p.m. to 6:38 p.m.

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1. Call to Order – President Jude Makulec called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m.
    - A. Roll Call  
Present: President Jude Makulec, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Denise Pearson, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor  
Absent: Vice President Tim Rollins, Ms. Kamrin Muhammad  
Mrs. Makulec thanked Conner Childers who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live. She welcomed Dr. Jarrett’s Superintendent’s Student Advisory Committee (SSAC) member Juwayria Zahurullah, a senior at Auburn High School
    - 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  
Mrs. Makulec read the guidelines.
    - Mr. Ricky Naylor commented on the need of the District being reimaged.
    - Ms. Ellyn Ahmer spoke of restorative justice.
  3. Board Member Comments
    - A. Board Member Comments
      - Ms. Pearson acknowledged school principals she met with she met with Ms. Redmond, Kennedy Middle School, Mr. Stover, RESA Middle School, and Mrs. Malone, Washington Elementary School. She received very good information and commended those who come up with innovative ways to keep students in school. Ms. Pearson specifically recognized Mrs. Malone, arriving when recognitions were taking place. There was a lot of motivation and excitement during the presentations.
  4. Superintendent’s Report
    - A. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Jarrett  
Dr. Jarrett ceded a portion of his time to SSAC student Juwayria Zahurullah.  
She began with being a senior at Auburn High School. Central goal to help her school, district and community reach their full potential. She spoke of her attendance at meetings and observing the executive decisions being made about District schools. Juwayria commented on the difficult month at Auburn High school due to events, making days more difficult and challenging. Students and teachers are looking for understanding and support; with a combination of factors are affecting schools and lives. The best advice she can give the Board from a student perspective is to prioritize mental for both students and teachers. Juwayria stated how glad she was to hear the District working with Rosecrance to provide these services to District students.
    - B. System Wide Framework Update  
The presentation began with the District’s Equity Imperative: To create learning environments that work for all our students and interrupt the predictability of student outcomes based on zip code. Scorecard and standards weighing for Early Childhood are twenty five percent scorecard, seventy five percent Standards of Practice. General K-12 is fifty percent scorecard and fifty percent Standards of Practice. Special Programs is seventy five percent scorecard and twenty five percent Standards of Practice. Charter schools are one hundred percent scorecard. Standards of Practice are Quality

Instruction, Quality Relationships, and Strategic Decisions, with eight practices. Quality Instruction consists of four practices; Practice 1 - Reading Horizons, Practice 2 - Units of Study, Practice 3 - Number Talks, and Practice 4 - MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support). Quality Relationships consists of; Practice 5 - Student Belonging, Practice 6 - School Quality, and Practice 7 - Employee Engagement. Strategic Decisions is Practice 8. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [System Wide Framework Update](#).

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

A. \*Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$70,000,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2022, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, in connection with the proposed sale of said bonds. - Greg Brown, Ed.D, Chief Financial Officer

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 6A, Resolution providing for the issue of not to exceed \$70,000,000 General Obligation Refunding School Bonds, Series 2022, for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the execution of a Bond Purchase Agreement with Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated, in connection with the proposed sale of said bonds.

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

**Absent:** Mr. Rollins, Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 5-0-2**

B. 2023 Preliminary Budget Requests (Human Resources, Health Insurance, and Equity)

Mr. Zediker presented the preliminary budget for Human Resources and Health Insurance. Highlights include Talent Acquisition, Talent Development, Accountability, and Benefits. The complete summary for Human Resources for FY23 is \$4,450,188 a variance of \$88,831. Contract totals for FY23 is \$320,545 a variance of \$7,780. The new request for FY23 is a Benefits Coordinator for a total of \$85,000. Return on investment is recruit/retain quality staff, professionally develop staff, effective internal controls, gain efficiencies, and implement and monitor District accountability initiatives. The Health Insurance fund was presented, increasing in cost by eleven percent (11%) since 2017. This is an average increase of 2.8% per year compared to annual expected trend of 5.5-6%. Items of note for 2020-2021 are the number of claims over \$50,000 increased from the prior year by 8.7% (104 to 113), total dollars paid for claims over \$50,000 increased by \$1,043,246 compared to the prior year, pharmacy claims increased by 2.3% compared to the prior year (average trend projected at 8-9%), COVID claims much higher compared to the prior year. Looking forward to 2022 includes; inflationary pressures are a concern and trend is expected to be much higher, high-cost medications will continue to play a part in potential cost increases, potential increase in number of high claimants, COVID likely to continue to drive additional claims, and no increase in stop loss premiums. Cost control programs are in place includes continued wellness initiatives, prescription contract continues to drive strong rebates, and partnership with ESI Clinical programs is expected to control prescription costs. MyStrength Complete will removed barriers of care for mental health and improve mental health services to employees. The total contract costs for health insurance in FY23 is \$57,585,451 with a variance of \$7,761,061. The return on investment is mitigating health care costs, provide quality benefits, customer service for District retirees, and wellness conscious employees.

Dr. Brunson presented the preliminary budget for the Equity Department. Highlights include university partnerships, education job fairs, minority teacher recruitment, housing and hiring incentives, paid student teaching, equity training, coaching, and support of District wide staff and initiatives. The summary for FY23 is \$1,195,765 a variance of \$154,853. New budget requests for FY23 are increased advertising budget, \$20,000, and an executive assistant for \$64,000. Return on investment includes recruit/retain diverse quality workforce, reduced time to fill vacant positions, increase in the number of student and clinical students placed with Rockford Public Schools, increase in the number of pathways/opportunities for staff to earn educators license and move into a certified position, and increase in District graduates applying for the Rockford University pathways. To view all the presentations, please click on this link: [FY23 Budget Requests, HR, Health Insurance, Equity](#).

C. Follow-up on Items Presented at Committee of the Whole

There were no follow-up items.

6. \*Consent Items – Performance and Monitoring Committee

A. Payroll

B. Accounts Payable

C. Purchase Orders

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

E. Air Travel

F. Financial results: December 2021 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance

- G. Construction Pay Request Log
- H. RFP 22-20 Collection Agency Services
- I. ~~Teladoc Renewal with My Strength Complete – Matthew Zediker, Chief Human Resources Officer – pulled by Mr. Seigel~~
- J. Architectural and Engineering Services Contract with Bradley and Bradley Architects – Michael Phillips, Chief Operating Officer

7. \*Consent Items – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 01-11-2022
- B. Contract Purchase Orders
- C. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement – TE
- D. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement - SS
- E. Freedom of Information Log

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

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

**Absent from the vote:** Ms. Pearson

**Absent:** Mr. Rollins, Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 4-0-3**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Consent item pulled 6I, Teladoc Renewal with MyStrength Complete.

Comments included encouraging employees to take advantage of these benefits. Mrs. Makulec called for the vote.

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

**Abstain:** Ms. Pearson

**Absent:** Ms. Muhammad, Mr. Rollins

**Approved: 4-0-1-2**

8. \*Closed Session Consent Items

- A. HR Organization Report & Addendum

9. \*Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsions

- A. GDM-4443-22 – expelled for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.
- B. ~~GDM-4444-22 – expelled for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year through the entire 2022-2023 school year. – pulled by Ms. Pearson~~
- C. ~~GDM-4445-22 – expelled for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year through the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year. – pulled by Ms. Pearson~~
- D. ~~GDM-4446-22 – expelled for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year through the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year. – pulled by Ms. Pearson~~
- E. GDM-4447-22 – expelled for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year through the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year.
- F. ~~GDM-4448-22 – expelled for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year through the first semester of the 2022-2023 school year. – pulled by Ms. Pearson~~
- G. GDM-4449-22 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

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

- A. GDM-8385-22
- B. GDM-8386-22
- C. GDM-8387-22
- D. GDM-8388-22
- E. GDM-8389-22
- F. GDM-8390-22
- G. GDM-8391-22
- H. GDM-8392-22
- I. GDM-8393-22
- J. GDM-8394-22
- K. GDM-8395-22
- L. GDM-8396-22
- M. GDM-8397-22
- N. GDM-8398-22

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

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

**Absent:** Mr. Rollins, Ms. Stanford

**Approved: 5-0-2**

**Motion** by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Closed Session Consent items pulled 9B-9D, 9F, GDM 4444-42, GDM-4444-22, GDM-4446-22, GDM-4448-22.

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

**Nays:** Ms. Pearson

**Absent:** Mr. Rollins, Ms. Muhammad

**Approved: 4-1-2**

11. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Board Member Action Steps

There were no items.

12. Adjournment

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

**Adjournment:** 8:45 p.m.

**Approved: 02/08/2022**

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

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