

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

President Jude Makulec called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present: President Jude Makulec, Vice President Tim Rollins, Ms. Denise Pearson, Ms. Tiana McCall (arr. 5:12 p.m.) Mr. David Seigel

Absent: Secretary June Stanford,

Motion by Ms. Pearson 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: 5-0-1

The Board was in executive session from 5:06 p.m. to 6:18 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, Vice President Tim Rollins, Ms. Denise Pearson, Ms. Tiana McCall (arr. 5:12 p.m.) Mr. David Seigel
Absent: Secretary June Stanford,
Mrs. Makulec thanked Conner Childers who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live. Mr. Rollins welcomed Superintendent’s Student Advisory Representative Saidi Ishmail from East 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. Recognitions
 - A. State Qualifiers
Guilford High School students Mikayla Durkin and Marissa Enke won the NIC-10 conference. Mikayla qualified for the State meet in the 50-yard freestyle and Marissa in the State meet in diving. In October, four members from the Auburn High School Girls’ Tennis Team competed in the IHSA State Girls Tennis Tournament. Amy Park and Avery Trapp completed in the singles tournament; Addysen Feng and Rebecca Wang competed together in the double’s tournament. This year is the fourth year Amy and the second year Addysen and Rebecca have qualified for the IHSA tournament. Guilford High School’s Cross Country team qualified for the IHSA State meet two weeks after winning their first NIC-10 title since 2004. The RPS 205 competitive marching band travels to competitions across the State and represents Rockford Public Schools. Students in the band come from all four high schools, in addition to middle school students looking to take their musical talent to the next level. This year’s band finished in second place in their class at three competitions: the Washington High School Invitational, the Greater St Louis Area Band Festival, and the Metamora High School Invitational. The band finished in seventh place in their class at the NIU Red & Black Fall Classic, and finished third in their class at the Morton High School Invitational. At this event, the band qualified for finals for the first time in the group’s history and took 10th overall at the competition. Auburn High School CAPA Band/Orchestra Director Weston Brabeck, West Middle School Band Director/Teacher Sue Funk, and Drumline Director Matthew Eaton lead the group.
 3. Petitions & Communications

Mrs. Makulec read the guidelines

 - Angel Brown requested the District bring back home economics, have ROTC at Guilford, and bring parent monitors to the school to patrol hallways. She stated her willingness to help.

- Ricky Naylor spoke of his dissatisfaction with Conklin being chosen for the International Baccalaureate program and not Lewis Lemon or Ellis schools.
 - John Brantlee spoke of how he helps District kids with the walking school bus to Lewis Lemon from Fairgrounds.
4. Report and *Action on items that Proceeded through the Planning Committee
 - A. *Resolution to Approve the 2022 Tax Levy
Motion by Mr. Connor second by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 6A, Fiscal Year (FY)2022 Audited Financial Statements.
Yeas: Mr. Rollins, Ms. McCall, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Seigel, Mr. Connor, Ms. Stanford
Absent: Ms. Pearson
Approved: 6-0-1
 5. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee
 - A. Payroll
 - B. Accounts Payable
 - C. Purchase Orders
 - D. Construction Pay Request Log
 - E. ESSER – RPS Managed Work Change Order
 - F. RPS Managed Work Change Order
 - G. RPS 23-18 West M.S. Roofing Project
 - H. IFB 23-32 Security Vestibules at Ellis, Lewis Lemon, RESA, and Marshall Schools
 - I. Independent Speech Language Contractor
 6. *Consent Items – Governance Committee
 - A. Contract Purchase Orders
 - B. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement - DE
 - C. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement - CG
 - D. Freedom of Information Log

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Ms. Pearson to **approve** Consent Items not pulled.
Approved: Unanimously
 7. *Closed Session Consent Items
 - A. HR Organization Report & Addendum
 8. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsions
 - A. B0005X-23 – expelled for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year through the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
 - B. H0019X-23 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
 - C. H0020X-23 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.
 - D. P0036X-23 – expelled for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year through the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
 - E. P0037X-23 – expelled for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year through the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
 - F. P0038X-23 – expelled for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year through the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year.
 9. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs
 - A. D0003-23
 - B. H0016-23
 - C. H0017-23
 - D. P0031-23
 - E. P0032-23
 - F. P0033-23
 - G. P0034-23
 - H. P0035-23

I. P0039-23

J. P0040-23

K. P0041-21

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

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

Absent: Ms. Pearson

Approved: 6-0-1

10. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett ceded his time to Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Representative Saidi Ishmail. Saidi spoke of how the District compares itself with other districts regarding the Illinois Report card, of the plans and goals set and how everyone is dedicated to making a difference in the District. He also spoke of problems in school; the growing fights, the number of students vaping and smoking in the bathrooms, the number of students out of class when they should be in class, and recently no feeling safe in the classroom. Dr. Jarrett thanked Saidi for his comments.

11. Board Member Comments

- Ms. Pearson spoke of a statement made, particularly how the community focuses a subgroup of typically African American. African American students are not as academically successful. She has asked community members for help, and some have responded by showing up and volunteering. Ms. Pearson also commented on the Student Code of Conduct and the importance of students staying in school. It is important for improved behaviors and attendance and that equity must be a priority. She finished her comments that equity begins at the top and it begins with the School Board.

- Mr. Seigel expressed his feelings regarding Mr. Connor's resignation from the Board.

- Mr. Rollins apologized to the community for actions taken after a previous meeting. He thanked Mr. Connor for his service, explaining that being a board member is a difficult job. He also spoke of putting the interests of the majority of students versus those who are disciplined. The Regional Office of Education offers alternative placement for students.

Ms. Pearson and Mr. Rollins conducted a robust conversation regarding their differences of opinions.

- Mrs. Makulec thanked Mr. Connor for his service. She also added applications are due Friday, December 2 with interviews on December 6, 2022. She reminded members of the Board Retreat on Saturday, December 10 which will be performance focused on student achievement. In addition, there is only one regular Board meeting in December, with the seating of the new board member. Mrs. Makulec finished her comments with a reminder to go the Amazon Smile and choose Rockford Promise to receive donations. Half of a percent of your purchases will be donated by Amazon to Rockford Promise.

Mrs. Makulec continued asked for clarification from Administration regarding students are expelled or have an expulsion in abeyance, are referred to the regional program where there is delay entering that program, students work with Roosevelt's Opportunities Program until they are given a seat. Mr. Gallagher confirmed that information. The program is a new opportunity to minimize any disruption to students' education as it is an adaptive learning environment. Students who are expelled do not participate in Roosevelt's Opportunity Program. Prior to an expulsion determination and after their 10-day suspension, students could participate in the program before the Board's determination. Mrs. Makulec asked for a report for timing

12. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Board Member Action Steps

Mrs. Makulec asked for a report detailing the timing/lag time between Board action and alternative placement. She also thanked Dr. Reed and Mr. Zediker for presenting at the Joint Conference.

13. Adjournment
Motion by Ms. Pearson second by Mr. Rollins to **adjourn**.
Adjournment: 7:56 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: