

Rockcastle County Board of Education

Angela Stallsworth-Mink, Chairman ♦ Anna Stevens-Goff, Vice Chairman
Matt Chaliff ♦ Misty Lakes ♦ Angela Parsons-Woods

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rockcastle Teaching & Learning Center ♦ 250 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456
April 11th, 2023 - 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Silent Prayer

Chairperson Mink called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM. At her direction, those in attendance observed a moment of silent prayer.

B. Roll Call

All members were present.

C. Reading of Board Team Commitments

Board member Matt Chaliff read the Board Team Commitments aloud.

2. ADOPT AGENDA/ACTION

Chairperson Mink asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Anna Goff. Matt Chaliff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

3. SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SHOWCASE:

A. District Elementary Academic Team Recognitions

The board recognized those students from our elementary schools who competed and placed in the District and Regional Academic Team Competitions. Students were recognized for their individual accomplishments in the areas of composition, math, language arts, science, arts and humanities, etc... Mt. Vernon Elementary School was recognized for placing 4th in Region 23 out of 18 schools.

B. District Spelling Bee Recognitions: *Middle School Winner: James Perkins; Elementary Winner: Aaliyah Caldwell*

Starla Bond, District Elementary and Middle School Gifted and Talented Coordinator, recognized the students who participated in and won the district spelling bee, held in March at RCHS. She spent a few moments sharing her appreciation to all of the people who helped make the Bee possible for students.

C. District Gifted and Talented Presentation

Ms. Starla continues with a video presentation produced by her middle school GT students. The video was a product created, designed and developed to highlight the wonderful people and things that are happening in Rockcastle County Schools, as well as communicating the important values we share in the district: Perseverance, Leadership, Service, etc...All of these qualities are what make Rocket Leaders out of Rocket Learners.

D. School Showcase – Rockcastle County Middle School (*Mrs. Jessica Willis*)

The final showcase of the night was presented by the Arts department at RCMS. Students re-created a scene from their spring musical, Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and sang "The Candy Man," with Harrison Craig as Willie Wonka. The board and all in attendance were amazed at the talent the students shared and complimented the group, and their teachers, Cassie Smith and Carrie Burdette for their hard work. Mrs. Jessica Willis also praised the students for their efforts and showmanship.

4. OPERATIONS/ACTIONS:

- A. Approve Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**
- B. Approve Bills for Payment**
- C. Approve Fundraisers**
- D. Approve School Trips**
- E. Approve FMLA Leave Request**
- F. Approve Addendum to Agreement between Partners for Rural Impact, Inc. and Rockcastle County Board of Education**
- G. Approve Memorandum of Agreement with Midway University**

Motion to approve Operations/Actions was made by Angie Woods. Second was made by Matt Chaliff. All members present agreed.

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION:

- A. Review/Approve Monthly Financial Reports (Mrs. Sweet)**
 - 1. Month Ending Balance Sheet**
 - 2. Revenue & Expenditures for the Month by Fund**

Motion to approve the Monthly Financial Reports was made by Anna Goff. Second by Matt Chaliff. All members present agreed.

B. Review/Approve Save the Children Math Coordinator positions(Three Elementary Schools)

Dr. Ballinger shared with the board that the contract the district has with Save the Children is expanding to include three Math Coordinator positions, one for each elementary school. She also stated that these positions would be funded solely by Save the Children and would not incur any cost to the district. Angela Mink asked if there is a deadline for the contract and Dr. Ballinger stated that, at this time, there is no end date for our contract with Save the Children. Misty Lakes made a motion to approve the 3 Math Coordinator positions. Matt Chaliff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

C. Review/Approve Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies

Dr. Ballinger explained the request to join other districts across the state and nation in their Class Action lawsuit against a variety of social media platforms/companies. She discussed the mental health crisis among children and the negative effects of social media on our youth. She read information from a letter citing statistics from the Surgeon General about the impact social media is having on the children of our nation, including high rates of anxiety, depression and suicidal ideations. She asked the board to join the lawsuit and stated that there would be no cost from the district during the litigation. If a settlement is awarded, the attorneys (see below) would receive a percentage of that award. There would be no fees or tax dollars spent in this effort. A motion was made by Anna Goff to approve the resolution. A second motion was made by Matt Chaliff. All members present agreed.

D. Review/Approve Contingency Fee Contract with Hendy Johnson Vaughn Emery PSC and Rockcastle County Schools

Motion was made by Angie Woods to approve the contingency fee contract with Hendy Johnson Vaughn Emery PSC. Second was made by Matt Chaliff. All members present agreed.

E. Review/Approve Statement of Engagement Terms and Billing Practices for Board Attorney, Teresa T. Combs of Fowler Bell PLLC

Motion to approve the Statement of Engagement Terms and Billing Practices for Board Attorney, Teresa T. Combs of Fowler Bell PLLC was made by Matt Chaliff. Second was made by Misty Lakes. All members present agreed.

F. Review/Approve Authorization for Codell to advertise for bids for RCMS Renovation per the bid schedule presented at the March Board Meeting

Motion to approve the Authorization for Codell to advertise for bids for the RCMS Renovation was made by Angie Woods. Second was made by Anna Goff. All members present agreed.

G. Executive Session to discuss the possible sale or purchase of specific property

A motion was made by Angela Mink to move into executive session to discuss the possible sale or purchase of specific property. Second was made by Matt Chaliff. All members present agreed. Board members adjourned to a nearby room at 6:13 to conduct business.

At 6:45, Anna Goff made the motion to return to Open Session. Matt Chaliff seconded the motion. All members present agreed.

Matt Chaliff made a motion to authorize Dr. Ballinger to negotiate on behalf of the board concerning the specific property that was discussed in executive session. A second motion was made by Angie Woods. All members present agreed.

6. DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

A. Review Superintendent's Personnel Action Report (*Dr. Ballinger*)

Board members reviewed the report and had no questions.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Board members were directed to view the department reports in the Shared Drive. No questions were asked of department directors.

8. SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATION

Dr. Ballinger reminded the board members that they are invited to attend the upcoming Community Roundtable Discussion around Mental Health. The meeting, by invitation only, will be held on Thursday, April 13th, from 5:30-7:30 at the Teaching and Learning Center. Several community organizations and members, as well as students and parents have been invited to participate in the discussion, which will be led by district staff.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

- Anna Goff thanked the district staff present for all they do.
- Angie Woods also expressed her gratitude to the district.
- Matt Chaliff also stated his appreciation to the district and community for stepping up to help students during the recent crises we have experienced. He also added his hope that parents will be mindful of what their children are doing on social media.
- Angela Mink reminded all present that we are Rock Nation and shared her appreciation to everyone for their hard work.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Anna Goff. Second by Matt Chaliff. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.