

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

President Denise Pearson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present: President Denise Pearson, Mr. Grant Schubert, Vice President Ms. Tiana McCall, Ms. Nicole Bennett, Mr. Paul Carpenter, Ms. Kimberly Haley, and Secretary June Stanford

Absent: None

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. McCall 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 5:03 p.m. to 7:01 p.m.

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1. Call to Order – President Denise Pearson called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:10 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call
Present: President Denise Pearson, Mr. Grant Schubert, Vice President Ms. Tiana McCall, Ms. Nicole Bennett, Mr. Paul Carpenter, Ms. Kimberly Haley, and Secretary June Stanford
Absent: None
Ms. Pearson thanked Kim Pedersen who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live and welcomed Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council Representative Paige Warner 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. Recognitions – Earl Dotson, Jr.,
Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr., recognized Rockford Public School’s outstanding students and staff on varied achievements.
 - Flinn Middle School - on April 21-22 four Flinn Middle School 8th grade students, Jayla Yardly, Emmanuel Salazar-Mendoza, Julien Gonzalez and Bryce Dunaway and their coaches Aubrey Barnett and Elizabeth Krampota, won first place in the Illinois Future Problem-Solving State Bowl. Flinn also took home the Rookie Award.
 - Lathrop Elementary School – fourth grader, Kaden Funk attended the USA Special Hockey Olympics in St. Louis where he competed with players from four countries and brought home a Gold Medal.
 - Jefferson – on May 19-20 Blake Adrian, Devin Williamson, Hunter Mack, and Coach Teague Dickey with the Jefferson Bass Fishing team qualified for this year’s state tournament. The team’s state journey began by winning Sectionals and were able to attend the State tournament.
 - Mr. Earl Dotson Jr. recognized the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council Seniors for their student voice to the Superintendent and the School Board and in representing the Superintendent in Rockford public high schools and in the community. This year’s seniors who were recognized for representing their peers and helping advise District leadership are:
 - Auburn High School: Ayesha Nizamuddin and Jessica Perez-Ferman
 - East High School: Saidi Ishmail, Jozlyn Mahnesmith, and Paige Warner
 - Guilford High School: Katie Jensen, Keniya Parks-Collins, and Brooklyn Pierre
 - Jefferson High School: Andrea Vazquez

3. Petitions & Communications

Ms. Pearson read the guidelines.

- Ricky Naylor spoke on bringing back Black role models for Black students.
- Nina Giannangeli commented on student's who shared their experiences on the youth panel at Imagine Rockford Without Racism Summit.
- Ann Rundall thanked RPS for their support at the recent Rockford Summit on Racism and commented on identifying issues to work on.
- Terry Gano addressed bringing in more teachers of color.

4. Report and *Action on Items that Proceeded through the Performance Committee.

A. Safe & Civil Schools

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. Stanford to **approve** Safe & Civil Schools.

Approved: Unanimously

5. Board President's Announcements and Report and Action on Items that Proceeded through the Governance Committee

A. Board President Ms. Denise Pearson commented on looking at the Mission and Vision Statement and if any needed adjustments are needed a decision will be made to do so as a Board. Ms. Pearson stated a field representative from the Illinois School Board Association will be visiting at a special meeting in August. She addressed communication both internally and externally and stated the Board has two employees, Superintendent Ehren Jarrett and Legal Counsel Attorney Lori Hoadley. Ms. Pearson stressed communication is vital and adequate time is needed for decision making.

B. Revisions to Board Policy 7.140

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** Board Policy 7.140.

Yeas: Mr. Schubert, Mr. Carpenter, Ms. Haley, Ms. Stanford

Nays: Ms. Bennett, Ms. Pearson, Ms. McCall

Approved: 4-3-0

6. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee

A. Payroll

B. ~~Accounts Payable~~ – pulled by Ms. Bennett

C. Purchase Orders (FY23)

D. Purchase Orders (FY24)

E. Contract Purchase Orders Under 25K (FY23)

F. Contract Purchase Orders Under 25K (FY24)

G. Air Travel

H. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – April 2023

I. Financial results: April 2023

J. Construction Pay Request Log

K. RPS Managed Work Change Order

L. YMCA of Rock River Valley Camp Winnebago

M. IFB 23-5- OSC West Parking Lot Replacement

N. IFB 23-58 LED Lights at Spring Creek E.S.

O. IFB 23-57 Security Vestibule Asbestos Abatement at Six Schools

P. ESSER – RPS Managed Change Order

Q. Extended School Year Partnership with Rockford Park District – Pulled by Mr. Carpenter

7. * Consent Items – Governance Committee

A. ~~Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2023~~ – Pulled by Mr. Carpenter

B. Freedom of Information Long

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Stanford to **approve** Consent items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Bennett to **approve** Consent item pulled, 6.B. Accounts Payable

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** Consent item pulled, 6.Q. Extended School Year Partnership with Rockford Park District

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** Consent item pulled, 7.A Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2023

Approved: Unanimously

8. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. HR Organization Report & Addendum
- B. Appointment of a 10-month Dean assigned to Welsh Elementary School – NIU Principal Cohort 2025
- C. Appointment of a 12-month Director of Special Education, assigned to Administration Building
- D. Appointment of a 12-month Director of Transportation assigned to Transportation Building
- E. Appointment of a 12-month Dean of MTSS assigned to the Administration Building
- F. Residency Hearing Officer Report RE: Student X's Family Residency Dispute (including any objections filed by parent)

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

- A. H0129X23 – The expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon Expulsion in Abeyance Agreements for the remainder of the 22-23 school year through entire 23-24 school year.
- B. H0132X-23 – The expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon Expulsion in Abeyance Agreements for the remainder of the 22-23 school year through entire 23-24 school year.
- C. H0133X23– The expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon Expulsion in Abeyance Agreements for the remainder of the 22-23 school year, the entire 23-24 school year and the first semester of the 24-25 school year.
- D. H0134X-23 – The expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon Expulsion in Abeyance Agreements for the remainder of the 22-23 school year through entire 23-24 school year.

10. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline (EIAs)

- A. B0026-23
- B. B0027-23
- C. D0020-23
- D. H0130-23
- E. H0135-23
- F. P0145-23
- G. P0146-23
- H. P0147-23
- I. P0148-23
- J. P0149-23
- K. P0150-23
- L. P0151-23
- M. T0014-23

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** Closed Session Consent items.

Approved: Unanimously

11. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett deferred his time to Student Representative Paige Warner to share her perspective on having attended multiple board meetings and tying it into her own personal experiences. Dr. Jarrett thanked Ms. Warner for serving on the SSAC this year.

Ms. Paige Warner began by thanking the board for the opportunity to speak on what had been discussed in past Board meetings and relate it to her school experience. Ms. Warner spoke on the internship she did stating she felt it both beneficial and a great way to get an inside look specifically at IT responsibilities and what goes on behind the scenes. She also commented on the process of changing academies and placement exams for AP classes and the benefits of not having placement exams for AP classes. Ms. Warner commented on her experience of her AP class being a preparation for the AP test and allowing the students to be well prepared. Ms. Warner was grateful for the

Rockford Promise program and shared she is a Rockford Promise Scholar. She ended by thanking the Board for giving her the opportunity to speak and thanked her parents for being her support system.

12. Board Member Comments

Ms. McCall commented that the School District is doing an awesome job, she stated she was able to attend the Cardboard Canoe Race, said it was a great event with the students and how everything was engineered. She stated she also was able to attend an Eliminate Racism Event. Ms. McCall also commented that the School Representative did an awesome job at the Summit. She commented on the importance of Board presence in the community and requests continued communication on future events.

13. Other Business/New Business Agenda Recommendations

There were no comments.

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Mr. Carpenter to adjourn.

Adjournment: 8:24 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: