

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

President Jude Makulec called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Present: President Jude Makulec, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Denise Pearson, Ms. Kimberly Haley, Ms. Tiana McCall, Mr. David Seigel

Absent: None

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Mr. Seigel 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 5:05 p.m. to 5:48 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, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Denise Pearson, Ms. Kimberly Haley, Ms. McCall, Mr. David Seigel
Absent: None
Mrs. Makulec thanked Kim Pedersen who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live and welcomed Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council Representative Brooklyn Pierre from Guilford 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. Dotson, Jr., presented the following recognitions. Scholastic Art & Writing Award winners were: Guilford student Ghadir Alsaahmi, Grade 10 for short story, from Auburn, Eshal Sameer, grade 11 for mixed media, Jade Stone, grade 11 for drawing and illustration, Kasandra Aguilar, grade 10 for drawing and illustration, from Jefferson Aidon Lundstrom, grade 11, for drawing & illustration, Ana Almanza Robles, grade 12, for mixed media, briana Leni, grade 12, for drawing & illustration and mixed media, Devony Garcia, grade 12, for painting, Isaac Sanchez-Hendricks, grade 11, for drawing & illustration, Monteria Gregory, grade 12, for drawing & illustration, Mya Hildebrand, grade 11, for drawing & illustration and mixed media, Prosper Luvunzu, grade 12, for design, drawing & illustration, and Yareidi Zarate, grade 12, for art portfolio and drawing & illustration. Yareidi Zarate received a National Gold Medal in the drawing and illustration division. Poetry Out Loud: Jefferson High School students Sara Carter and Mikira Rogers finished in first and second place, respectively, at the Northern Illinois regional for Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation competition presented by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, in partnership with the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Following the regional, Sara and Mikira competed in the Illinois’ State Poetry Out Loud competition in Springfield on March 13, 2023. IHSA Journalism: Jefferson freshman Sophia Castro placed 3rd in sports writing and East sophomore Ella Gray placed 3rd in review writing! This qualified them to compete at the state level in Normal, IL on Friday, April 21st where they competed with 30 other students from across the state in their categories. IESA Wrestling: 7th grader David Cannon from Flinn qualified for the second consecutive year for state in wrestling. Sixth grader Shawn Foltz represented Flinn competing in the 100 pound weight class. Eight grade Kane Phommarath represented Eisenhower and finished fourth in State at the 167 pound class. Saya Hongmoungkhoun, a seventh grader at Eisenhower placed sixth in state in the 90 pounds category. She began her run by winning her sectional in Dekalb, advanced to two state matches, and advanced to the state

semifinals. IESA State Chess: The Thurgood Marshall School chess teams competed in the IESA State Tournament in late February. Members of the 6th grade team are Shlok Mamidi, Vivaan Bawa, Ian Austin, Logan Dickinson, and Ibrahim Altayeh. Individual member accomplishments included: Shlok who tied for 2nd overall Vivaan who tied for 6th overall. Members of the 7th grade team include: Yuvraj Chennareddy, Akif Ozsoy, Alexander Truong, Brayden Velez, and Nolan Velez. Individual member accomplishments were Raj & Akif who tied for 2nd overall and Nolan who tied for 8th overall. Rockford Area Arts Awards – Youth Arts Ambassador: Lincoln Halverson, 6th grader at Maria Montessori was awarded the Rockford Area Arts Council’s Youth Arts Ambassador Award at the RAAC Arts Awards ceremony in March. The Youth Arts Ambassador serves as a youth ambassador of the arts to the community of Rockford for 1 year. Rockford Elementary Basketball Association (REBA) Congratulations to this year’s Rockford Elementary Basketball Association’s winners. Both teams finished the season 8-0.

Spring Creek Elementary School Girls

Jahla Taylor
Abigail Glave
Abigail Watkins
Kerri Williams
Jimmiah Gilmore
Cavayia Williams
Ta’Luyah Taylor
Ric’Keya Cook
Ariana Walker

Bloom Elementary School Boys!

D’Mari Bailey
Draton Davis
Weston Davila
Shemaiah Durham
Landon Ellis
Na’Tarion Fair
Cade Harris
Jace Hassler
Adonis Williams

Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching: Auburn High School physics teacher Marianna Ruggiero is a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, the highest honors bestowed by the United States government, specifically for k-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching. Ms. Ruggiero was selected as one of only 3 finalists for the State of Illinois. In 2021, she was the Illinois Outstanding High School Physics Teacher of the Year, a much-deserved recognition from the American Association of Physics Teachers. Ms. Ruggiero will move to the national selection committee where one finalist will be chosen from each state. Good luck and congratulations on this outstanding recognition.

3. Petitions & Communications

Mrs. Makulec read the guidelines.

- Catina Barnett spoke in opposition to the RFP for student transportation services
- Ricky Naylor commented on his dissatisfaction with Board and administration members
- Nina Giannangeli thanked departing members for their services and listening to public comments.
- Ron Milner spoke in support of the District using his company as a vendor.
- John Ekberg commented on the need of civil elections and thanked Mrs. Makulec for her service

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

A. Reading Horizons AROI Update

Annie Peiffer, Dean of Foundational and Early Literacy presented the Reading Horizons AROI update. Reading Horizons is a foundational literacy program for K-3 General Education Students. This was launched in the 2017-18 school year. Reviewed was the daily Core 4 which is review, instruction, dictation, and transfer. Observation data was reviewed comparing the fall 2022 school year with the fall 2023 for observations. Third grade student outcomes

increased from 15.2% in 2022 to 19.4% in SY23 winter projection. Next steps are continued emphasis on the Daily Core 4 through the Standards of Practice, skill-based small group instruction, and extended transfer. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [Reading Horizons](#).

5. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee

- A. Payroll
- B. Accounts Payable
- C. Purchase Orders
- D. Air Travel
- E. Construction Pay Request Log
- F. RPS – Manage Work Change Order
- G. ESSER – RPS Managed Work Change Order
- H. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – March 2023 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- I. Financial Results: March 2023 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- J. Teacher Professional Learning: Panorama
- K. Teacher Professional Learning: Curriculum Associates
- L. RFP 23-35 Banking Services
- M. IFB 23-46 Kennedy M.S. Hard Surface Courts
- N. IFB 23-54 Device Repair Services
- O. ~~RFP 23-55 Student Transportation Services~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

6. *Consent Items – Stakeholders Committee

- A. IHSA Renewal 2023-2024 – Earl Dotson Jr., Chief Communications Officer

7. *Consent Items – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 04/11/23
- B. Contract Purchase Orders
- C. Freedom of Information Log

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Consent item pulled 50, RFP 23-55 Student Transportation Services.

Comments were made expressing concerns regarding background checks, and whether the company was responsible for those. Administration explained the background checks are the same as and as vigorous as the District's. The need for additional routes was explained due to extending the school day for nineteen elementary schools. Mrs. Makulec called for the vote.

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

Nays: Ms. Haley, Ms. McCall

Approved: 5-0-2

8. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. HR Organization Report & Addendum

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

- A. B0014X-23 – expelled for the remainder of the 22–23 school year through the entire 23-24 school year.
- B. ~~H0103X-23 – expelled for the remainder of the 22–23 school year through the entire 23-24 school year.~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson
- C. H0104X-23 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 22-23 school year through the entire 23-24 school year.
- D. ~~H0107X-23 – expelled for the remainder of the 22–23 school year through the entire 23-24 school year.~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson
- E. H0111X-23 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 22-23 school year through the entire 23-24 school year.
- F. H0115X-23 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 22-23 school year through the entire 23-24 school year.
- G. H0116X-23 - expelled for the remainder of the 22– 23 school year through the entire 23-24 school year.

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

- A. B0015-23
- B. B0016-23
- C. D0016-23
- D. D0017-23
- E. H0105-23
- F. H0106-23
- G. H0108-23
- H. H0109-23
- I. H0110-23
- J. H0112-23
- K. H0113-23
- L. H0114-23
- M. P0137-23
- N. P0138-23
- O. P0139-23
- P. P0140-23
- Q. P0141-23

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion Mr. Seigel seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** Closed Session Consent items pulled 9B, H0103X-23 and H0107X-23.

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

Nays: Ms. Pearson

Approved: 6-0-1

11. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett began his report by welcoming incoming new members and recognizing the service of Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Rollins, and Mr. Seigel. They have served the community, with Mr. Seigel serving for 7-1/2 years, and is estimated to have attended approximately 250 board meetings. Vice President Mr. Rollins served for 2 years and has attended between 350-400 meetings, as well as the preparation needed. Board President Mrs. Makulec has served for 14 years, with attending approximately 450 meetings. Dr. Jarrett spoke of their leadership, hard work, and the preparation for leading the board through difficult decisions about student discipline, difficult conversations about tax policy and student achievement as well as everything the District has confronted. He stated it had been an honor to serve along each of them. Dr. Jarrett then presented each with a small token for their service.

Dr. Jarrett then ceded his remaining time to Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) president Brooklyn Pierre for her comments. Brooklyn began with her work as president in SSAC, working alongside Dr. Jarrett and sharing student voices directly with him. Her contribution to SSAC was her mission with mental health, and soon coming to high schools, "You are Not Alone." This is a pamphlet for students to use for resources for people to call. She also hopes to start a teen organization in the school "You Matter" with an adult supervising.

12. Board Member Comments

A. Board Member Comments

- Ms. Stanford thanked Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Rollins, and Mr. Seigel for their leadership and mentorship.
- Ms. McCall agreed with Ms. Stanford's comments and spoke of her appreciation for the conversations, different view points and wish them the best of luck.
- Ms. Pearson commented on how she was introduced to the Board, the difficult conversations, and decisions, and thanked them for their service.
- Ms. Haley expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Makulec for explaining and leading her through a board packet, thanking members for their service.

- Mr. Seigel spoke of his experience as a board member, and how former member Michael Connor has the biggest impact on him.
- Mr. Rollins spoke of his years on the school board, of the immense gratitude he had for the opportunity to serve. He spoke of the achievements accomplished during his term including improved finance, flat levy, improved technology, Facilities Master Plan, average lower age of school busses, and curriculum development. Mr. Rollins also commented there was more work left to do, but felt he left the District with a good foundation.
- Mrs. Makulec thanked everyone and spoke of her first two years as a board member and its challenges. She spoke of the accomplishments during her tenure, elementary schools now having separate cafeterias, field houses, security vestibules, the average age of District buildings lowered, increased early childhood, high school academies, progressive discipline models, and adding a chief DEI officer. She finished her comments she was leaving the District in a better place.

B. ~~Discussion: Superintendent's Update~~ – pulled by Administration

13. Action Steps include:

There were no action steps

14. Organization of the Board

A. Administration of Oath of Office to New Board Members

B. Selection of President Pro Tempore

Motion by Ms. Pearson seconded by Ms. Mr. Rollins to **appoint** Ms. Tiana McCall to serve as President Pro Tempore.

Approved: Unanimously

Mrs. Makulec asked all elected Board members to step up to the Board table to be sworn in as board members. After board members recited the Oath of Office, Mrs. Makulec wished them success and best wishes for their responsibilities and challenges as Board members.

C. Adjournment Sine Die

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Pearson to **Adjourn Sine Die.**

Approved: Voice Vote

D. Call to Order by President Pro Tempore

E. Election of Board President

June Stanford elected Denise Pearson for Board President.

Motion by Ms. Haley seconded by Ms. Bennett to **Close the Nominations and Cast the Ballot.**

Approved: Unanimously

Ms. Pearson took her seat at President.

F. Election of Board Vice-President

Paul Carpenter elected Tiana McCall for Vice President; Tiana Mc Call nominated Paul Carpenter for Vice President.

Motion Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Haley to **Close the Nominations and Cast the Ballot**

Tiana McCall **approved Unanimously** as Board Vice President

G. Election of Board Secretary

Kim Haley nominated June Stanford for Board Secretary

Motion by Ms. Haley seconded by Ms. McCall to **Close the Nominations and Cast the Ballot**

Approved: Unanimously

H. Establishment of Regular Meeting Dates and Place

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** the Establishment of Regular Meeting Dates and Place.

Approved Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. McCall to adjourn.

Adjournment: 9:26 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: