

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

President Jude Makulec called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present: President Jude Makulec, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Denise Pearson, Ms. Kimberly Haley (arr. 5:08 p.m.), Ms. Tiana McCall (arr. 5:15 p.m.), Mr. David Seigel

Absent: None

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: 5-0-2

The Board was in executive session from 5:03 p.m. to 6:54 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 7:05 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 Conner Childers who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live. Mr. Rollins welcomed Superintendent’s Student Advisory Representative Jessica Perez-Furman from 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. Celebrating RPS 205
 - A. Ellis Elementary
John Schmelzer, principal of Ellis Elementary School, and Instructional Coach Jessica Berg, reviewed with Board members the adoption of the science of reading during small group discussion. The presentation showed the shifts in practice, rise in student growth, and the overall positive effect on climate and culture. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [Celebrating RPS 205; Ellis Elementary School](#).
 3. Petitions & Communications

Mrs. Makulec read the guidelines.

 - Nicole Brown spoke of her concern that her daughter’s bullying is not being addressed at Auburn, in spite of the reports submitted to administration.
 - Ricky Naylor commented on the importance of better treatment of students of color.
 - Angel Brown voiced her concerns that her son’s illnesses are caused by his school not being clean.
 - Matthew Simpson expressed his concerns over his child’s safety at McIntosh.
 - Nala Taylor spoke in opposition to the excessive discipline she received when trying to stop a student from bullying another.
 - Ann Rundall thanked Jennifer Lawrence and her team for the new Student Code of Conduct. She also spoke of the need for professional development for staff in implementing the changes in the new code.
 - John Brantley thanked community members for their donations to fix his van, and the importance of elementary students receiving classroom credit for educational field trips, such as the Underground Railroad.

4. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee
 - A. Payroll
 - B. Accounts Payable
 - C. Purchase Orders
 - D. Air Travel
 - E. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – December 2022 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
 - F. Financial results: December 2022 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
 - G. Construction Pay Request Log
 - H. RFP 23-10 Audit Services
 - I. IFB 23-38 Field House Lights
 - J. Paridad Consulting Agreement – Dr. Misael Nascimento
 - K. Recurring Contract – Math Learning Center – Heather Psaltis and Sarah Brenner
 - L. Community Project at Cherry Valley Elementary School – Morgan Gallagher on behalf of Cherry Valley Elementary School
 - M. Donation Acceptance – Our Savior’s Lutheran Church (Outside Classroom Johnson Elementary School) – Morgan Gallagher on behalf of Johnson Elementary School
5. *Consent Items – Planning Committee
 - A. ~~Northwest Quadrant Elementary School Attendance Boundary Realignment – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Office – pulled by Ms. Pearson~~
6. *Consent Items – Governance Committee
 - A. Meeting Minutes: 01-24-23
 - B. Contract Purchase Orders
 - C. New Teacher Hiring Incentives – Jason Pope, Director of Recruitment
 - D. Freedom of Information Log

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Consent item pulled 5A, Northwest Quadrant Elementary School Attendance Boundary Realignment.

Concerns were expressed about the increased enrollment at McIntosh, and the ability of the school to manage the change. Mrs. Makulec called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously
7. *Closed Session Consent Items
 - A. Appointment of Matthew Zimmerman as a 10-Month, EC Assistant Principal assigned to Summerdale
 - B. Appointment of Mitchell Luebke as a 12-Month, Director of Transportation assigned to the Transportation Building
 - C. HR Report & Addendum
8. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsions
 - A. H0032X-23 – The expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon Expulsion In Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2022 – 2023 school year through the entire 2023 – 2024 school year.
 - B. ~~H0047X-23 – Expelled for the remainder of the 2022– 2023 school year through the entire 2023–2024 school year. – pulled by Ms. Pearson~~
 - C. H0048X-23 - Expelled for the remainder of the 2022- 2023 school year through the entire 2023 – 2024 school year.
 - D. H0051X-23 - The expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon Expulsion In Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2022 – 2023 school year through the entire 2023 – 2024 school year.
 - E. H0052X-23 - The expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon Expulsion In Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2022 – 2023 school year through the entire 2023 – 2024 school year.
9. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs
 - A. B0010-23
 - B. D0007-23
 - C. D0008-23

- D. D0009-23
- E. D0010-23
- F. H0046-23
- G. H0049-23
- H. H0050-23
- I. H0053-23
- J. P0097-23
- K. P0098-23
- L. P0099-23
- M. P0101-23
- N. P0102-23
- O. P0103-23
- P. P0104-23
- Q. P0105-23
- R. P0106-23
- S. T0008-23
- T. T0009-23

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** Closed Session Consent items pulled, 8B, H0047 X23.

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

Nays: Ms. Haley, Ms. Pearson

Approved: 5-0-2

10. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

B. Tier II and Tier III AROI

Dr. Jarrett discussed Reading Horizons and Freshman Academy, as those were items that were Tier III. He explained the Academic Return on Investment (AROI) and the studies made to determine if those programs did offer that. Reading Horizons and Freshman Academy were successful, and that work will continue. Dr. Jarrett then spoke of choosing two new programs to have as Tier III. He listed four possibilities:

Integrated Math

Middle School Focus Skills

College & Career Academies

Reading Horizons Elevate (grades 4 & 5 intervention)

He then asked Board members for their consensus:

Integrated Math: Ms. Stanford, Ms. Pearson, Ms. Haley, Ms. McCall, Mr. Rollins (second choice), Mr. Seigel (second choice)

Reading Horizons Elevate: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Seigel, Ms. Haley (second choice)

College & Career Academies: Mrs. Makulec, Ms. McCall (second choice)

Middle School Focus: Mrs. Makulec

A tentative consensus was reached to add Integrated Math and Reading Horizons Elevate to Tier III AROI. More discussion will take place. [Tier 3 AROI Possibilities](#).

11. Board Member Comments

- Ms. McCall commended community members who came out and spoke during the Petitions & Communications portion of the meeting. She encouraged students to advocate for themselves.
- Ms. Pearson encouraged students and community members to follow the chain of command regarding issues; first communicate with the teacher, then administrator, then board representative who will in turn contact the superintendent. She stated adults should be role models and examples to students. What she heard during the Petitions & Communications portion of the meeting was not isolated. The expectation is to respond to communications. She ended her comments with the importance of placing students first.

- Mrs. Makulec spoke of Mr. Brantley and his GoFundMe page, Faith Funding 815, sharing the information if anyone is interested in helping him continue with his work with schools. She was speaking not as a Board member, but personally. Her second comment was about the District moving to the second phase of the Code of Conduct. There are two meetings, the first Wednesday, February 15, 2023. The second one is Tuesday, February 21, 2023. The first meeting is at Jefferson High School, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The second meeting is at East High School, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. There will be translators and interpreters at the second meeting, at East High School. Mrs. Dettman gave a brief overview of the public meetings. These will consist of explaining the year-to-date process, gathering feedback, and the result of the feedback process. In small group settings, community members will have an opportunity to ask questions of administration, examine the changes, and provide their feedback.
- Ms. McCall requested administration make available to the public the feedback of the administrative session.

Action Steps include:

There were no action items.

12. Adjournment

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

Adjournment: 8:03 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: