

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, August 15, 2023**

President Denise Pearson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: President Denise Pearson, Vice President Tiana McCall (arr. 5:09 P.M.), Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennet, Ms. Kim Haley, Mr. Paul Carpenter, Mr. Grant Schubert

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. Bennett 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: 6-0-1

The Board was in executive session from 5:01 p.m. to 6:41 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, Vice President Tiana McCall, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennet, Ms. Kim Haley, Mr. Paul Carpenter, Mr. Grant Schubert
Absent: None
Ms. Pearson thanked Kim Pedersen who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - C. Recitation of Mission Statement: The mission of Rockford Public Schools is to collaboratively engage all students in an equitable first-class education for a changing world.
 2. Petitions & Communications
Ms. Pearson read the guidelines.
 - Ricky Naylor thanked members for the extra minutes and spoke of his unhappiness with the demographics at the Marshall schools.
 - John Tac Brantlee spoke of his summer activities and the beginning of the school year.
 - Nina Giannangeli spoke of Eliminate Racism 815’s Education Committee goals, and community relationships.
 - Linda Kimmel spoke on behalf of the District’s certified nurses, and in support of them being paid for the extended school day.
 3. Report and *Action on Items that Proceeded through the Planning Committee.
 - A. *Notice of Public Hearing on FY24 Tentative Budget and Resolution Directing Publication of Notice
Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** Notice of Public Hearing on FY24 Tentative Budget and Resolution Directing Publication of Notice.
Approved: Unanimously
 - B. *Resolution Authorizing and Directing Preparation of Tentative 2024-2025 Budget / Budget Calendar
Motion by Ms. Haley seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** Resolution Authorizing and Directing Preparation of Tentative 2024-2025 Budget / Budget Calendar.
Approved: Unanimously
 - C. *Partnership with Rockford Area Arts Council – Mosaic “Schools of Fish” Installation at Lewis Lemon – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Bennet to **approve** Partnership with Rockford Area Arts Council – Mosaic “Schools of Fish” Installation at Lewis Lemon.
Approved: Unanimously

4. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee

- A. Payroll
- B. Accounts Payable
- C. Purchase Orders (FY23 & FY24)
- D. Contract Purchase Orders
- E. Air Travel
- F. Construction Pay Request Log
- G. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – June 2023 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- H. BMi Audit Services – Benefits Dependent Eligibility Audit – Tenelle Barnes, Director of Benefits
- I. Power School Group – Unified Talent and Perform – Matthew Zediker, Chief Human Resources Officer
- J. Circle of Learning – Kimberly Nelson, Executive Director of Early Childhood
- K. Teacher Professional Learning: LETRs by Lexia Learning
- L. Additional Point of Sale Licenses – Titan – Colleen Koehler
- M. AMENDED: Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Rockford for Police Services – Fred Diehl, Director of Security Services & Jason Barthel, Chief Information Officer
- N. Star Autism Support Curriculum Add-on – Michael Ryia - Executive Director of Special Education
- O. Edmentum (Calvert) – Tammy Shippert – Executive Principal of Adaptive Learning
- P. AMN Healthcare – Michael Ryia – Executive Director of Special Education
- Q. SSG Healthcare – Michael Ryia - Executive Director of Special Education
- R. Star Renaissance at Juvenile Detention Center – Executive Principal of Adaptive Learning
- S. CPI – Dr. Antoine Reed, Chief Equity, and Inclusion Officer
- T. Nearpod Contract Renewal

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** Performance and Monitoring Committee Consent items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

5. * Consent Items – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 07-18-2023
- B. Memorandum of Understanding AFSCME Local 692, Council 31 (Paraprofessionals) – Pulled by Administration
- C. Memorandum of Understanding – AFSCME Local 1275 (Bus)
- D. Memorandum of Understanding - AFSCME Local 3210, Council 31 (Nutrition Services)
- E. AFSCME Local 1275 (Bus Drivers) Collective Bargaining Agreement
- F. Freedom of Information Long

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** Governance Committee Consent items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

6. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Appointment of Andrea Dutz as 10 Month Dean assigned to East High School
- B. Appointment of Zachary Larson as 10 Month Elementary Dean assigned to Rolling Green-Cohort 25
- C. Appointment of Michele Jacobs as 10 Month Elementary Dean assigned to McIntosh-Cohort 25
- D. Appointment of Christina Stefanec as 10 Month Early Childhood Assistant Principal assigned to Nashold Early Childhood Center
- E. Appointment of Timothy Rosenthal as 10 Month Assistant Principal K-5 assigned to Gregory Elementary School
- F. Appointment of Amanda Shuga as 10 Month Assistant Principal assigned to Jefferson
- G. Appointment of Tateirra Bivens as 10 Month Assistant Principal assigned to West Middle School
- H. Appointment of Stacy Shorter as 10 Month Assistant Principal assigned to East High School
- I. Appointment of Cyrus Wimberly as 12 Month High School Dean assigned to Jefferson
- J. Appointment of Scott Sevey as 12 Month Director of Career and Technical Education assigned to the Administration Building
- K. Appointment of Ryan Nachreiner as 12 Month Principal assigned to Auburn High School – pulled by Ms. McCall
- L. Appointment of Anne Peiffer as 12 Month Director of Elementary Curriculum assigned to the Administration Building

M. Appointment of Cedric Jones as Director of Athletics and Facilities assigned to Auburn High school

N. Appointment of James Pearson as Director of Marketing at the Administration Building

O. HR Report & Addendum

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Bennet to **approve** Closed Session Consent item pulled, 10K, Appointment of Ryan Nachreiner as 12 Month Principal assigned to Auburn High School.

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

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

Approved: 4-1-0

7. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett ceded his time to Mr. Zediker.

B. Tier 3 AROI Reports

Mr. Zediker presented the Closing of the Reading Horizons and Freshman Academic Studies. The Reading Horizons report included results with improved literacy, staff training and quality of implementation. Prior to Reading Horizons, literacy curriculum was lacking in unified foundational literacy implementation. Implementation of less than sixty-eight percent was due to low buy-in from teachers and low completion of training. Forty-eight percent of students were receiving the recommended software time, and transfer skills outside of Reading Horizons time was not an expectation of teachers. The District began consistent beginning of the year professional learning for teachers, and principals, instructional coaches provided embedded coaching, frequent fidelity checks and additional of transferring time outside of Reading Horizons time, support positions were trained to align with strategies, software correlation tracking, and explaining the “why” with the Science of Reading to teachers. Mr. Zediker continued with current outcomes for spelling and word recognition for students. The overall meets or exceeds in SY21 was 12%, SY22 26%, and SY23 44%. Implementation progress included the percentage of observations at eighty percent fidelity increased from 62% in SY21 to 88% in SY23. The average observation fidelity increased from 79% in SY21 to 92% in SY23. What was learned included student attendance and behavior have a relatively strong correlation with spelling and word recognition (SWR) scores, software time and fidelity of teacher implementation to the Reading Horizons check list have relatively strong correlations to SWR scores, and SWR performance correlates well to Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) scores. The next steps are to keep and continue to improve using what has been learned.

The second part of the presentation was the Freshman Academy report. This included Freshman on Track, and Student Engagement. Before the Tier 3 study, there was a lack of systematic data collection and review, lack of strategic focus during the small learning community inside the academies, and lack of intentional interventions with ninth graders. A data tracking system was developed that all high schools use for classes. The data collected helped each school develop target and differentiated supports. Results for Freshman on Track showed growth over the study for all subgroups, except for Asians from sixty-two percent in SY19 to seventy-four percent in SY23. Freshman Engagement results were fifty percent in SY23 and increase of forty-two percent in SY21. What was learned is to focus priority on areas that need strengthening in Small Learning Communities and focus on students participating in the 8th – 9th grade transition program, reFresh, as it is an important target group impacting Freshman on Track. The next steps are to keep and continue to improve using what was learned for best practice. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [Tier 3 AROI Reports](#).

8. Board Member Comments

- Mr. Carpenter wished everyone good luck for the upcoming school year, recognized educators and wished them well for the new school year. He also spoke of the messaging that has occurred regarding the weapons detection system, hoped it is reinforced with the community, and that parents speak to their students regarding this.
- Ms. Pearson spoke of receiving many invitations stating she is unable to attend all of them. She usually needs a lead time of 2-3 weeks. She spoke of supporting events as much as she can. She spoke to community members regarding their concern with the District's Diversion Equity Inclusion (DEI) work, stressing the importance of the DEI team having a stronger presence. She thanked teachers for embracing the school year. Students are

important and cannot be academically successful without teachers. The District, Board, staff, students, parents, and community members must do their part for all to have a successful year.

- Ms. Bennett attended the Educator's Summit which had a lot of good information, and the summit included many RPS Staff members. She encouraged people to attend next year's summit.

9. Other Business/New Business Agenda Recommendations

- Ms. Stanford proposed the Board engage a facilitator from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to strengthen the Board, set goals, and to become a better functioning Board. The training could include team building skills, role definitions, and goal setting.
- Ms. Pearson offered this is being planned and encouraged Board members to take advantage of programs offered on the IASB website. Ms. Pearson requested a full presentation from the DEI Team at a future meeting.
- Dr. Reed's presentation will take place in September.

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

Adjournment: 7:51 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: