

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Board Secretary Stanford called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: President Denise Pearson (arr. 5:12 p.m.), Vice President Tiana McCall (5:01p.m.), Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennet, Ms. Kim Haley(5:01p.m.), 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: 4-0-3

The Board was in executive session from 5:01 p.m. to 6:56 p.m.

-
1. Call to Order – President Denise Pearson called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 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. She welcomed Superintendent’s Student Advisory Representative Celia Fumo from Auburn High School.
 - 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. Celebrating RPS205
 - A. NIU Cohort Recognitions
The following staff members were recognized for completion of the NIU Principals Cohort. These were: Braxton O’Hearn, Heidi Dettman, Kelsey Scarpetta, Kyle Heinze, Matt Russey, Rick Durso, Robert Walton, and Thomas O’Brien. Congratulations to those staff members.
 3. Public Hearing on the Tentative 2023-2024 Budget
 - A. Public Hearing on the Tentative 2023-2024 Budget
There were no speakers.
 4. Petitions & Communications

Ms. Pearson read the guidelines.

 - Leo Waskiewicz spoke in opposition to being terminated.
 - John Tac Brantlee spoke of absentee rates at west side elementary schools and the need to provide transportation.
 - David Rundall spoke of using funds to pay high school and middle school students to tutor students in lower grades to improve ELA and math scores.
 5. Report and *Action on Items that Proceeded through the Planning Committee.
 - A. *Resolution to Adopt 2023-2024 Budget – Greg Brown, Ed.D, Chief Financial Officer and Michele Sather, Executive Director of Budget
Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** Resolution to Adopt 2023-2024 Budget
Approved: Unanimously

6. Board President's Announcements and Report and Action on items that Proceeded through Governance Committee
- A. *Board Policy 4.60 Operational Services; Purchases and Contracts
 - B. *Board Policy 5.30 General Personnel; Hiring Process and Criteria
 - C. *Board Policy 5.90 General Personnel; Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
 - D. *Board Policy 5.150 General Personnel; Personnel Records
 - E. *Board Policy 5.125 General Personnel; Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
 - F. *Board Policy 6.50 Instruction; School Wellness
 - G. *Board Policy 6.135 Instruction; Accelerated Placement Program
 - H. *Board Policy 7.80 Students; Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance
 - I. *Board Policy 7.165 Students; School Uniforms
 - J. *Board Policy 7.250 Students; Student Support Services
 - K. *Board Policy 7.260 Students; Exemption from Physical Activity
 - L. *Board Policy 7.265 Students; Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries
 - M. *Board Policy 7.290 Students; Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention
 - N. *Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Board of Education

Board members agreed to vote for items 6A – 6M with one motion and one vote.

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** item 6A – 6B, Board Policies Board Policy 4.60 Operational Services; Purchases and Contracts, Board Policy 5.30 General Personnel; Hiring Process and Criteria, Board Policy 5.90 General Personnel; Abused and Neglected Child Reporting, Board Policy 5.150 General Personnel; Personnel Records, Board Policy 5.125 General Personnel; Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct, Board Policy 6.50 Instruction; School Wellness, Board Policy 6.135 Instruction; Accelerated Placement Program, Board Policy 7.80 Students; Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance, Board Policy 7.165 Students; School Uniforms, Board Policy 7.250 Students; Student Support Services, Board Policy 7.260 Students; Exemption from Physical Activity, Board Policy 7.265 Students; Student Athlete Concussions and Head Injuries, Board Policy 7.290 Students; Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention. Comments included appreciating Legal for taking initiatives for making changes to the policies. Policies can be reviewed on the website and community members can reach out to their Sub District representatives. Ms. Pearson called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** item 6N, Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Board of Education.

Approved: Unanimously

7. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee

- A. Payroll
- B. Accounts Payable
- C. Purchase Orders (FY23 & FY24)
- D. Air Travel
- E. Contract Purchase Orders
- F. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – July 2023 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- G. Construction Pay Request Log
- H. ESSER – RPS Managed Work Change Order
- I. RPS Managed Work Change Order
- J. Certified (Administrator/Teacher) Compensation Report and IMRF Compensation Report
- K. IFB 24-04 HVAC Upgrades at Auburn H.S.
- L. IFB 24-04 HVAC Upgrades at Kennedy M.S. and Jefferson H.S.
- M. IFB 24-05 HVAC Upgrades at Marshall E.S.
- N. IFB 24-06 HVAC Upgrades at Marshall M.S. and Eisenhower M.S.
- O. IFB 24-07 Sterling Holley Electrical Service Upgrade
- P. Recurring Contract with Richard L. Johnson Architects, East High School Vestibule Design, Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer

- Q. Recurring Contract with Ollmann Ernest Mart Architects, Fire Alarm System Replacement Design – Michael Phillips, chief Operations Officer
- R. Amendment to Constellation New Energy Utilities Contract, Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- S. Instructional Resource: Formative – Ben Epperson, Executive Director of Curriculum
- T. Instructional Resource: Amplify: mCLASS/Lectura Universal Screener – Ben Epperson, Executive Director of Curriculum
- U. Star Renaissance – Additional Licenses – Amy Gannon, Executive Director of MTSS
- V. SNAP! Mobile – Dr. Morgan Gallagher, Chief of Schools on behalf of all Secondary School Athletics
- W. ~~Neuro Restorative School – Mike Ryia, Executive Director of Special Education~~ – pulled by Ms. Halley

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** Consent item pulled 7W, Neuro Restorative School. This is for placement of a District of a Special Education student at a residential facility. As the facility is outside the District, payment of the student's tuition is required. Ms. Pearson called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

8. *Consent Items – Planning Committee

- A. RFQ 24-02 Demographer Services – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- B. Merchant Agreement with Common Market, Local Food Procurement
- C. Boys and Girls Club Amendment – ARP/ESSER

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** Planning Committee Consent items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

9. * Consent Items – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 08-15-2023
- B. Notice of Public Hearing eLearning Plan – Heidi Dettman, Chief of Schools
- C. Fee Waiver – YWCA Northern Illinois – Literacy Council ESL Adult Education Classes, Catherine Ellis, Director of Operations
- D. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – EOPA (Bilingual Translators/Parent Initiative Support Professionals Educators)
- E. IGA – Property Tax Refund Program
- F. Worker's Compensation Settlement Agreement - JC
- G. Freedom of Information Long

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

The City of Rockford has approved the Property Tax Refund program. Ms. Pearson called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

10. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Residency Hearing Office Report Re: Student A, B, C, D's Family Residency Dispute (including any objections file by parent)
- B. Salary Adjustment for Ryan Lambert 10 Month Dean assigned to Kennedy Middle School
- C. Appointment of Kelsey Scarpetta as 10 Month Assistant Principal assigned to Carlson Elementary
- D. Appointment of Kyle Heinze as 10-month Middle School Assistant Principal assigned to RESA
- E. Appointment of Dustin Printz as 12 Month Assistant Principal assigned to Roosevelt High School
- F. Appointment of Braxton O'Hearn as 12 Month Assistant Principal assigned to Auburn High School
- G. Appointment of Joshua Rappuhn as 12 Month Director of Curriculum: Mathematics and Sciences assigned to the Administration Building
- H. Appointment of Dr. Acacia Ford as 12 Month Director of Secondary Curriculum: Humanities and Arts assigned to the Administration Building
- I. HR Organizational Report

11. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs

- A. P0001-24
- B. P0002-24

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

Approved: Unanimously

12. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett ceded his time to Superintendent Student Advisory Representative Celia Fumo. She spoke of being on the Auburn track team, and many times when Auburn is hosting track meets, she speaks to students from other District schools and their comments on how nice the Auburn track is. She spoke of how the recently approved Facilities Master Plan will bridge this gap, and her excitement of seeing students from all District schools getting the opportunities inside and outside the schools. Along with schools getting air conditioning, the Facilities Master Plan will keep the schools up to date, creating a more positive environment inside and out. This also promotes the spaces students interact with every day. She thanked all RPS high schools for attending the Rockford Promise Raise the Roof event and continuing schools' impact.

B. Tier 3 AROI Study

Mr. Zediker presented the AROI Tier 3 Study. Secondary Math will be studied. This includes Integrated Math and Middle School Mathematical Discourse. Defining success for Integrated Math is implementation and student outcomes. Eighty percent (80%) of teachers observed will demonstrate full implementation in instructional shifts within Integrated Math: collaborative learning, problem-based lessons, and mixed space practice. Currently implementation is 36%, and the District's goal is 80%. Eighty percent (80%) of Integrated Math students will earn passing grades each semester and 80% of Integrated Math students will see an increase in SAT/PSAT math assessment scores each year. Currently 61% of students passing Integrated Math improved their PSAT score from eighth to ninth grade. The goal is eighty percent. Observation components of instructional shifts in Integrated Math are cooperative, collaborative learning, problem-based lessons, and mixed spaced practice. The plan of design is utilizing Curriculum Instructional Leader (CIL) role for embedded coaching and observation of the shifts, create interrater reliability and scaffolded staff development for the why behind Integrated Math philosophy, and evaluate the correlation of effectiveness of the program implementation with the outcomes of student success. Middle School Mathematic Discourse was presented. Defining success includes implementation and student outcomes. Implementation is observing student discourse during math instruction, and student outcomes includes focus on sixth grade math student outcomes, passing math, IAR math proficiency, and proficiency in focus skill. Segment data are number talk scores, attendance, discipline, ethnicity, PSAT and intervention status. The plan of design includes utilizing CIL role for embedded coaching and observation of instructional shifts, create interrater reliability and scaffold staff development for transfer of skill into more math time during the course, and evaluate the correlation of effectiveness of the program implementation with the outcomes of student success. Observation components of instructional shifts are students explain their own reasoning and strategies to their peers, students react to the reasoning of their peers by justifying or challenging different strategies and ideas, and students are actively engaged in the mathematical discourse by thinking critically and communicating with their peers. To view the presentation, please click on this link: [AROI Tier 3 Study](#).

13. Board Member Comments

- Ms. McCall acknowledged it was Hispanic Heritage Month. She attended Family Engagement at Auburn High Schools. It was important to listen to community voice, and there was a lot of good conversations. She thanked Dr. Reed and Dr. Gallagher as it was a great turn out and looks forward to many more opportunities.
- Ms. Stanford attended Family Engagement at Jefferson High School, speaking to parents, and was thanked for listening.
- Ms. Haley attended Family Engagement of Jefferson High school, and expressed how happy she was to see parents from middle schools. She also visited the Early Childhood office at Sterling Holley and met with Nichole Giovanni who explained the early childhood programs, and early interventions.
- Ms. Bennett gave a shout-out to Mr. Phillips and Dr. Brown who came to the Region 1 Board introducing Region 1's board with the partnership with solar. She also asked Dr. Jarrett to give a brief overview of next steps regarding special program attendance policy. Dr. Jarrett spoke about this, and the effort this year to improve chronic absenteeism. There was a procedure with Special Programs to reinforce the importance of not missing more than fifteen or more days in the school year. The District is fully committed to working with families, not to use in a punitive way and there are not unintended consequences. Dr. Jarrett has made a commitment to the

Board and asked Dr. Reed and cabinet members to ensure the District has place where they can review policy so that if any student would be removed from a special program, that would not happen unilaterally at the school level. There would be documented interventions and conversations with families and students, ultimately a District review process. There will be more information.

- Ms. McCall also spoke of participating in the visit with the US Secretary of Education, Mr. Cardona. He had high remarks of how things are done at Beyer Early Childhood Center, how things are done within the State as a whole. It was a positive interaction and spoke of seeing several classrooms. Overall, it was nice to have someone from the highest office come and visit one of the District's schools and lead with those high remarks.
- Mr. Schubert spoke of his six-year-old being nominated for student council. He asked Kim to give him a zoom-in and state how proud he was!
- Ms. Pearson participated in the visit at Beyer Early Childhood Center and appreciates US Secretary of Education, Mr. Cardona, for coming to Rockford. She encouraged his chief of staff to return and visit Sub District A. She also met members of the Illinois State Board of Education along with members of the National Education Association. She also spoke of the last few weeks being difficult as she lost a very close family member. She thanked Dr. Jarrett and Board members for their cards and condolences. She appreciated all the support especially of Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr., and his wife for their very personal touch.

14. Other Business/New Business Agenda Recommendations

- Ms. Bennett asked for the teen dating violence policy to be revisited at the Committee of Whole as she has been very impressed with Faith's Law, different implementations, Erin's Law and would appreciate any feedback that has been learned.
- Mr. Carpenter reminded community members there is a Facilities Kick-Off meeting on Wednesday, September 2023, at West Middle School beginning at 6:00 p.m. He received several notifications as a District parent and appreciated receiving those.

Motion by Ms. Haley seconded by Ms. Bennett to adjourn.

Adjournment: 8:09 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: