

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

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

Present: President Denise Pearson, Vice President Tiana McCall, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennett, Ms. Kim Haley, Mr. Paul Carpenter (arr. 5:02 p.m.), Mr. Grant Schubert

Absent: None

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Schubert 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 5:02 p.m. to 7:06 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 7:05 p.m.
 - A. Roll Call
Present: President Denise Pearson, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennet, Ms. Kim Haley, Mr. Paul Carpenter, Mr. Grant Schubert
Absent: Vice President Tiana McCall
Ms. Pearson thanked Kim Pedersen who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live. She welcomed Superintendent’s Student Advisory Representative Tre’Vonte Green 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. Recognitions & Celebrating RPS 205
 - A. Recognitions – Earl Dotson, Jr.
The following students were recognized for their accomplishments.
Auburn High School Seniors Ashley Ferry, Huan Lin, and Brielle Rach are semifinalists for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship.
Auburn High School Senior Eshal Sameer received a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT exam.
JROTC Cadets at Auburn High School, Seniors Sean Beckford and Joseph McGrail were presented with scholarships totaling more than \$300,000 from the U.S. Army.
5th grade team at Hillman Elementary for their first-place finish in the Rockford Elementary Soccer League.
RESA Middle School Varsity and JV soccer teams went undefeated all season long and finished in first place in the Rock River Athletic Conference.
Middle School Cross Country State Qualifiers:
Eisenhower: Zach Andrews, Reagan Bachtta, Alex Brockwell, & Carter Rudolph
Flinn: Eavan Janvick
Marshall: Seth Reinold & Nora Wedwick
High School Boys Cross Country State Qualifier: Guilford High School’s Brandon Lawson
High School Girls Tennis State Qualifiers: Guilford - Habiba Kamel, Yeva Ksenafontova, Laci Belknap, Mackenzie Larson, Lexi Whitham and Amelia Runne. Auburn: Avery Trapp, Addysen Feng, and Rebecca Wang.
Guilford High School’s Hannah King ranked 29th in the state in the 100-yard backstroke.
The 2023 Guilford Vikings Girls Flag football team finished 4th in the state! (No names provided)
East High School’s Running Back Javius Catlin broke the all-time NIC-10 Career Rushing Yards Record!

Instructors Marissa Martinez, Beth Heuer, Wes Brabeck, and students Jada Malcome, Lily Parr, and Aleya Yaylaci represented Auburn High School at the Orchestra Festival.

Auburn High School Students Logan Nalley and Kristina Puzin performed at the Jazz Festival

The following students performed at the Band & Chorus Festival:

Auburn HS: Charles Miller, Logan Nalley, Keovanni Presanesouk, May Hning, Jada Malcome, Nora McCune, Kristina Puzin, Grace Tropp

East HS Instructor Amy Caulk and students Ja'Nyshja Forrest-Black and Brandon Lopez

Guilford HS Instructor Christian Marigomen and students Victoria Fong, Jaydn Hamm, Alaina Neumann, Ana Picchi

Marshall MS Instructor George Espino and students Brayden Velez and Alex Benedicto

B. Celebrating RPS 205 – Maria Montessori School

Principal Candace Collins gave a presentation, explaining the program, and what it involves. Middle school students complete 20 hours of community service during the school year. ESL students held a donation drive for Miss Carly's, Montessori Color Run raised over \$20,000 and gave five percent back to local businesses. This included Noah's Ark, and PAWS. Lower elementary classroom students made blankets for Miss Carly's and cards for elderly residents at St. Anne's Place. To see the presentation, please click on the link: [Maria Montessori School](#).

3. Petitions & Communications

Ms. Pearson read the guidelines.

- Ricky Naylor paid respects to Terry Gano who recently passed away. He also spoke of the lack of diversity in student recognition and administration.
- Ann Rundall thanked Terry Gano for the 3 Minutes to speak. She commented on the number of students being excluded and the need for interventions for students needing support.
- Margo Steadman spoke of the Rockford Symphony Orchestra partnering with the District, and only thirty percent of students attending the Nutcracker Ballet matinee.
- Shahrazad Sheikhali spoke of her past experience of being a student in the District and lack of support and safety for Arab students.
- Elizabeth Hand spoke of the need for more social and emotional support for students and protection of teachers from violent students.
- Julie Hatch spoke of the demands placed on all teachers and the need to listen to the voices of staff and students.
- Maria Altamirano spoke of her frustration with the Bilingual department as she is not receiving the information needed for new students entering the Bilingual program.
- Kyle Wolfe spoke of how teachers have needed to redirect their focus away from the social/emotional needs of their students.
- John Tac Brantlee thanked community members for speaking and also commented on raising funds for a church van. He also spoke of his work with kids, and for parents and kids to work together.

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

A. *Fiscal year (FY) 2023 Audited Financial Statements – Jamie Murray/Baker Tiley

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** item 4A, Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Audited Financial Statements.

Approved: Unanimously

B. *BMO Center – High School Graduation Ceremonies

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** item 4B, BMO Center – High School Graduation Ceremonies.

Approved: Unanimously

5. Report and *Action on Items that Proceeded through the Planning Committee

A. Determination and Approval of Tentative 2023 Tax Levy – First Read

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Ms. Stanford to **approve** item 5A, Determination and Approval of Tentative 2023 Tax Levy – First Read, Option A. New Property.

Approved: Unanimously

B. *Grant Acceptance: Green Our Planet – Morgan Gallagher on behalf of International Baccalaureate Candidate School at Conklin

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Mr. Schubert to **approve** item 5B, Grant Acceptance: Green Our Planet.

Approved: Unanimously

C. *School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) Application – Dr. Travis Woulfe, Executive Director, Improvement and Innovation, Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** item 5C, School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG) Application.

Approved: Unanimously

D. ~~*City of Rockford Mentor Agreement – Morgan Gallagher and Jason Barthel~~ – pulled by Administration

6. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee

- A. Payroll
- B. Accounts Payable
- C. Purchase Orders
- D. Contract Purchase Orders
- E. Air Travel
- F. RPS Managed Work Change Order
- G. ESSER – RPS Managed Work Change Order
- H. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – September 2023 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- I. Financial Results: September 2023 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- J. IFB 24-12 Athletic Turf Maintenance & Weed Control
- K. Resolution Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2023 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation School Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016 (Qualified School Construction Bonds)
- L. Recurring Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied for the Year 2023 to Pay Debt Service on Taxable General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2016 (Qualified School Construction Bonds)
- M. Recurring Contract Belles Firm of Architecture Sterling Holley Phase-II Design, Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- N. Facilities Capital Planning Software Renewal – Scott Jensen, Director of Design and Construction, Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- O. Contract Amendments for College and Career Education Center (Addition) – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- P. Additional Point of Sale Licenses – Titan – Colleen Koehler
- Q. Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM)
- R. Smart Learning Suite Licensing Addendum
- S. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt – Professional Learning – Amy Gannon, Executive Director of MTSS
- T. CKLA/Caminos Skill Strand for K-2 – Dr. Heather Psaltis on behalf of Barbour

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

Approved: Unanimously

7. *Consent Items – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 10-17-23, 10-07-23 – Board Retreat
- B. Memorandum of Understanding EOPA – Article 23, Training
- C. eLearning Plan
- D. Amendment to Superintendent’s Contract – pulled by Administration
- E. Freedom of Information Long

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

Approved: Unanimously

Board members voted on Student Discipline items.

8. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Residency Resolution – Student X
- B. Appointment of Anika McGee as 10 Month Assistant Principal assigned to Auburn High School
- C. Appointment of Robert Walton as 10 Month Assistant Principal assigned to RESA Middle School

- D. Appointment of Terence Brown as 12 Month Special Education Program Administrator assigned to the Administration Building
 - E. Appointment of Melissa Wolf as 12 Month Fine Arts Director assigned to the Administration Building
 - F. HR Organizational Report & Addendum
9. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline Suspension Appeals and Expulsions
- A. B0007X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the 1st semester of the 24-25 school year.
 - B. H0010X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - C. H0011X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - D. H0012X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - E. H0013X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - F. H0016X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - G. H0017X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - H. H0018X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - I. H0019X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - J. H0020X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - K. H0021X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - L. H0022X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - M. H0024X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - N. H0026X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - O. H0027X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - P. H0028X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the 1st semester of the 24-25 school year.
 - Q. H0029X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the 1st semester of the 24-25 school year.
 - R. H0030X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the 1st semester of the 24-25 school year.
 - S. H0031X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the 1st semester of the 24-25 school year.
 - T. H0032X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the 1st semester of the 24-25 school year.
 - U. H0035X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - V. H0037X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - W. P0025X-24 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - X. P0026X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - Y. P0027X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - Z. P0028X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - AA. P0030X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - BB. P0034X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - CC. P0035X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year.
 - DD. P0074X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).

- EE. P0075X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).
- FF. P0076X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).
- GG. P0077X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).
- HH. P0078X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).
- II. P0079X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).
- JJ. P0080X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).
- KK. P0081X-24 are expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through November 27, 2025 (2 calendar years from the date of board action).
- LL. T0002X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the entire 24-25 school year.
- MM. P0048A-24 – two (2) day suspension is affirmed.

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** Closed Session Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsions not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

10. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs

- A. B0001-24
- B. B0002-24
- C. B0003-24 – pulled by Administration
- D. B0004-24
- E. B0005-24
- F. B0006-24 – pulled by Administration
- G. B0008-24
- H. B0009-24
- I. B0010-24
- J. B0011-24
- K. B0012-24
- L. H0014-24
- M. H0015-24
- N. H0023-24
- O. H0025-24
- P. H0033-24
- Q. H0034-24
- R. H0036-24
- S. H0038-24
- T. P0018-24
- U. P0019-24
- V. P0020-24
- W. P0021-24
- X. P0022-24
- Y. P0023-24
- Z. P0024-24
- AA. P0029-24
- BB. P0031-24
- CC. P0032-24
- DD. P0032-24
- EE. P0036-24
- FF. P0037-24

GG. P0038-24
HH. P0039-24
II. P0040-24
JJ. P0041-24
KK. ~~P0042-24~~ – pulled by Ms. Bennett
LL. P0043-24
MM. ~~P0044-24~~ – pulled by Ms. Bennett
NN. P0045-24
OO. P0046-24
PP. P0047-24
QQ. P0049-24
RR. P0050-24
SS. P0051-24
TT. P0052-24
UU. P0053-24
VV. P0054-24
WW. P0055-24
XX. P0057-24
YY. P0058-24
ZZ. P0059-24
AAA. P0060-24
BBB. P0064-24
CCC. P0065-24
DDD. P0067024
EEE. P0068-24
FFF. P0069-24
GGG. P0070-24
HHH. P0071-24
III. P0072-24
JJJ. P0073-24
KKK. T0001-24
LLL. T0003-24

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAS not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Bennet seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** Closed Session Consent items pulled, Student Discipline EIAS 10KK P0042-24 and 10MM P0044-24.

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

Abstain: Ms. Bennett

Approved: 6-0-1

11. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett ceded his time to Superintendent Student Advisory Council representative Jessica Garcia. Jessica is a CAPA student that has given her many opportunities. She spoke of the teen dating policy and the comment that a victim would first go to their friend. She spoke of her experience talking to adults about the mistreatment of her friend at the hands of their partner. She spoke of feeling she betrayed the trust of her friend and making the situation worse. She spoke of her hope that students would be given the support to properly support them and prevent the cycle of abuse of continuing.

B. Progress Monitoring – Matt Zediker

Dr. Gallagher gave the presentation regarding Progress Monitoring beginning with the changes in school ratings. The 2021-2022 school had a total of one blue, two green, twentytwo yellow, and sixteen red schools. These were through levels K-12, Special Programs, and Early Childhood. Changes in the 2022-2023 school year were two blue,

eight green, twenty five yellow, and six red. Reviewed were the Standards of Practice for K-5, middle schools, high schools, and early childhood. School ratings in red decreased from sixteen to six, with Eisenhower dropping from yellow to red. Yellow schools increased from twenty two to twenty four, with the following schools moving from red to yellow: Auburn, East, Jefferson, RESA, Conklin, Ellis, Lane, Lathrop, McIntosh, Riverdahl, and Washington. Green schools increased from two to nine. The following schools moved from yellow to green: Bloom, Cherry Valley, Froberg, Hillman, STEAM at Haskell, Montessori, Beyer, and Summerdale. Blue schools increased from one to two schools. Marshall Middle School moved from green to blue. The presentation may be viewed by clicking on this link:

[Progress Monitoring.](#)

12. Board Member Comments

- Mr. Carpenter spoke of the Delegate Assembly at the Illinois Association of School Boards conference. Delegates voted in support of school resource officer funding, and in support of changes to the Federal and State school transportation regulations that return licensing requirements and driver training liability back to pre-February 2023 levels.
- Ms. Pearson requested Board members that attended the Joint Conference give a report of what they attended, and their take-aways were, and what was offered. This will be added to the December Committee of the Whole agenda.
- Ms. Bennett requested a presentation on Handle with Care.

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Mr. Schubert to **reconvene** into Closed Session to consider employee discipline, worker's compensation settlements; or other matters provided for pursuant to Section 2 of the Open Meetings Act.

The Board was in Executive Session from 8:50 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 9:14 p.m.

8. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Residency Resolution – Student X
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- D. Appointment of Terence Brown as 12 Month Special Education Program Administrator assigned to the Administration Building
- E. Appointment of Melissa Wolf as 12 Month Fine Arts Director assigned to the Administration Building
- F. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** Closed Session Consent Items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

13. Other Business/New Business Agenda Recommendations

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

Adjournment: 9:15 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: