

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

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

Present: President Denise Pearson, Vice President Tiana McCall (arr. 5:27 p.m.), Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennett, Ms. Kim Haley (arr. 5:11 p.m.), Mr. Paul Carpenter, Mr. Grant Schubert

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Carpenter 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 5:01 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 Alejandra Gonzalez from East High School.
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 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 and staff were recognized for their achievements.
 - Congratulations to RESA Middle School 8th grade Principal, Tamara Butler! She has been selected as one of 40 facilitators for the Illinois Affinity Group Network. The Illinois State Board of Education established this statewide system that will support and retain teachers of color. These groups bring teachers together to build a supportive community, examine current issues and make recommendations that address those issues.
 - Washington Elementary School 5th grader, Sara Itzel Solares Huini, created the winning design for Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara’s Holiday Card Contest! The mayor said he loved her message of love, peace, friendship, and unity. Sara was recognized at the city council meeting at the end of November.
 - Last month, students from three RPS 205 high schools were represented at the NIU Olson Gallery High School Art Invitational. Students were Roosevelt’s Dysen White, Auburn’s Jade Stone and Meryem Basim and Jefferson students Mily Sigala, Erika Palos-Ponce, Emily Chavez, and Mya Hildebrand. Mya was awarded a Best of Show Award which included a \$9,000 NIU Scholarship.
 - Seniors Martez Taylor, Hassan Bates, Terry Horton & Rakim Chaney in Auburn High School’s Business Academy were selected to be MLK Scholars! They each will receive a scholarship from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in varying amounts. Each year, the fraternity gives out scholarships for college to young men of color. Students must have a 2.5 GPA, collect 2-3 letters of recommendation, and submit an essay covering a hardship they experienced, these 4 seniors will perform a 3–5-minute oration at the annual Martin Luther King breakfast at Rockford University on Saturday, January 13, 2024.
 - The Prenatal to Three Team: Malaysia Ash, Gina Beaver, Paige Breeden, Miriam Castro-Rodrigues, Kenisha Driskell, Kathryn Gatewood, Nicole Griseta, Balbina Holder, Michele Johnson, Latricia Jones, Rea Jones, Sarah

Lewis, Norma Perez, Carolina Rodriguez, Amy Skaggs, Nichole Giovanni, and Kimberly Nelson. The Early Childhood Prenatal to Three Home Visiting Program has earned a prestigious endorsement from Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc. as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate, making it one of the top-performing home visiting affiliates within Parents as Teachers' international network. The official designation was made in October. Being named a Blue Ribbon Affiliate affirms that the Prenatal to Three Home Visiting Program is a high-quality member of the home visiting field, implementing the evidenced-based Parents as Teachers model with fidelity. The program promotes the optimal early development, learning, and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers. The program helps parents embrace their role as their child's best and first teacher. The program includes home visits, group connections, child screening, and connections to community resources. It equips parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children for a stronger start in life and greater success in school. Teachers as Teachers Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process helps ensure that Parents as Teachers affiliates are achieving fidelity to the Parents as Teachers model and facilitates continuous quality improvement. PAT affiliates are required to engage in this rigorous 18-month Quality Endorsement and Improvement Process every five years. Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon Affiliates are exemplary programs, delivering the highest quality services to children and families. Six members of our Home Visiting Team that presented at the International Parents as Teachers conference this past October in New Orleans. Nichole, Rea, Gina, Carolina, Kenisha, and Norma shared best practices in serving vulnerable populations through community collaborations.

3. Petitions & Communications

Ms. Pearson read the guidelines. *Members agreed to extend the Petitions & Communications time allowing all people to comment.*

- Ricky Naylor commented on the main purpose of the Board is to hire the superintendent and his unhappiness with the District
- Anyla spoke of being a student at Lewis Lemon, what she is learning, and the after school program she attends.
- King Jemere spoke of his school and the after school program he attends.
- John Tac Brantlee thanked community members and teachers for their support in donating funds for a van.
- O.J. spoke of school and the after school program that helps.
- Kyle Wolfe commented on the importance of empathizing with students and earning their trust.
- Kevin Ryan spoke of the Superintendent's contract and the fundamentals of job leadership and efficiency.
- Carl Mackins expressed his concerns regarding an incident that occurred with his granddaughter.
- Hillary Simms spoke in opposition to the termination of Emmanuel Keller.
- Harvey Keller spoke in support of Emmanuel Keller and in opposition to his termination.
- Emmanuel Keller spoke in opposition to his termination.
- L.C. Wilson spoke of the incentives for people of color including the RU Pathway and paraprofessional coaching.
- Tessa Ramirez spoke of her child being bullied and why violent children are allowed to stay in schools.
- Shahrazad Sheikhalil spoke in appreciation of Dr. Reed for his guidance.
- Eric Archer spoke of teachers being overwhelmed, the issues involved, and unhappiness with the District and discipline issues.
- Susan Nicholas spoke of the cycle of trauma that children have experienced, and the importance of supportive families.

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

A. *Resolution to Approve the 2023 Tax Levy

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Stanford to approve item 4A, Resolution to Approve the 2023 Tax Levy.

Approved: Unanimously

B. *Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Amended Budget for 2023-2024

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Haley to approve item 4B, Resolution and Notice of Public Hearing on the Amended Budget for 2023-2024.

Approved: Unanimously

C. *Approval of Agreement with American Institutes for Research's Mandatory Services in 1003(a) Designated Schools.

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Bennett to **approve** item 4C, Approval of Agreement with American Institutes for Research’s Mandatory Services in 1003(a) Designated Schools.

Approved: Unanimously

D. *The Computing Technology Industry Association, Inc. Contract

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** item 4D, The Computing Technology Industry Association, Inc. Contract.

Approved: Unanimously

5. Board President’s Announcements and Report and Action on items that Proceeded through Governance Committee

A. *Board Policy 2.172 Board of Education; Use of Consultants

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. Bennett to **approve** item 5A, Board Policy 2.172 Board of Education; Use of Consultants.

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

Absent from the vote: Ms. McCall

Approved: 6-0-1

B. *Board Policy 4.60 Operational Services; Purchases and Contracts

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **approve** item 5B, Board Policy 4.60 Operational Services; Purchases and Contracts.

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

Absent from the vote: Ms. McCall

Approved: 6-0-1

C. *Board Policy 6.210 Instruction; Instructional Materials

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Bennett to **approve** item 5C, Board Policy 6.210 Instruction; Instructional Materials.

Approved: Unanimously

D. *Board Policy 7.180 Students; Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Ms. Stanford to **approve** item 5D, Board Policy 7.180 Students; Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment.

Approved: Unanimously

E. Report Back – Joint Conference – Board Members

Ms. Pearson asked members to share their experiences of the Illinois Association of School Board (IASB) Conference.

- Ms. Bennett spoke of real world scenarios, sitting with members of other districts and attending training regarding expulsions, trauma, and trauma informed classroom.
- Mr. Carpenter shared his experience attending sessions on student residency, communications with board members and superintendent, and the Art of School Boarding. Mr. Carpenter spoke of the Board’s role in giving directions to the superintendent.
- Mr. Schubert attended the expulsion seminar and met with board members from around the State. He also attended a session with a facilitator speaking of how a board should vote.
- Ms. Haley spoke of attending the Art of School Boarding on how to work collaboratively as partners with administrators and superintendents. She also attended a session on bias. She enjoyed listening to the keynote speaker and attended the ABCs of School Finance.
- Ms. McCall was registered to attend; however, she was unable to attend due to a broken ankle.
- Ms. Pearson spoke of her sessions which focused on governance. She also implored people to learn the role of board members. She also spoke of attending Equity Immersion, that it is based on a need and what the District can do to meet that need.

6. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee

A. Payroll

B. Accounts Payable

C. Purchase Orders

D. Monthly Cash and Investment Report – October 2023 – Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance

E. Air Travel

- F. Financial Results: October 2023 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance
- G. ESSER – RPS Managed Work Change Order
- H. RPS Managed Work Change Order
- I. IFB 24-16 Kennedy M.S. Roof Replacement
- J. IFB 24-17 East H.S. Tennis Court Renovations
- K. IFB 24-19 Auburn H.S. Box Culver Reconstruction
- L. IFB 24-21 Lincoln M.S. Coal Bin Demolition & Staff Parking Lot Replacement
- M. IFB 24-23 Asbestos Abatement at Welsh E.S.
- N. IFB 24-24 Fire Alarm Replacement at Five Schools
- O. AT&T CompleteLink 2.0 Contract Renewal
- P. Recurring Contract, Hagney Architects, LLC, Roof Replacement Design at Auburn HS, and McIntosh ES - Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- Q. Recurring Contract, Keith Engineering Design, Plumbing Upgrade Design - Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- R. Request to use Fire Prevention and Safety Funds for Fire Alarm Replacement at Five Schools - Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- S. HM Insurance - Health Insurance and RX Stop Loss Insurance
- T. Paridad Education Consulting
- U. Middle Years Development Instrument – Heidi Dettman, Chief Academic Officer
- V. Crusader Community Health – Michael Ryia

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

Approved: Unanimously

7. *Consent Items – Planning Committee

- A. Amendment to Student Transportation Services Agreement with First Student – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
- B. Leases for Student Teachers – Greg Brown, Ed. D and Mr. Jason Pope

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

Approved: Unanimously

8. * Consent Items – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 12-02-23 Board Retreat, 11-28-23
- B. Expense Reimbursement: D. Pearson, N. Bennett, K. Haley, P. Carpenter, G. Schubert
- C. Fee Waiver-Shadow Premier FC
- D. Closed Session Minutes Release
- E. Freedom of Information Log
- F. Amendment to Superintendent’s Contract

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. Stanford to approve Governance Committee Consent items A-E, Meeting Minutes: 12-02-23 Board Retreat, 11-28-23, Expense Reimbursement: D. Pearson, N. Bennett, K. Haley, P. Carpenter, G. Schubert, Fee Waiver-Shadow Premier FC, Closed Session Minutes Release, Freedom of Information Log.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Carpenter to approve Governance Committee Consent item F, Amendment to Superintendent’s Contract.

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Haley to amend the Amendment of the Superintendent’s Contract from two years to one year. Ms. Pearson called for the vote on the amended motion.

Yeas: Ms. Haley, Ms. Pearson, Ms. McCall

Nays: Ms. Stanford, Mr. Schubert, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Carpenter

Motion fails: 3-4-0

The roll was called on the original motion.

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

Nays: Ms. Pearson, Ms. McCall, Ms. Haley

Approved: 4-3-0

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Mr. Carpenter to **reconvene** in Closed Session.

Approved: Unanimously

Members were in executive session from 8:40 p.m. to 9:04 p.m.

9. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Residency of Student CB and AH
- B. Residency Hearing Officer Report Re: Student CV's Family Residency Dispute (including any objections filed by parent)
- C. Appointment of Ruth Sanchez as 12 Month Director of Bilingual and Multicultural Education Assigned to Administration
- D. Appointment of Ryan Brown as 12 Month Director of Bilingual and Multicultural Education Assigned to Administration
- E. Workers' Compensation Settlement - YJ
- F. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Carpenter to **approve** Closed Session Consent items not pulled.

Approved Unanimously

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

- A. ~~B0013X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the first semester of the 24-25 school year.~~ - Pulled by Mr. Carpenter
- B. H0039X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the first semester of the 24-25 school year.
- C. H0041X-24 - The ten day suspension for H0041X-24 is affirmed
- D. H0043X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the first semester of the 24-25 school year.
- E. H0044X-24 - the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the first semester of the 24-25 school year which can be terminated earlier based upon the conditions set forth in the EIA.
- F. H0045X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the entire 24-25 school year
- G. H0046X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the entire 24-25 school year
- H. ~~H0052X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the entire 24-25 school year - Pulled by Mr. Carpenter~~
- I. P0066X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year through the first semester of the 24-25 school year.
- J. P0082X-24 - expelled for the remainder of the 23-24 school year, the entire 24-25 school year, through December 18, 2025 (2 Calendar Years from the date of Board action)

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** Closed Session Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsion pulled, 10A B0013X-24.

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

Nays: Mr. Carpenter

Approved 6-1-0

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Bennett to **approve** Closed Session Items Student Discipline – Suspension Appeals and Expulsion pulled, 10M H0052X-24,

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

Abstain: Mr. Carpenter

Approved: 6-0-1

11. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs

- A. B0003-24
- B. B0006-24
- C. B0014-24
- D. B0015-24

- E. B0016-24
- F. D0002-24
- G. H0040-24
- H. H0042-24
- I. H0048-24
- J. H0049-24
- K. H0050-24
- L. ~~H0051-24~~ – Pulled by Ms. Bennett
- M. P0056-24
- N. P0061-24
- O. P0062-24
- P. P0063-24
- Q. P0083-24
- R. P0084-24
- S. P0085-24
- T. P0086-24
- U. P0098-24
- V. P0088-24
- W. P0089-24
- X. ~~P0090-24~~ – pulled by Administration - Duplicate
- Y. P0090-24
- Z. P0091-24
- AA. P0092-24
- BB. P0093-24
- CC. P0094-24
- DD. T0004-24
- EE. T0005-24

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

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Ms. Haley seconded by Ms. McCall to approve Closed Session Consent items pulled, Student Discipline EIAS 11L H0051-24.

Yeas: Ms. McCall, Ms. Stanford

Nays: Mr. Schubert, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Carpenter, Ms. Haley, Ms. Pearson

Motion Fails: 2-5-0

12. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett postponed the recruiting process until a future Committee of the Whole meeting. He ceded his time to SSAC student Alejandra Gonzalez. Alejandra spoke of watching the Committee of the Whole and spoke of the students with dyslexia. Parents are often uneducated on how to identify issues, getting the help they need for their children, and how schools should provide more resources.

13. Board Member Comments

- Ms. Stanford provided positive feedback of the inaugural Coffee Chat she and Mr. Schubert attended.
- Ms. Pearson commented on how well Ms. Stanford and Mr. Schubert did at the Coffee Chat, that it was a great place to have it and there was excellent conversation. She also spoke of moving forward that more board policies will be reviewed, and that there are administrative regulations that are out of date. Her comments included the gap between reviews and revision.
- Ms. Bennett requested a presentation on Handle with Care.

14. Other Business/New Business Agenda Recommendations

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

Adjournment: 9:19 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: