

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

Board President called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Present: President Denise Pearson, Vice President Tiana McCall, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennett, Ms. Kim Haley, Mr. Paul Carpenter

Absent: Mr. Grant Schubert

Motion by Mr. Carpenter seconded by Ms. McCall 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 5:02 p.m. to 6:19 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 7:00 p.m.

- A. Roll Call

Present: President Denise Pearson, Vice President Tiana McCall, Secretary June Stanford, Ms. Nicole Bennett, Ms. Kim Haley, Mr. Paul Carpenter

Absent: Mr. Grant Schubert

Ms. Pearson thanked Kim Pedersen who produces the Board’s broadcast on Channel 20, and YouTube Live. She welcomed Superintendent’s Student Advisory Representative Logan Nalley from Auburn 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

- A. Recognitions – Earl Dotson, Jr.

The following students and staff members were recognized for their achievements.

Maria Montessori School

Jill Moth, Music Teacher, and Band Director at Maria Montessori School earned the title Dr. of Music Education.

Marshall Elementary & Constance Lane Elementary Schools

Marshall Elementary Music Teachers Jennifer Loomis and Constance Lane Elementary Reading Specialist Rebecca Fahrney are new National Board Certified teachers.

Maria Montessori School

7th grade student, Trinity Rucker was recognized, by Mayor Tom McNamara as the 2024 City of Rockford Youth Poet

Roosevelt Community Center

Students Bazil Heaven Abbott, Dysen White, Kelsee Harris, and Marie Hanson won the Linka K. White Spirit Award at the 2024 Illinois Snow Sculpting Competition for their creation “Foxes in Sockzes”.

Teachers Kyle Wolfe and Brian Hierstein also took part in the state competition, carving a sculpture alongside the students called “Karmadillo.” Their team, named Cavepeople from Space, clinched the 1st position for the fourth consecutive year in 2024

High School Theatre Festival

The following seniors attended the Illinois High School Theatre Festival January 11-13 at Illinois State University. They had the opportunity to audition and interview for over 30 national collegiate theatre programs and scholarship opportunities.

RPS Results:

Jefferson High School

Olivia Derry - Technical Theatre - 3 offers

Marlene Rocha - Acting - 12 offers

Guilford High School

Alexandra Garcia - Acting - 22 offers

Reagan "EJ" Hobart - Acting - 19 offers

Indica Jackson - Acting - 13 offers

Samantha Mosny - Acting - 2 offers

Alaina Neumann - Musical Theatre - 12 offers

Kaja Pusara - Musical Theatre - 8 offers

Jaeszianna White - Acting - 18 offers

Auburn High School

Lamarion Taylor - Technical Theatre - 18 offers

The following Junior musical theatre students from Auburn also auditioned for experience and collegiate feedback:

Nailah Brooks - 19 offers

Sanaai Brown - 17 offers

All-State Musicians from Auburn High School:

Logan Nalley - Trombone- All State Honors Jazz Ensemble

Aleyna Yaylaci- Cello- All State Orchestra

Youth Art Month

Jefferson High School 11th grader Nayeli Villalpando is the 2024 grand prize winner of the Youth Art Month in Illinois. She will also be receiving a Blick Prize Collection and certificate in recognition of this achievement.

High School Bowling

Auburn High School student Tyler Zomok and Guilford High School students Alexis Aumann and Sarah Legoo will compete in State tournaments.

Middle School Basketball

The following teams advance to State – Marshall's 7th grade boys advanced to 3A State, Eisenhower 7th boys advanced to 4A, and Kennedy's 8th graders advanced to 3A.

High School Chess Teams

Auburn Knights Chess team qualified for the State tournament. Chess Knights are Ian Wan (Captain), Sayana Bilguun (Captain), Michele Luu, Paxson Gottschalk, Caleb Sales, Gian Sasan, Ibrahim Brooks, Basim Basim, Richard Inthavong, Sophia Rimorin, Besnik Jusufi, and Soren Swenson. The Coaches this year are Head Coach Joe Guth and Assistant Coach and Alumnus Ethan Vanderkolk.

Guilford's Chess team advanced to State. Team members are Head Coach - Erik Czerwin, Assistant Coach - Emilio Rodriguez, Teammates: Malachi Yates, Wade Little, Nathaniel Czerwin, Lincoln Noble, Jayden Foat, Fern Kuntz, Christian Owens, Jowell Hernandez, Hser Thaw, Shan Non, Brooklyn Hairrell, Talal Razick, Leo Vining, Jacob McAndrew, Conner Morabito, Law Paw, Leslie Sanchez-Cisneros, and Jameson Locher.

3. Petitions & Communications

Ms. Pearson read the guidelines.

- Ann Rundall spoke of a report given to the Board and Superintendent in 2019 and the progress of each item.
- Ashley Kadolph spoke of her concerns about her daughter and asked for assistance.

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

A. *Embrace – Digital Special Education Records Platform – Mike Ryia, Executive Director of Special Education **Motion** by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Haley to **approve** item 4A, Embrace – Digital Special Education Records Platform

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

B. *Forefront Power, Community Solar Subscription Agreement – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer
Motion by Ms. Haley seconded by Ms. Stanford to **approve** item 4B, Forefront Power, Community Solar Service Agreement.

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

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

A. *Board Policy 5.08 Personnel; Employment Policies and Recruitment

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Halley to **approve** item 5A, Board Policy 5.08 Personnel; Employment Policies and Recruitment

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

B. *Board Policy 5.55 Personnel; Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** item 5B, Board Policy 5.55 Personnel; Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

C. *Board Policy 5.70 Personnel; Religious Holidays

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. McCall to **approve** item 5C, Board Policy 5.70 Personnel; Religious Holidays

Yeas: Ms. Haley, Ms. Stanford, Ms. Pearson, Ms. McCall, Ms. Bennett, Ms. Carpenter

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

D. *Board Policy 7.185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Bennett to **approve** item 5D, Board Policy 7.185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited.

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

E. ~~*Board Policy 7.335 Students; Dance Policy~~ – Pulled by Administration

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Bennett to **repeal** item 5E, Board Policy 7.335 Students; Dance Policy. Repealing the policy and the need to do so was discussed. Ms. Stanford withdrew the motion to repeal and the item was pulled for the vote.

6. *Consent Agenda – Performance and Monitoring Committee

A. Payroll

B. Accounts Payable

C. Purchase Orders

D. Contract Purchase Orders

E. Air Fare

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

G. Financial Results: December 2023 – Ms. Jamie Murray, CPA, Executive Director of Finance

H. RPS Managed Work Change Order

I. ESSER RPS Managed Change Order Log

J. IFB 24-18 Hard Surface Playground and Sidewalk Replacement at Three Schools

K. IFB 24-20 Beyer ECC Door Ramp J

L. IFB 24-25 Marshall M.S. Chilled Water Upgrade

M. IFB 24-28 Jefferson H.S. Parking Lot Renovations

N. IFB 24-29 CCEC Restroom Renovations

- O. FY25 e-rate Internet Services Contract Renewal
 - P. Amplify ELA Literacy Curriculum – 6th Grade – Morgan Gallagher on behalf of Conklin IB
 - Q. Amplify – BOOST Reading – Morgan Gallagher on behalf of Conklin IB
 - R. VISTA Higher Learning IB 6th Grade DL ESL Resource – Morgan Gallagher on behalf of Conklin IB
 - S. CPM Inspiring Connections Course: 6th Grade Resource – Morgan Gallagher on behalf of Conklin IB
- Motion** by Ms. Stanford seconded by Mr. Carpenter to approve Consent items, Performance and Monitoring Committee not pulled.

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

7. *Consent Items – Planning Committee

- A. ~~DLR Group, Professional Services Agreement for College and Career Education Center Design Services – Michael Phillips, Chief Operations Officer~~ – pulled by Ms. Pearson

- B. Digital Resource – Cardonex Scheduling Software

Motion by Ms. McCall seconded by Ms. Stanford to approve Consent items, Planning Committee not pulled.

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

Motion by Ms. Bennett seconded by Ms. McCall to approve Consent item pulled, 7A, DLR Group, Professional Services Agreement for College and Career Education Center Design Services.

A request was made for an update on work orders; specifically, schools with outstanding work orders. The responsibilities of DLR Group include programming, then create the design and construction documents, and will manage construction administration after the project is bid. Ms. Pearson called for the vote.

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

8. *Consent Items – Governance Committee

- A. Meeting Minutes: 01-16-2024

- B. Memorandum of Understanding (REA) – Registered Behavior Technician Supervisor Differential

- C. Freedom of Information Log

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

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

9. *Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Residency Resolution – Student AH

- B. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement – JC

- C. ~~Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers~~ – pulled by Ms. Bennett

- D. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

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

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

Motion by Ms. Stanford seconded by Ms. Bennett to approve Closed Session Consent item pulled 9C, Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers.

Yeas: Ms. McCall, Ms. Bennett, Mr. Carpenter, Ms. Haley, Ms. Stanford

Nays: Ms. Pearson

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 5-1-1

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

- A. H0067X-24 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year through the entire 2024-2025 school year.

- B. H0068X-24 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year through the entire 2024-2025 school year.
- C. H0069X-24 – expelled for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year through the entire 2024-2025 school year.

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

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

11. *Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline – EIAs

- A. B0022-24
- B. B0023-24
- C. B0024-24
- D. H0062-24
- E. H0070-24
- F. P0102-24
- G. P0103-24
- H. P0106-24
- I. P0107-24
- J. P0108-24
- K. P0109-24
- L. P0110-24
- M. P0111-24
- N. P0112-24
- O. P0113-24
- P. P0114-24
- Q. P0115-24
- R. P0116-24
- S. P0117-24
- T. P0118-24
- U. P0119-24
- V. P0121-24
- W. P0122-24
- X. P0123-24
- Y. P0124-24
- Z. P0125-24
- AA. P0126-24
- BB. P0127-24
- CC. P0128-24
- DD. P0129-24
- EE. P0130-24
- FF. P0131-24
- GG. P0132-24
- HH. P0133-24
- II. P0135-24
- JJ. P0136-24
- KK. P0137-24
- LL. T0006-14

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

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

Absent: Mr. Schubert

Approved: 6-0-1

12. Superintendent's Update

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett gave a shout-out to Dr. Malone and the team at Washington Elementary School. Many of the Administrative team, instructional coaches, parents and community members, students, and Board members attended the celebration of seventy-four Washington students making it from "Learning to Read" to "Reading to Learn." Dr. Jarrett also spoke of members attending the Student-Led Listening Sessions. There was great collaboration with the Communications and DEI teams. He ceded the floor to Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Representative Logan Nalley.

Logan thanked Board members and Dr. Jarrett for his opportunity. He spoke of the Committee of the Whole meeting and on how policies impacted his personal day as a Rockford Public School student. What stood out to him from the meeting was Dr. Reed's presentation of the Student Listening sessions and how he could identify with them. Logan spoke of the main items he related to, how the 90/10 grading system affects students, how school fighting has people taking intense conflicts, resolving them at school, and seeing those at his school. Logan also spoke of how Covid has stunted maturity and development in students' social skills, and how difficult it was having that year or more of not having social interaction, and the need to speak to older and more mature people and listen to them. He also spoke of how students want a more balanced approach to learning, not just in front of a screen for the entire day, as that can be difficult. He finished his report stating he is happy students, and the District is taking the initiative to have the student voices be heard.

Dr. Jarrett gave a shout out to partners at the Rockford Education Association, who attended the meeting. Many concerns were raised over e-learning and great collaborative work from the REA Leadership team to convene a committee to ensure a better solution moving forward, and make sure to find ways to adjust the Academic Calendar. He thanked the partners.

13. Board Member Comments

- Ms. McCall spoke of attending Girls Basketball and Boys Basketball, volleyball, the P40 Celebration, and the listening sessions. The listening session was very impactful with students saying the same thing as Logan shared in his comments. She was impressed that students spoke of the importance of mental health and how it relates to finishing their schoolwork completed. Ms. McCall spoke of the atmosphere at Washington Elementary School under the leadership of Dr. Malone as amazing. She applauded students, staff, and parents for their participation.
- Ms. Bennett spoke of the listening session and echoed other comments made. She was impressed with the students how they spoke in front of their peers and adults and shared their thoughts. They were organized as to who was holding the poster, who was going to speak, called each other out if someone wasn't listening. Dr. Reed reminded students they will be part of the Strategic Plan and their voice matters. Ms. Bennett also spoke of February being teen violence dating awareness month. Currently, three meetings have taken place, with another one scheduled. Different work groups have evolved with bringing in professionals and partners.
- Mr. Carpenter spoke of February being Black History Month and acknowledging that Ms. Pearson is the first African American woman who is school board president. Ms. McCall was Winnebago County's first African American County Clerk.
- Ms. Haley spoke of attending the P40 ceremony at Washington Elementary school and it was a great celebration. She echoed everything Ms. McCall said as staff and students were very excited, and families were there supporting their students. The greatest point for her was seeing a student who was not confident in their reading skills, go in front on a microphone, and be able to flawlessly read their speech.
- Ms. Pearson gave a shout out to Dr. Malone as the P40 Celebration was phenomenal. She also acknowledged central administration who showed up for the celebration, which cannot go unnoticed and thanked administration for being present. She also spoke of serving the community, and her civic responsibility of serving the community. She endeavors to be a role model, there is power in learning to read, and read to learning. She reminded everyone, adults and scholars, not to give up on themselves.

14. Other Business/New Business Agenda Recommendations

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

Adjournment: 8:09 p.m.

Approved:

President:

Secretary: