

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
Meeting Minutes

Administration Building
Tuesday, June 9, 2020

President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 5:49 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon 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: Unanimously

Pursuant to a Motion made in accordance with the Illinois Open Meeting Act and approved on a roll call vote, the Board, utilizing Zoom, was in executive session from 5:51 p.m. to 6:34 p.m.

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1. Call to Order – President Kenneth Scrivano, utilizing Zoom, called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m.
 2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Roll Call
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Tim Rollins, Secretary Jude Makulec, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Michael Connor, Ms. June Stanford
Absent: None
Mr. Scrivano thanked Conner Childers for hosting the Zoom meeting.
 4. Public Hearing for Fund Balance Transfers
A. Public Hearing for Fund Balance Transfer
There were no public speakers
 5. Petitions & Communications
There were no public speakers
 6. Board Member Comments.
 - Mr. Rollins spoke of an article in the June 7, 2020 edition of the Rockford Register Star that reviewed jobless statistics of those with and without a college degree. He emphasized the need to solve the cycle of poverty, and to focus on how to get students ready for college.
 - Mrs. Makulec spoke of the Tier 2 discussion that took place at the Committee of the Whole. She asked Dr. Jarrett to add her name to the High School Academy model, is it successful, does the District need to look at another direction, and how many students receiving certifications are eligible for employment.
 - Mr. Connor commented to call further education advanced learning or advanced training. A larger discussion is needed regarding this topic.
 7. *Consent Items
 - A. Meeting Minutes: 5-26-20
 - B. Payroll
 - C. Accounts Payable
 - D. Purchase Orders (FY20)
 - E. ~~Purchase Orders (FY21)~~ – pulled by Mr. Seigel
 8. *Recurring Contracts
 - A. Forecast5 Analytics Fiscal Year 2021 Renewal – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
 - B. Consolidated Contracts (Personnel Services) – Jennifer Lawrence, Executive Director of Special Education

C. Consolidated Contracts (Therapeutic Day) – Michael Ryja, Director of Special Education

9. *Other Consent

A. Memorandum of Understanding 2020/2021 Contract Extension and Bonus with the Rockford Education Association

B. Recurring Approve of Consolidated District Plan (CDP) – Dr. Woulfe

C. Recurring Annual Plans for School Improvement under 1003(a) – Dr. Woulfe

D. ~~Illinois Association of School Boards Annual Dues~~—Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Superintendent – pulled by Mrs. Makulec

E. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement - DN

F. Freedom of Information Log

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Consent items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Consent item pulled 7E, Purchase orders (FY21).

Members asked for clarification regarding the overtime line item dollar amount on the purchase orders. This amount is an encumbrance and covers expenses for extracurricular or weekend activities at schools.

Custodial fees are included in facility rentals.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Other Consent item pulled 9D, Illinois Association of School Boards Annual Dues.

The payment is less this year. The membership is a good value, as it includes a subscription to PRESS.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

10. *Closed Session Consent Items

A. Appointment of Casey Lepke as 10 Month Assistant Principal at West Middle School

B. Appointment of Amber Lee-Black as 10 Month Dean at Jefferson High School

C. Appointment of Laura Greier as 10 Month Dean at Riverdahl Elementary School

D. HR Organization Report & Addendum

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve Closed Session Consent items.

Approved: Unanimously

11. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jarrett

Dr. Jarrett followed up on the Tier 2 conversation held at the Committee of the Whole meeting. There is a strong consensus for a robust conversation regarding the Academy model. Other areas of discussion include integrated literacy, hiring of minority teachers, and integration of technology. Dr. Jarrett also spoke of a more robust Board report schedule, and future look of weekly updates. An update on surveys was provided to members and will be in the week's update. Administration was pleased with survey results.

12. Action Items

A. Resolution Extending Board Policy 4.10's Budget Deadline.

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to approve item 12A, Resolution Extending Board Policy 4.10's Budget Deadline.

Approved: Unanimously

B. Donation of Squad Car

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 12B, Donation of Squad Car.

Approved: Unanimously

C. Special Education Private and Residential Placement Contracts, Hope Learning Academy – Jennifer Lawrence, Executive Director of Special Education

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to approve item 12C, Special Education Private and Residential Placement Contracts, Hope Learning Academy.

Approved: Unanimously

D. Contract with Unemployment Tracker for Unemployment Insurance Claims Administration and Cost Management

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 12D, Contract with Unemployment Tracker for Unemployment Insurance Claims Administration and Cost Management.

Approved: Unanimously

E. Community Foundation of Illinois, Every Child, Every Day – Grant Acceptance

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 12E, Community Foundation of Illinois, Every Child, Every Day – Grant Acceptance.

Approved: Unanimously

F. SysCloud GSuite and Office 365 Cloud Backup

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 12F, SysCloud GSuite and Office 365 Cloud Backup.

The cost is per user, per month to back up learning tools. This is a quick and effective restore option.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

G. BMO Harris Bank N.A. Lease Termination Agreement and ATM Placement Agreement – Michael Phillips, Executive Director of Facilities

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mrs. Makulec to approve item 12G, BMO Harris Bank N.A. Lease Termination and ATM Placement Agreement.

Approved: Unanimously

H. 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct – Mrs. Angela Hite-Carter, Executive Director of Student Services and Alternative Learning

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve item 12H, 2020-2021 Student Code of Conduct.

Approved: Unanimously

13. Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

The administration seeks suspension of the rules for this request to ensure hotspots are received in enough time to distribute for summer programming beginning on June 22, 2020. Summer registration required responses regarding the need for internet service to be identified by June 3, 2020. The data indicated 98 students enrolled in summer programming do not have internet access.

A. **T-Mobile EmpowerED 2.0 WiFi Hotspot Program – Jason Barthel, Chief Information Officer

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to suspend the rules to consider item 13A, T-Mobile EmpowerED 2.0 WiFi Hotspot Program.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mrs. Makulec to approve item 13A, T-Mobile EmpowerED 2.0 WiFi Program.

This agreement addresses the internet divide in the District and focuses on families most in need. The Summer program will be used as a pilot, covered by Title funds, then covered by the IT budget. This provided equitable access.

Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.

Approved: Unanimously

B. MOU with Awaken Foundation to provide apprenticeship

Awaken has created a training program that connects students to apprenticeship programs for any students in need, but they particularly target students who have been in our juvenile justice system, and/or have an array of challenges in their lives from extreme poverty to homelessness, violence, and more. Awaken would like to enter an MOU with RPS where RPS would provide referrals of interested students to Awaken. Counselors will work to identify students who would benefit and would be interested in the program. At this time, there is no enrollment cap, but if there becomes more interest than space available, an application process will be put into place. Participating students will attend a 12 week life skills course prior to placement in an apprenticeship. Apprenticeships take place after school hours and over the summer. Those interested in Culinary Arts will be placed in a Culinary Arts program through the College of DuPage's (soon to be) satellite site in Rockford, IL. Students interested in building repair and maintenance will be placed in apprenticeships at local companies in the Rockford Area. Apprenticeships range from 1,000, 2,000 or 4,000 hours and end in either college credit or certifications in the areas identified.

This will return for a vote at the June 23, 2020 meeting.

C. Permanent Fund Transfers - \$37 Million – Mrs. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer
\$32 Million will be transferred from the Transportation Fund to the Education fund, and \$5 Million will be transferred from the Tort Immunity fund to the Operations fund.

This will return for a vote at the June 23, 2020 meeting.

D. Tax Abatement – Estwing Manufacturing Company, Inc. – Ms. Michelle R. Jahr, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

Estwing Manufacturing is asking the District to abate their property taxes on their recent expansion. If granted, it would be as follows: 100% abatement for taxes levied in years 1-3, 75% abatement for taxes levied in years 4-6, 50% abatement for taxes levied in years 7-9. If approved, they would discontinue their current property tax appeal and could not contest assessment. To view the fiscal impact, please click on this link: [Tax Abatement](#).

This will return for a vote at the June 23, 2020 meeting.

E. Exclusive Finalsite Plan – Earl Dotson, Jr.

The agreement will add a translation button on the new website and have unlimited language capabilities.

This will return for a vote at the June 23, 2020 meeting.

F. Board Member Action Steps

1.) Follow-up on the survey by Administration in the weekly Board update

2.) Include discussion items from Board member comments, regarding Tier 2 items; ranking for High School Academies.

14. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to adjourn.

Adjournment: 8:14 p.m.

Approved: 6-23-20

President: *Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/*

Secretary: *Jude B. Makulec /s/*