

**ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS**

**Administration Building  
Tuesday, July 31, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Harmon Mitchell at 5:10 p.m.

Present: President Harmon Mitchell, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson, Ms. Ronnell Moore, Mrs. Laura Powers, Mr. Kenneth Scrivano, Mr. Tim Rollins

Absent:

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Scrivano that the Board **hold** an executive session to consider the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees; the discipline of students; pending or imminent litigation; collective bargaining matters; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Yeas: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

**Approved: 7-0-0**

The Board was in executive session from 5:10 p.m. until 7:10 p.m.

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- I. Call to Order – *President Harmon Mitchell called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:45 p.m.*
  - II. Roll Call  
Present: *President Harmon Mitchell, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson, Mrs. Laura Powers, Mr. Kenneth Scrivano, Mr. Tim Rollins, Mrs. Ronnell Moore*  
Absent: *none*
  - III. Moment of Silence & Pledge of Allegiance  
*Mr. Mitchell introduced Auburn High School Media students, Adam Batson, Audra Lewis and Robert Dahlberg who work with District staff to operate the broadcasting equipment.*
  - IV. *Petitions & Communications – the guidelines were read by Mr. Mitchell.*
    - *Special presentation for Genelle Samuelson took place before the scheduled meeting.*
  - V. Board Member Comments  
*No comments.*
  - VI. Consent Items  
**Motion** by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Ms. Moore, that the board **approve** Consent Items not pulled.
    - A. ~~Meeting Minutes – June 12, June 26, July 10, 2012~~ pulled by Ms. Jackson
    - B. Payroll
    - C. Accounts Payable Checks
    - D. Purchase Orders
    - E. Airfare

**Approved:** Unanimously

*Consent Item Pulled*

Meeting Minutes – June 12, June 26, July 10, 2012

*Ms. Jackson asked a question regarding the Jun 26, 2012 minutes, page seven, item K. At that meeting, discussion occurred regarding Board Policy 2.110, Board of Education Qualifications, Terms and Duties of Board Officers. Conversation took place regarding the stipend that could be paid to the Board Secretary. The minutes state: "[A few more duties were added to Board officers, Board president, recording secretary, and does allow for payment to be made to the Board Secretary of \\$500 a year, which was not included, as Atty. Hoadley felt this should be a decision made by the Board.](#)" Ms. Jackson asked if more discussion took place regarding the policy. Atty. Hoadley responded this was covered in length at the July 10, 2012 Board Meeting.*

**Motion** by Mrs. Powers, seconded by Ms. Jackson, that the board **approve** the Meeting Minutes – June 12, June 26, July 10, 2012.

**Approved:** Unanimously

VII. Closed Session Consent Items

- A. ~~Administrative Salary Adjustments~~ pulled by administration
- B. Administrative Appointments
  1. Mr. Angel Contreras as Chief Human Resources Officer
  2. Ms. Katie Wishowski-Wetzel as 12 Month Asst. Principal of Curriculum – Social Science
  3. Mr. Shaylon Walker as 12 Month Assistant Principal of Special Education
  4. Mr. Elliott Kallstrom as 12 Month Assistant Principal of Special Education
  5. Mr. Russell Vanderheyden as 10 Month Assistant Principal
  6. Mr. James O'Hagan as 12 Month Assistant Principal
  7. Mr. August Toldo as 12 Month Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
  8. ~~Ms. Tiffany Agustin as 12 Month Director of Research & Evaluation~~ pulled by Lisa Jackson
- C. Personnel Recommendations & Addendum as amended
- D. Resolution for Authorization for Dismissal of Non-Certified Personnel

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins, seconded by Mr. Scrivano that the board **approve** Closed Consent Items not pulled.

**Approved:** Unanimously

Closed Consent Item Pulled:

Ms. Tiffany Agustin as 12 Month Director of Research &

**Motion** by, Mr. Rollins seconded by Ms. Moore that the Board approve the Closed Consent Item pulled.

*Ms. Jackson commented her vote was not a reflection on the person in item B.8, but her opposition to the position itself.*

Yeas: 6

Nays: 1

Absent: 0

**Approved:** 6-1-0

*Board President, Mr. Mitchell, introduced the District's new Chief Human Resources Officer Mr. Angel Contreras, to Board and Community members.*

VIII. **Action Items**

A. Renaissance Learning – Ms. Moeller

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins seconded by Ms. Moore that the board **approve** Renaissance Learning.

*Mrs. Powers expressed concerns regarding the training and implementation time that are to take place the week of September 10th, after school has started. Ms. Moeller responded to the concerns that it is not the ideal situation. Two of the coaches are not available for training before the start of school, and if all the coaches aren't trained, the program will fail. Ms. Moeller assured the Board it is the responsibility of the District to train the teachers, and this will occur. Ms. Moeller spoke of her experience with this program, one with training and one without. The program that didn't implement the training failed in two years. The contract is for one year of professional development, and will be renewed on an annual basis. This will be used in all middle school math classes.*

**Approved:** Unanimously

IX. **Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations**

A. Alternative Learning Web-based Programming – Mr. Vosberg

[\(Board President, Mr. Mitchell, moved this item from last to first on this portion of the agenda\).](#)

*Mr. Vosberg presented this web-based program, which Roosevelt Alternative School will pilot. This was achieved by partnering with members of the Rockford Education Association (REA) and Roosevelt teachers. Seven companies were researched for the blended model, and specifically needed was a program that would include credit recovery and acquisition. Students will not work solely at computer stations; teachers will implement face to face instruction. This program is prescriptive, which enables teachers to give prescriptive help to students. The program will be housed at Roosevelt school. Requests were made to have a dashboard in place, that measures the number of students doing segments on computers and face to face with teachers. A rubric will be created to measure this program and general enough to be used with Ombudsman and Plato, which the District is using. Mr. Woestman assured Board members he will work diligently on the summative pieces of the assessment. Questions were raised if these interventions are being coded in the new software program. The response was fields have been added to do this.*

This will come for a vote at the August 14, 2012 meeting.

B. 10-Year Facility Plan – Mr. Schmidt

[Discussion of the 10-Year Facility Plan and the Referendum Resolution was concurrent.](#) Mr. Schmidt began with the project recap and the history of the facility study and its process. The project recap is \$277MM, which included land acquisition, school building consolidation and new school buildings. The project is divided into three phases, based on funding, and is scheduled over the course of ten years. The administration recommendation is school consolidations and building new buildings. There is also the potential of building a new early childhood center, if State grants applied for are received. There are no plans for Dennis, due to the possibility of building a new early childhood center. Consolidation of schools would be White Swan/Cherry Valley and Nashhold/Riverdahl schools. The grant to build a new Early Childhood center is on hold and hopefully there will be more information after the August 17<sup>th</sup> Illinois Special legislative meeting. Work on some of the schools has been completed, and therefore will not need to be revisited until Phase III. Mr. Lewis addressed Board members on funding issues for the 10-Year Facility Plan. An external company was employed to review the costs. The expenditures listed in Phase I are based on a "worst-case" scenario. The most important item, though, is the language on the bond referendum, which needs to be adopted before August 20, 2012. This needs to be written in a particular fashion to address the District's 10-Year Facility Plan. The current draft ballot proposition includes building and equipping one or more buildings, alterations, additions, repairs, land acquisitions, and demolition. The wording on the ballot binds the District to these propositions. If the District does not intend to build new schools, the respective wording on the ballot needs to be removed.

Mr. Lewis spoke of the financing available, which is \$209MM. A new Capital Fund was established in January with a \$10MM transfer. Preliminary numbers suggest the District will have another favorable year. The Administration will make a recommendation to the Board to possibly transfer \$15MM into the capital fund this fiscal year and \$5MM in the third year. Mr. Lewis also assured Board members the District is adhering to the adopted fund balance policy that is in place. This would leave the District in a healthy financial position. Bond project funds would be \$179MM, \$139MM of those bonds would be general obligation bonds and on the ballot. Ms. Lynda Givens, Bond Counsel with Chapman-Cutler, spoke of the key rules needed for the ballot language. One key is the language has to be broad enough so that it encompasses all the District wishes of how to spend the voter approved bonds. She spoke of the District's ability to use its reserves and to issue Life Safety Bonds for some of the improvements. The District also has the ability of issuing Alternate Revenue Bonds for projects. She reiterated the importance of focusing on the ballot language for the issuance of general obligation bonds. Ms. Givens also addressed to Board members construction for new free standing buildings. One provision of the Illinois School Code requires voter approval for new free standing buildings, whether it is funded by bonds or reserves. If the District wishes to build a new free standing building, and it is in the initial plan the referendum is covering, that needs to be part of the ballot proposition. This will come for a vote at the August 14, 2012 meeting.

C. Referendum Resolution – Mr. Lewis

*Discussion of the 10-Year Facility Plan and the Referendum Resolution was concurrent.*

Mrs. Makulec requested an update of contracts under \$10,000 and wishes to have this reviewed on a regular basis. The Education Committee will meet August 6, 2012 at 5:30p.m. and the Operations Committee will meet August 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. These meetings will take place in the Board room. Mr. Woestman will send a copy of the IRIS presentation from the Accountability Committee to Ms. Jackson.

X. **Adjournment**

**Motion** by Ms. Jackson seconded by Mr. Rollins that the board **adjourn** at 9:28 p.m.  
**Approved** on voice vote.

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

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