

**ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS**

**Administration Building
Tuesday, October 9, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Harmon Mitchell at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Harmon Mitchell, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson, Ms. Ronnell Moore, Mrs. Laura Powers (arr. 6:02 p.m.), Mr. Kenneth Scrivano, Mr. Tim Rollins (arr. 6:01 p.m.)

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Mr. Rollins 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 6:00 p.m. until 7:57 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *President Harmon Mitchell called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 8:16 p.m.*
2. Moment of Silence
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
Present: President Harmon Mitchell, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson
Mrs. Laura Powers, Mr. Kenneth Scrivano, Mr. Tim Rollins, Ms. Ronnell Moore
Absent: None
Mr. Mitchell introduced Auburn High School Media student, Rebecca McClain, who works with District staff to operate the broadcasting equipment.
5. Recognition – Mr. Dotson presented for recognition:
 - A. Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting
Rockford Public Schools earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the second year in a row. This is as a result of the District's Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2011. The certificate is issued by the Association of School Business Officials and is given to only 59 school districts in the State and just 508 districts nationwide. Rockford Public Schools is also in the running for the Meritorious Budget Award. Dr. Willis thanked Mr. Lewis for leadership in his department.
 - B. Transportation Awards
Candi Ward and Scottie Johnson, Rockford Public School employees, each earned first place in State transportation competitions and represented the District in national contests. Ms. Ward placed 17th in the National School Bus ROADEO Competition. Mr. Johnson attended the America's Best School Bus Technician Training and Skills Competition.
6. Petitions & Communications – *the guidelines were read by Mr. Mitchell.*
 - Pamela Green – spoke in opposition to the District's new special education placement guidelines.
 - Jane Hayes – spoke in opposition to politics, electioneering referencing Board Policy 2.105.
 - Dawn Granath, REA President – spoke in support of correcting understaffing issues.
 - Kate Rehak – spoke in support of the referendum.

7. Board Member Comments
Mrs. Powers thanked Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Fromm for the Board binders, and commented how much easier it was to access the information; it enabled her to cut her preparation time in half. Mrs. Makulec apologized for keeping community members waiting. Mr. Mitchell spoke of the excitement in the air regarding all phases of the District's educational system. He particularly spoke of the excitement at the high school sport level, inviting everyone to Swanson Stadium, Friday, October 12, 2012, to watch Auburn and East High Schools' football game. Ms. Jackson spoke of concerns brought forward by two of the speakers, Ms. Green and Ms. Granath, and asked administration to follow-up. She also thanked Dr. Willis and Ms. Brewington for helping a family in need of services. Dr. Willis spoke of how Ms. Alex Brewington epitomizes the ability to serve others who need to be served.
8. *Consent Items
 - A. Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2012
 - B. Payroll
 - C. Accounts Payable Checks
 - D. Purchase Orders
 - ~~E. Contracts Under \$10,000 – pulled by Ms. Jackson~~
 - F. Annual Application for Recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)
9. Bid Recommendations
 - ~~A. RFI 13-03 Program Management Services – pulled by Ms. Jackson~~
 - B. RFP 13-05 Physical Fitness Heart Rate Monitors
10. *Recurring Contracts
 - ~~A. Certified Speech and Language Pathologist – pulled by Ms. Jackson~~
11. *Other Consent
 - A. Resolution Authorizing and Directing Preparation of Tentative 2013/14 Budget
 - B. Freedom of Information Log
 - C. Monthly Investment Report

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

Approved: Unanimously

Consent Item Pulled

Item 8 E: Contracts under \$10,000

Motion by Mr. Rollins, seconded by Mrs. Powers, that the board **approve** Contracts under \$10,000. *Ms Jackson spoke of the difficulty in filling the position of a certified speech and language pathologist, and also commented that in the Contracts under \$10,000, there are contracts for two. Mrs. Pilar Peigh, Assistant Principal, Speech & Language Pathologist, explained the two pathologists in Contracts under \$10,000 are servicing parochial and/or private schools. The recurring contract, Certified Speech and Language Pathologist is for four days a week at Thompson School. Mrs. Makulec commented one way of recruiting speech and language pathologists in the past was to provide internships with separate colleges. Seven interns will be working in the District in the spring of 2013.*

Mr. Mitchell called the vote.

Approved: unanimously.

Consent Item Pulled

Item 10 A: Certified Speech and Language Pathologist

Motion by Mr. Rollins, seconded by Ms. Moore, that the board **approve** Certified Speech and Language Pathologist.

Approved: unanimously

Consent Item Pulled

Item 9 A: RFI-13-03 Program Management Services

Motion by Mr. Rollins, seconded by Ms. Jackson, that the board **approve** RFI 13-03 Program Management Services.

Mr. Schmidt spoke to Board members of the importance of having a program manager for the 10-Year Plan implementation. They will guide the District in the processes for strategic planning and design; monitor the capital program progress focusing on budget and quality compliance, assuring the District's needs are met. They will oversee approximately half of the projects. Monthly benchmarks, updates, etc., will be a standing agenda item at the Operations Committee level.

Motion by Mr. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Jackson to pull RFI-03 Program Management Services from the Administration; to set itself up as a committee of the whole, to hear the bidders resubmit their bids to include both fee structures as well as their standard oral presentations. The Board will then decide on the program manager.

Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Powers, Mr. Rollins, and Mr. Scrivano all spoke of their disinterest in pursuing this course. Mrs. Powers did receive feedback that the process was clumsy and awkward, however; as a Board member she doesn't feel she could add value to the evaluation. Mr. Rollins commented the three companies considered are well known in the area and have excellent reputations.

Mr. Mitchell called the vote on the second motion, to pull the RIF-03 Program Management Services

Yeas: Mr. Mitchell

Nays: Ms. Jackson, Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mrs. Powers

Failed: 1-6-0

Mr. Mitchell called the vote on the original motion

Yeas: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Powers

Nays: Ms. Jackson

Approved: 6-1-0

12. Closed Session Consent Items

- A. Human Resource Workforce Organization Report
- B. Personnel Addendum

13. Closed Session Consent Items - Student Discipline

- A. TT 5 – expelled the rest of the 12/13 school year
- B. CS 7 – expelled the rest of the first semester of 12/13 school year
- C. JW 10 – expelled the rest of the 12/13 school year
- D. EE 11 – expelled the rest of the 12/13 school year
- E. SE 12 – expelled the rest of the 12/13 school year
- F. JM 14 – expelled the rest of the 12/13 school year
- G. EXB 15 – expelled the rest of the 12/13 school year
- H. DL 1 – Conditional Probation Agreement
- I. NB 2 – Conditional Probation Agreement
- J. MJ 3 – Conditional Probation Agreement
- K. LW 4 – Conditional Probation Agreement

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mrs. Powers that the board approve Closed Session Consent Items and Closed Session Consent Items – Student Discipline.

Approved: Unanimously

14. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Willis spoke of the exciting time in Rockford and how agencies are working together. There are intergovernmental agreements with the City, County, Rockford Valley College, Rockford College, Northern Illinois University, agencies, faith based groups, and business community, all trying to work together to improve the community. In the coming months, a number of intergovernmental and partnership agreements will be brought forward to the Board.

A. Summer Ninth Grade Transitions – Mrs. Hite-Carter

Mrs. Hite-Carter began the presentation with overview. The program was initiated by Dr. Jarrett, and the program was created to help eight grade students deficient in math and language arts. Fifty three students were invited, and thirty-four attended. Concern was expressed by Board members of the process used in identifying students who need assistance. Mrs. Hite-Carter was also asked what the plan was for freshman students not successful the first semester. There are open seats at the Innovative Learning Center (ILC) and those can be used for students. Board members requested data at the end of first semester for students in the Transitions program; classes passed, and number of students attending classes.

15. **Committee Reports**

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Makulec

The Education Committee met on October 1, 2012. Mr. Dave Lund, principal from the Regional Learning Academy (RLA) made a presentation. Committee members learned of the differences between the RLA and the Regional Center. The Regional Learning Academy serves students under the age of 16 who are facing expulsion or have been suspended three or more times due to disruptive

behavior. The Regional Learning Center is for students who left school before graduation. Preliminary discussion took place with the high school planning guide, and how classes will support the academies. The course description will be brought to the next Education Committee. The committee also forwarded the adoption of Comparative Government textbooks to the Board. The next meeting is Monday, October 15, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

B. Operations Committee – Mr. Rollins

The committee met and forwarded the audit services agreement to the Board. Discussion occurred and included Mrs. Powers' request of where the District stands from a budget standpoint, which will be provided by Mr. Lewis. Conversation included investigating discounts into prepayment of vendors, encouraging District management personnel to network with co-workers in their industry, and creating more operational benchmarks, similar to the academic benchmarks that would include regular reports to the Board. Due to the election, the next meeting is rescheduled to Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

C. Accountability Committee – Mrs. Christina Ostergard

Mrs. Ostergard gave an overview (attached) of the committee's work. This included its accomplishments for 2011/2012, and the strategy and focus for 2012/13. Accomplishments included creating dashboards for each building, survey questions for the 2011/12 parent survey, and aiding in developing appropriately targeted interventions for truancy. 2012/13 projects include process improvement activity (value stream mapping or VSM), monitor dashboard implementation at the buildings, develop a climate survey, and create useful metrics associated with building improvement plans. An example of VSM was shown, as well as the process held in purchasing. The next VSM will be in Professional Development.

Mrs. Ostergard then explained that Mr. Cressman and Mr. Goddard were no longer committee members and asked Board members to suspend the rules to approve of Mr. Clewer, RHA, and Ms. Glidden, RPS 205 teacher, as new members.

Motion: by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Rollins to suspend the rules to vote on replacement of Accountability Committee members.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion: by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve the proposed new members of the Accountability Committee, Mr. Ron Clewer and Ms. Brittany Glidden.

Approved: Unanimously

16.

Action Items

A. Fiery Mind Development Contract to Support RSCIP – Mrs. Hayes & Dr. Woulfe

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Scrivano that the board **approve** Fiery Mind Development Contract to Support RSCIP.

Ms. Fiery will facilitate middle and high school training session through Title I to all principals. The Rising Star Program aligns with the District Strategic plan, and is a process where the team; consisting of teachers, administrators, parents and community members, continually look back at the process and what has been accomplished, and what needs to be done. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) will be closely monitored by Dr. Woulfe. This was presented at the October 1, 2012, Education Committee meeting, and was forwarded unanimously to the Board. This is also professional development for teachers and principals. Ms. Fiery will need to be trained in this process through the Regional Education Office (ROE) in order to assist District staff. The question was raised if the District would be responsible for paying for Ms. Fiery's training in order to facilitate RSCIP.

Motion by Mrs. Powers seconded by Mr. Rollins to amend the Fiery Mind Development Contract to Support RSCIP to include, Ms. Fiery will facilitate eleven sessions, consisting of four high schools, seven middle schools, and elementary schools as needed, while also conducting facilitation training, and the District will not pay for any of her SIP training.

Mr. Mitchell called the vote on the amendment.

Approved: Unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell called the vote on the original motion.

Approved: Unanimously.

17.

Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Textbook Approval: An Introduction to Comparative Politics – Mrs. Wishowski-Wetzel & Mrs. Hayes

Mrs. Wishowski-Wetzel presented to Board members the proposal to purchase AP Government textbooks. The total amount of the proposal is for 140 books for 4 sections. This was approved by the Education Committee, and students will use these books in January.

The proposal will be presented at the next board meeting for a vote.

B. Audit Services Agreement – Mrs. Shantina Davenport

Mrs. Davenport presented to Board members the proposed BMI Audit Service contract that was unanimously approved by the Operations Committee. BMI will conduct a dependent eligibility and prescription rebate audit. The District will yield an estimated savings of \$250,000 to \$1.3MM.

The proposal will be presented at the next board meeting for a vote.

C. Board Policy 4.33 – Tax Increment Finance Districts – Atty. Hoadley

The proposed policy fills a void in the policy manual and was recommended by some of the Board members. This sets a standard operating procedure in the event the District is given a Tax Increment Finance Notice (TIF). If sufficient notice isn't given, this policy allows the District to bring objections.

The proposal will be presented at the next board meeting for a vote.

18. **Adjournment**

Motion by Ms. Jackson seconded by Mrs. Powers that the board **adjourn** at 10:42 p.m.

Approved on voice vote.

President: _____

Secretary: _____

Approved:

/f