

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

**Administration Building
Tuesday, May 23, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Kenneth Scrivano at 5:02 p.m.

Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Michael Connor (arr. 5:08 p.m.), Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. Tim Rollins, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Jaime Escobedo

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Seigel 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.

Approved: 6-0-1

The Board was in executive session from 5:03 p.m. until 7:03 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *President Kenneth Scrivano called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:14 p.m.*
2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
Present: President Kenneth Scrivano, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Michael Connor, Mr. Anthony Dixon, Mr. Tim Rollins, Mr. David Seigel, Mr. Jaime Escobedo
Absent: None
Mr. Scrivano thanked Jefferson AV student Rod Weddle for his assistance in running the cameras for the Board Meeting.
4. Public Hearing
A. Public Hearing for Discussion Regarding the Renewal of the Illinois State Board of Education Waiver 5483-1
There were no public speakers or Board member comments.
5. Recognition
A. Student and Staff Achievement – Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr.
The following were recognized by Board members:
 - Thurgood Marshall School's Scholastic Bowl Team was undefeated in the Class AA State Tournament play and participated in the championship round, finishing second place in State.
 - Sreyansh Mamidi an eighth grader at Thurgood Marshall School competed in the Illinois State Bee in March.
 - Jennifer Macek, assistant principal at Roosevelt Community Education Center, won the Golden Apple Assistant Principal Award for 2017. This summer she will attend Harvard's Graduate School of Education New and Aspiring School Leaders Program.
 - The following teachers were finalists for the 2017 Golden Apple Awards: Christina Dover from Eisenhower Middle School, Richard Elston from Guilford High School and Kent Holden from Maria Montessori School. Sarah Schaefer from Roosevelt Community Education center was the 2017 Golden Apple Award winner.
 - Auburn and Guilford High Schools' administration and AP teachers were recognized as the schools are among America's Most Academically Challenging High Schools according to a recently released ranking from the Washington Post. Auburn High School is ranked 13 of 65 in Illinois and Guilford High School is ranked 53 of 65 in the State.
 - Mr. Scrivano recognized Mr. Matt Vosberg for his achievement of earning his doctorate degree. Beginning with this meeting he will be addressed as Dr. Vosberg.
6. Petitions & Communications
Mr. Scrivano read the guidelines.
 - Denise Scanlan spoke of the scheduling and financial ramifications if Board members approve outsourcing transportation.
 - Gretchen Beaman spoke of how the elementary zone change affected her child.
 - Reverend Derek Shelby spoke of his unhappiness with the Board election results.
 - Dr. Brandi Brown spoke of her dissatisfaction with the County Clerk's office.
 - Denise Pearson spoke it was imperative that District, Board, and community members work for the good of students.
 - Zebrin Russell spoke in opposition to outsourcing transportation.

7. Board Member Comments
- Mr. Escobedo spoke of being a Board member, the need to get work done, and the varied experience of each. A lot of progress has been made but that there's an urgent need to focus on educating students.
 - Mrs. Makulec congratulated the staff members recognized as Golden Apple finalists and winners as well as being part of the Challenging Schools in America. She also complimented and thanked staff members for their achievements and for attending the meeting.
 - Mr. Scrivano spoke of it being a special week for Board members as there are five graduations. He also spoke of being the emcee at the Academic All Star Salute. In addition, this year there were 189 graduates at Roosevelt Community Education Center. Roosevelt set a new record for attendance and credits earned by students.
 - Mr. Seigel spoke of attending his child's graduation at Auburn and as a Board member giving her the diploma. It was through everyone's effort that she succeeded.
8. *Consent Items
- A. Meeting Minutes: 05/09/17
 - B. Gross Payroll
 - C. Accounts Payable
 - D. Purchase Orders
 - E. Construction Bid Pay Request Log
 - F. Contracts Under \$10,000
 - G. Travel
9. *Bid Recommendations
- A. ~~IFB 17-53 Demolition of Thirty Nine (39) Houses for the New Kishwaukee Area School~~ – pulled by Mrs. Makulec
 - B. IFB 17-54 Lewis Lemon ES Cafeteria Addition & Kitchen Renovations – Rebid (2)
 - C. IFB 17-55 Pre-Demo Asbestos Abatement of Houses for the New Kishwaukee Area School
10. Recurring Contracts
- A. Certified Speech and Language Pathologist – Procare – TS
 - B. Certified Speech and Language Pathologist – Therapy Care
 - C. Recurring Contract for Summer CAMP 17 – Discovery Center
 - D. Recurring Contract for Summer CAMP 17 – Kate Kilgore
 - E. Recurring Contract for Summer CAMP 17 – Pam Peterson
 - F. Recurring Contract for Summer CAMP 17 – Jacques Saint-Cyr
11. *Other Consent
- A. Financial Results Year-to Date (YTD): April 2017 – Ms. Nicole L. Thorn, Chief Financial Officer
 - B. Monthly Investment Report – April 2017 – Ms. Nicole L. Thorn, Chief Financial Officer
 - C. IASB Annual Membership
 - D. Workers' Compensation Settlement Agreement - KW
 - E. 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** Bid Recommendation pulled 9A, IFB 17-53 Demolition of Thirty Nine (39) Houses for the New Kishwaukee Area School.
- The City of Rockford may participate in demolition of the houses. If they are unable to do so, this will be the District's responsibility and the City will reimburse the District \$300,000. The properties outlined in the bid impact the footprint of the new building.*
- Mr. Scrivano called for the vote.
- Approved: Unanimously**
12. *Closed Session Consent Items
- A. Appointment of Sean Norton as 10 Month Assistant Principal at RESA Middle Schools
 - B. Appointment of Bradley Pemberton as 12 Month Dean at Auburn High School
 - C. Appointment of Michael Slife as 12 Month Executive Director of Transportation
 - D. Notice to Remedy – Barb Chidley
 - E. Residency Hearing Officer Report Re: Student X's Family Residency Dispute
 - F. Residency Hearing Officer Report Re: Student Y's Family Residency Dispute
 - G. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Certain Educational Support Personnel – Reduction in Force (Non-Certified Staff)
 - H. HR Organizational Report and Addendum
13. *Closed Session Consent Items – Student Discipline

“Unless otherwise modified below, the Board adopts and accepts the hearing officer’s findings and recommendations in the following cases in which the students expelled or suspended are prohibited from being on school grounds and school-sponsored activities without the prior written permission of the principal.”

- A. GDM-2013-17 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year through the second trimester of the 2017-2018 school year.
- B. GMD-4068-17 is expelled for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year through the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year.
- C. GDM-4072-17 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year through the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year.
- D. GDM-4085-17 is expelled for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year and the entire 2017-2018 school year.
- E. GDM-4086-17 is expelled for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year and the entire 2017-2018 school year.
- F. GDM-4087-17 is expelled for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year and the entire 2017-2018 school year.
- G. GMD-4088-17 is expelled for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year and the entire 2017-2018 school year.
- H. GMD-4089-17 – the expulsion is held in abeyance contingent upon an Expulsion in Abeyance Agreement for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year through the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year.

14. *Closed Session Consent Items – EIAs

- A. GDM-3262-17
- B. GDM-3264-17
- C. GDM-3266-17
- D. GDM-3275-17
- E. GDM-3276-17
- F. GDM-3277-17
- G. GDM-3278-17
- H. GDM-3279-17
- I. GDM-3280-17
- J. GDM-3281-17
- K. GDM-3282-17
- L. GDM-3283-17
- M. GDM-3284-17
- N. GDM-3286-17
- O. GDM-3287-17
- P. GDM-3289-17
- Q. GDM-3290-17
- R. GDM-3291-17
- S. GDM-3292-17
- T. GDM-3293-17

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Closed Session Consent items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

15. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Jarrett

A. Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Jarrett spoke of what had been accomplished at Auburn and Guilford High schools. The District has added access to students who traditionally have not participated in the most rigorous course work. East and Jefferson have made progress in this area.

Dr. Jarrett congratulated Dr. Vosberg for his accomplishment of receiving his doctorate’s degree. This is an extensive undertaking as he continued to work full time.

16. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Makulec

The committee did not meet in May. The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

B. Finance Committee – Mr. Rollins

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

C. Operations Committee – Mr. Connor

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Makulec spoke on behalf of all three committees regarding the opportunity for community members to submit applications to serve on one of the Board committees. The application is available online at the District website. People may also come to the Administration building, second floor.

17.

*Action Items

A. Reading Horizons – Heidi Dettman, Executive Director of Curriculum and Sidney Graves, Dean of Elementary Literacy
Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 17A, Reading Horizons.

Administration was requested to update Board members on student achievement progress regarding the program.

Approved: Unanimously

B. Reliance Standard Agreement – Mr. Zediker, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 17B, Reliance Standard Agreement.

Approved: Unanimously

C. ~~Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Illinois Historical Preservation Agency (IHPA) – Kevin Behling, Executive Director of Design and Construction~~ – pulled by Administration

D. Addendum to Peter Dunn Land Acquisition Contract Agreement – Todd Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Rollins to **approve** item 17D, Addendum to Peter Dunn Land Acquisition Contract Agreement.

Approved: Unanimously

Board members agreed to vote on items 17E, 17F, and 17G with one motion and one vote.

E. Real Estate Purchase, 506 Gregory St., Rockford, IL – Todd Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer

F. Real Estate Purchase, 509 Catlin St., Rockford, IL – Todd Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer

G. Real Estate Purchase, 820 S. 3rd St., Rockford, IL – Todd Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to approve items 17E, 17F, and 17G, Real Estate Purchase – 506 Gregory St., Rockford, IL, 509 Catlin St., Rockford, IL, 820 S. 3rd St., Rockford, IL.

Approved: Unanimously

H. Board Policy 7.270; Students; Administering Medicines to Students

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Dixon to **approve** item 17H, Board Policy 7.270; Students; Administering Medicines to Students.

Approved: Unanimously

I. 2017/2018 Student Code of Conduct – Angela Hite-Carter, Executive Director of Student Services and Alternative Learning

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 17I, 2017/2018 Student Code of Conduct.

Approved: Unanimously

J. Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Waiver – Student Attendance for General State Aid – Ms. Nicole L. Thorn, Chief Financial Officer

Motion by Mr. Connor seconded by Mr. Seigel to **approve** item 17J, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Waiver – Student Attendance for General State Aid.

Approved: Unanimously

18.

Other Business/New Business/Agenda Recommendations

A. Resolution to Adopt 2017-2018 Budget – Ms. Nicole L. Thorn, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Thorn made a PowerPoint presentation beginning with the preparation process and overview of the FY18 budget.

Budget Overview Highlights

- Uncertainty of State Funding Levels
- FY 18 Balanced Operating Budget
- Accelerated purchase of \$3.3MM made in FY17 year, positively impacting budget

Revenue Assumptions – Property Taxes

- Fifty percent (50%) of the 2016 tax levy property revenue is for FY18 tax revenue
- Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) expected to increase by 2%
- Collection rate ninety-nine percent (99%)
- CPI for 2017 levy is estimated at 2.1%
- Assumption that EAV will increase by 2%

Revenue Assumptions – State and Federal

- General State Aid (GSA) – full funding amount expected
- Four (4) Categorical Aid payments expected
- Federal funding is expected to mirror FY17
 - Decrease in Title II funding of \$1.3MM
 - Increase in reimbursement of National Free Lunch/Breakfast program of \$4.5MM

School Budgets

- Reading Specialist position eliminated – Instructional Coach position launched with 20 in FY17 and additional three (3) included in FY18 Budget
- Five (5) additional Assistant Principals included in budget

Support Departments

- Six (6) Aspiring Teachers – 12 month paid student teachers \$120,000
- Bilingual Supervisor to oversee fifty (50) buildings \$103,400
- District Training Specialist to offer training in various District software programs \$64,000
- 14,000 new student devices utilizing Education and Title 1 funds to lease and purchase
 - District will sustain leases for next 3-4 years

Capital Projects

- \$1,300,000 furniture towards the Facilities Plan
- \$2,267,690 deferred maintenance
- \$800,000 funding increase for repairs, maintenance, grounds and custodial services
- \$400,000 RESA pool repairs
- \$300,000 Auburn and Guilford track resurfacing
- \$300,000 replace/upgrade Food Service equipment

District Incentives

- Three (3) year property tax rebate incentive extended to an additional year
- Down payment assistance

The full presentation can be viewed by clicking on this link:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/il/rps205/Board.nsf/files/AMDLV7571566/\\$file/FY18%20Budget%20Presentation%20to%20BOE%20-%20May%2023%2C%202017.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/il/rps205/Board.nsf/files/AMDLV7571566/$file/FY18%20Budget%20Presentation%20to%20BOE%20-%20May%2023%2C%202017.pdf)

An update on the capital plan will be presented at the June 2017 Operations Committee meeting.

This will return for a vote at the June 27, 2017 meeting.

B. Board Policy 4.80, Accounting and Audits – Ms. Nicole L. Thorn, Chief Financial Officer

Approval of the policy will change the revenue reporting from 90-day to 60-day.

This will return for a vote at the June 13, 2017 meeting.

C. Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements – Ms. Nicole L. Thorn, Chief Financial Officer

Approval of the resolution will align District expense reporting with the changes made to the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act. This will require Board expenses to be approved by roll call votes and authorizes the Board to approve travel expenses that exceed fifty percent (50%) over the maximum allowable reimbursement amount.

This will return for a vote at the June 13, 2017 meeting.

D. ~~EOPA Memorandum of Understanding – RPS Employer Assisted Housing Program Human Resources Officer – pulled by Administration~~

E. ~~EOPA Memorandum of Understanding – RPS Family Attendance – Matt Zediker, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer – pulled by Administration~~

F. Auburn JROTC – Fallen Hero Project – Mr. Todd Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer

The JROTC would like to honor fallen heroes from the fire department, police department and the Winnebago County Veteran's Association. Individuals from all three areas would be picked and have their names on a plaque placed on walls in the JROTC classrooms.

Concerns were raised that this would be comprehensive and District administration would ensure that veterans who attended RPS 205 schools and served in more recent combats, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, etc., would be included.

This will return for a vote at the June 13, 2017 meeting.

G. Unite Private Networks – Todd Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer

Unite Private Networks will provide Wide Area Network (WAN) managed services to the District for \$45,900 a month or \$550,800 annually before the E-rate discount. Once the discount is received, the District's annual cost will be \$55,080.

Unite Private Networks will provide 10 Gigabytes (10Gbps). Currently, the District is provided with 1Gbps.

This will return for a vote at the June 13, 2017 meeting.

19. Adjournment

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

Adjournment: 9:16 p.m.

Approved: 6/13/17

President: Kenneth J. Scrivano /s/

Secretary: Michael S. Connor /s/

/ljf