CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Nancy Kalchbrenner at 5:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Nancy Kalchbrenner, Vice President Jay A. Nellis, Secretary Alice Saudargas, Mr. Robert J. Evans (arrived 5:45 p.m.), Mrs. Karol Hammond, Mr. David L. Kelley, Mr. Michael J. Williams

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Hammond, that the Board hold a Closed Session in Room #403 to consider the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees; the discipline of students; pending or imminent litigation; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Approved unanimously on roll call.

The Board was in closed session from 5:09 p.m. until 7:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Kelley, that the Board reconvene in Open Session.

Approved on voice vote.

Following the closed session, President Kalchbrenner made the following statement:

The Board in closed session considered the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees; the discipline of students; pending or imminent litigation; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2(c) of the Open Meetings Act. Action will be taken on two items in open session.

RECESS

Motion by Mr. Nellis, seconded by Mrs. Hammond, that the meeting be recessed at 7:05 p.m. until 7:15 p.m.

Approved on voice vote.

CALL TO ORDER

President Nancy Kalchbrenner called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:17 p.m.
MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ROLL CALL

Present: President Nancy Kalchbrenner, Vice President Jay A. Nellis, Secretary Alice Saudargas, Mr. Robert J. Evans, Mrs. Karol Hammond, Mr. David L. Kelley, Mr. Michael J. Williams

PETITIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Lewis Jordan, 6336 Brigantine Ln., Rockford, IL, encouraged the Board to ask the tough questions of why children are not learning.
2. Tim Hughes, 2323 Midway, Rockford, IL, spoke in opposition to the eligibility policy and in support of a “no fail” policy.
3. Kevin Dickerson, 4972 Brookview, Rockford, IL, spoke in support of attendance specialists in the high schools.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Saudargas expressed her pleasure with the recent Education Summit and stated she particularly enjoyed the speaker from Chicago. On behalf of the Education Committee, Mrs. Saudargas added that they looked forward to hearing the recommendations generated from the summit. The Committee hoped the recommendations would be a catalyst for change with administration and the community working together to bring about solutions.

Mr. Williams commented that the Education Summit was a good experience, and it gave him insight into the different aspects of our district. It was helpful to hear experts’ perspectives on what the district was facing and their suggestions for improvement. He was concerned that the discussion on how to improve student academic performance and attendance was not new to the district and we will only “package the same thing we do differently.” The time for talk is over; now is the time for action.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner agreed that the Education Summit was two days of discussing education. We have been so focused on the district’s finances that we get poor marks on focusing on the educational aspects of the district. However, she was optimistic that real changes are on the horizon. Mrs. Kalchbrenner thanked Mrs. Price for putting this summit together, bringing in some outside influences and starting some real conversation on the direction of this district.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner announced that this would be the last Board meeting at which Mrs. Price would be presiding as CEO and thanked her for the work she has done. Dr. Bueschel will be joining the district for one year starting tomorrow, and Mrs. Price will be leaving the district at the end of the month.
Mrs. Kalchbrenner informed the community that registration starts tomorrow and will run through next week and that school starts two weeks from today. Starting with registration, she urged families to get their children scheduled, talk to them about the schedule, know where their children are supposed to be every day and make sure they’re a critical part of their child’s education.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner sent the Board’s condolences to the family of Tywaun Money, a student from Lewis Lemon Global Studies Academy, who passed away in a drowning accident over the weekend.

In an update on Allison Few, the student from Kennedy Middle School who incurred a severe spinal injury, Mrs. Kalchbrenner announced that her prognosis has improved and she is expected to be walking this year.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Nellis, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board approve the following consent items:

A. Approval of Minutes – July 12, 15 & 21 & Aug. 7, 2003
B. Personnel plus Addendum
C. Payroll
D. Accounts Payable Checks
E. Purchase Orders
F. Contracts $10,000 & Under
G. Recurring Contracts:
   Educational Resources, Inc. – Ellis Arts Academy, Lewis Lemon Global Studies Academy and Washington Communications Academy
   Jack Hammer, Inc.
   Modern Red School House Institute
   OCLC Contract/Library Media Services
   Special Education Private & Residential Placement
   ▶ Walter Lawson Children’s Home
   ▶ Oconomowoc Developmental Training Center
   ▶ Larkin Center
   ▶ Allendale Center
   ▶ Barbara Olson Center of Hope
   ▶ The Mill
   ▶ Hope School
   ▶ Camelot Care
   ▶ Center on Deafness
   ▶ Northwest Academy Day Treatment
   ▶ Bartlett Learning Center
   ▶ Willowglen – Illinois
   Winnebago County Sheriff’s Department Contract – Skyview School
H. **Acceptance of Grants:**
   - Early Childhood Block Grant Award, Fiscal Year 2004
   - Early Childhood Block Grant Prekindergarten Program, Fiscal Year 2004

I. **Closed Session Items:**
   - Staff Discipline
   - That the Board approve the dismissal of an employee.

J. **Closed Session Items:**
   - Administrative Appointments
     - Transfers:
       - Dr. Robert Delacy, Assistant Principal, Rockford Environmental Science Academy
       - Kenneth Coleman, Assistant Principal, Eisenhower Middle School
     - Appointments:
       - Vicki Lynn Kested, Assistant Principal, Ellis Arts Academy
       - James Edmond, Sr., Assistant Principal, Flinn Middle School
       - Penny Davis El-Azhari, Assistant Principal, Rockford Science and Technology Academy
       - Jaime Cadengo, Assistant Principal, Lincoln Middle School
       - Penny Arnold, Assistant Principal, West Middle School
       - Janice M. Hawkins, Assistant Principal, Guilford High School
       - Roger L. Buswell, Assistant Principal, Auburn High School

K. **Other Consent Items:**
   - CEANCI Yearly Assessment Fee
   - Approved unanimously on roll call.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

A. **Superintendent’s Comments**

Mrs. Price announced that this would be her last meeting sitting at the Board table and that Dr. Ellen Bueschel would begin her tenure as Interim Superintendent beginning tomorrow, August 13.

Mrs. Price informed the community that on August 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} the Board and administration joined with Northern Illinois University to sponsor the Education Summit to address the lack of improved student achievement. Over 70 participants were in attendance. She thanked Dr. Chris Sorenson, Dean of the Department of Education at Northern Illinois, and several NIU Education Department professors who also participated; Dr. Genethia Hudley-Hayes, facilitator; Dr. JoAnn Wooden Roberts, Chief Troubleshooter for the Chicago Public Schools; Dr. Donnas S. McCaw, Associate Professor at Western Illinois University; and Dr. Cynthia W. Langrall, Associate Professor at Illinois State University. The goal of the summit was to constructively confront the crucial issue of academic performance. Recommendations generated from the summit have been compiled and a consolidation of recommendations immediately targeting the improvement of student academic deficiencies in reading and math has been prepared.
Mrs. Price announced that 18 elementary, three middle and two high schools were on the Academic Early Warning List (AEWL) last year, and the district is required to offer school choice to the parents of those students enrolled in these schools at the beginning of the school year. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) School Choice Form, supportive informational materials and a letter of explanation about the transfer process will be sent to the parents of the 18 elementary school students by the end of next week.

Approximately 6,500 students will be eligible to request a transfer. Additionally, Supplemental Educational Services (SES) will be offered to approximately 1,500 students in five schools that have shown no Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past three years. An informational mailing for the parents of the students eligible for SES is planned for the next two weeks.

Mrs. Price stated that a limited number of extra copies of the Back-to-School insert that was published on Friday, August 8 are available from the district’s Communications Office (966-3110).

Mrs. Price announced that students entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, fifth and ninth grades must show proof of physical examinations and the required immunizations. For more information about immunizations and available free clinics, contact the Winnebago County Health Department or the district’s Health Services (966-5253).

Mrs. Price informed the community of the following school registration dates:

Elementary Schools:  
August 18 – 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
August 19 – 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Rockford Environmental Science Academy:  
August 13 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
August 14 – 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Eisenhower Middle School:  
August 19 – 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Flinn Middle School:  
August 19 – 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Lincoln Middle School  
August 19 – 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

West Middle School  
August 19 – 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Kennedy Middle School  
August 14 – 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Price stated that Mayor Doug Scott will hold a Back-To-School news conference at Riverdahl School at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 25.

B. All City Theatre

Mrs. Widergren explained that two years ago the district was awarded an Arts in Education Grant through the federal Department of Education wherein the 2nd, 5th and 8th grade language arts/English curriculum is aligned with the arts integration program. The non-traditional portion of the grant developed into the All City Theatre. Mrs. Widergren then introduced next year’s director, Pam Short.
Ms. Short stated that their goal is to have participation from as many students in as many schools as possible. The production this year will be “Oliver.” A study guide will be available for teachers to give to their students. Auditions are scheduled for November 6, 8, 11 and 12 and the performance dates are:
- March 2 – student matinee and evening performance
- March 3 – student matinee
- March 4 – (to be determined)

C. Summer School FY03
Dr. Steele thanked the summer school planning team, site administrator, teachers, parents and students for a great summer school program. She noted that the Board had her report before them and asked if there were any questions.

In reply to Mr. Williams’ inquiry about the new integrated software program based on assessment and targeted interventions, Dr. Steele stated that this program was very successful and she was waiting for the results. Three teachers worked with the students for approximately 20 minutes a day on a rotating basis, resulting in all the students working on the computers for approximately 40-45 minutes a week. When asked if there were any plans for expanding, Dr. Steele stated that she was not aware of any but could bring the information back to share with the Board for any decisions the Board may want to make.

In response to Mrs. Kalchbrenner, Dr. Steele stated that an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) was made for each student in middle and high schools for those students to work on specific skills on which they needed additional help and added that the elementary program is also standards based.

Dr. Steele responded to Mrs. Saudargas that 109 out of 122 8th grade students completed the program and were able to move into 9th grade. The program for elementary students was for enrichment and remediation in reading and writing.

D. 2002-2003 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) Results Summary
Mrs. Mehlig explained that the ISAT is a criterion-referenced test developed by the State of Illinois to measure the state learning standards. The test is given in 3rd, 5th and 8th grades for reading, math and writing and in 4th and 7th grades for science and social studies. The results are given as percentages in two levels of performance, i.e., meets or exceeds standards. A summary of the ISAT results is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Slight decrease.</td>
<td>Slight increase.</td>
<td>Slight increase.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No consistent pattern over time.
Reading by Ethnicity – Consistent trend of Asian students outperforming Caucasian students outperforming Hispanic students outperforming African American students.

Math by Ethnicity – Consistent trend of Asian students outperforming Caucasian students outperforming Hispanic students outperforming African American students.

5th Grade
Reading - Slight increase. )
Mathematics - Noticeable increase. ) No consistent pattern over time.
Writing - Slight decrease. )

Reading by Ethnicity – African American students show a trend of positive growth. Consistent trend of Asian students outperforming Caucasian students outperforming Hispanic students outperforming African American students.

Math by Ethnicity – Asian students show a trend of positive growth. Consistent trend of Asian students outperforming Caucasian students outperforming Hispanic students outperforming African American students.

8th Grade
Reading - Trend of decline. )
Mathematics - Trend of decline. ) Consistent declining pattern over time.
Writing - Trend of decline. )

Reading by Ethnicity – Trend of declining scores over time but, overall, fairly inconsistent.

Math by Ethnicity – African American and Hispanic students show slight growth trends. Consistent trend of Asian students outperforming Caucasian students outperforming Hispanic students outperforming African American students.

The PSAE is also a criterion-referenced test and is given to 11th grade students. The results are given as percentages in two levels of performance, i.e., meets or exceeds standards. A summary of the Work Keys components of the PSAE is as follows:

11th Grade
Reading for Information - Decline in performance from the last two years.
Reading for Information by Ethnicity - Decline in performance. Achievement gap continues.
Applied Mathematics  -  Decline in performance from the last two years.
Applied Mathematics by Ethnicity  -  Decline in performance. Achievement gap continues.

Mrs. Hammond inquired whether it would be possible to compare all classes of students in one grade in order to find out why one class performed better than another class in the same grade in an effort to duplicate what is being done. Mrs. Mehlig stated that they have school level reports and are entering that data into the AS400 in order to make these comparisons.

In regard to summer school, Mrs. Mehlig advised Mrs. Saudargas that she has developed a data file on the students entering 6th and 9th grades who attended summer school in order to following them to ascertain the success of summer school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Saudargas stated that Mr. Menchaca would present the Bilingual Education Program Compliance Review for informational purposes only.

Transitional Bilingual Education Program Compliance Review Report FY03

Mr. Menchaca stated that the Transitional Bilingual Education Program Compliance Review was conducted on November 20, 21 and 22, 2002 by the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of English Language Learning. Mr. Menchaca gave a brief report on the following corrective actions:

A. Identification of Students
   - The Home Language Survey is now available in Lao and will be available in Vietnamese in August 2003.

B. Student Assessment
   - All K-12 students tested in reading and writing.
   - The Language Assessment Scales test will be given on April 14-27, 2004.
   - Assessments will be implemented according to NCLB requirements.
   - Program exit criteria will be outlined in FY04 instructional manual.
   - Review procedures to ensure students’ folders contain required information.

C. Program Components
   - Full-Time Elementary (6th-8th grades):
     - Guidelines for daily English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction will be outlined in instructional manual and ESL instruction will increase at each grade level.
     - All K-5 bilingual classrooms will receive ESL materials & training will be provided.
   - Full-Time Departmentalized:
     - ESL-approved teacher to provide ESL instruction at RSTA.
     - All requests for materials met.
Steps taken to ensure Limited English Proficient students are properly enrolled at bilingual sites.

Full-Time High School:
- Bilingual counselor at East High School.
- English proficiency levels used to enroll bilingual students in 5 new sheltered English courses at East.
- Students' transcripts will be translated in a timely manner.
- New teacher training schedule beginning of FY04.
- Chemistry books ordered and additional student desks provided.

Part-Time Program
Unable to provide part-time program because of limited seating at bilingual sites.

Transitional Program of Instruction
TPI programs in compliance.

D. Staff Certification Requirements
- ESL teacher will provide ESL instruction at RSTA.
- Endeavoring to recruit bilingual teachers.

E. Professional Development
- Bilingual meetings to be held at different bilingual sites.
- 42 bilingual teachers pursuing teaching certificates.
- Entry and exit criteria to be disseminated.
- Mentoring and training to be provide by 2 ESL coordinators.
- Teachers allowed to attend Bilingual State Conference on rotating basis.
- New staff orientation will be provided.

F. Parent and Community Participation
- Parent Advisory Committee met 4 times in FY03.

G. Parents’ Rights Regarding Program Enrollment and Withdrawal
- Parental approval letters will be provided.

H. All Eligible Students Served
- All bilingual students will be enrolled in schools providing language services.

I. Maintenance of Students’ Records
- Procedures reviewed with bilingual staff, will be outlined in instructional manual and periodic checks will be made.

J. TBE/TPI Program Budget
- State funds for these programs will be applied to reimburse excess costs.

Mrs. Saudargas stated that the next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19.
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:
Mr. Nellis reported that the Operations Committee last met on Monday, August 4 wherein the notes of the prior meeting were reviewed, heard reports on the Special Education outside placements approved tonight, the slight decrease in enrollment and on staffing showing projections to be below the FTEs in the budget. The next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18.

ACTION ITEMS

No Action Items.

OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA RECOMMENDATIONS
A. Revisions to Board Policy No. 2.220
  Attorney Bush presented a proposed revised Policy No. 2.220 substituting language to allow more flexibility in referring to the most current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order and changes to the order of business as they currently exist.

Motion by Mr. Nellis, seconded by Mr. Williams, that language be added under “Voting Method” to require two-third’s vote be required to approve policy changes.
  Mrs. Kalchbrenner stated that since there is no motion is on the table to approve Policy No. 2.220, it would not be appropriate to entertain amendments at this time.
  Motion and second were withdrawn by Messrs. Nellis and Williams.

Mrs. Kalchbrenner stated that this item would be on the Agenda for Action at the next regular Board meeting on August 26.

B. Freedom of Information Act Log

C. Board Committee Reports will be submitted in writing.

Mr. Williams thanked Mrs. Price for her service to the district.

Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Nellis, to pursue investigating obtaining grant funds for incentives through the Teacher and Fireman Recruitment Grant in the City’s Community Development Department.
  Mr. Williams stated that he hoped this would be an additional carrot that could be offered to some highly qualified individuals to come to work for District 205.
  Approved unanimously on roll call.

Mr. Williams requested that at the next Education Committee there be discussion regarding direct interventions in the eighteen schools listed on the No Child Left Behind Academic Early Warning List and, in particular, the use of consultants.
Mrs. Saudargas stated that she agreed this was a very good idea but thought it better to have some long-term individuals brought in for assistance. She commented that it was her desire that this Committee and Board be a catalyst for change.

Mr. Kelley also requested that the Education Committee explore a relationship with Rock Valley College's Personalized Learning Center for use of their certified tutors.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Saudargas, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Approved on voice vote.

PRESIDENT  
Nancy Kalchbrenner

SECRETARY  
Alice Saudargas

APPROVED  8–26–03