

ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140
Board of Education Meeting
January 22, 2025

1. Call to Order

Kelsey Lueshen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Kelsey Lueshen, Carson Breed, Derek Erwin, Brendan Caver, David Lombardo

Absent: Trish Burgan

Others Present: Glenn Terry, Kevin Finnegan, Charlie Hart, Mary Vosberg-RTA, Megan Forsythe, Nicole Nelson, Justin Bonne, Jodie Freeman

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

None

5. Comments from the Community

None

6. Correspondence

- Irrevocable retirement letter from Lucinda Balandis, English Teacher SMMS, effective end of 27-28 school year
- Irrevocable retirement letter from Bryan Collins, Social Studies Teacher SMMS, effective end of 27-28 school year
- 2-Out of school suspensions at RGS
- 3-Bus suspensions at WPES
- 1-In school suspensions at WPES
- 2-Out of school suspensions at WPES
- 1-In school suspension at SMMS
- 2-Out of school suspensions at SMMS

7. Oath of Office Administered

Kelsey Lueshen administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed BOE member, Charlie Hart.

8. Executive Session

- Other matters relating to individual students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10))

David Lombardo motioned to move into Executive Session at 6:04pm, seconded by Carson Breed.

9. Consent Items

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

- Financials: Approval of RSD #140 January 2025 bills \$823,605.42, Approval of December's Payroll Vendor Liabilities Approval of December Reports as follows: Cash Report, Revenue Report, Expenditure Report, Cash & Investment Report, Operating Funds Summary, Fund Balance Report, Treasurer's Report, Check Register, Activity Check Register, Payroll Gross Earnings \$918,009.06, Payroll Liabilities Paid \$500,264.31
- Approval of December 18, 2024 BOE Minutes
- Approval of January 8, 2025 COW Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative December 2024 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative December 2024 Financial Reports

Derek Erwin motioned to approve the above referenced consent items, seconded by Carson Breed.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen-aye, Carson Breed-aye, Derek Erwin-aye, Brendan Caver-aye, Charlie Hart-abstained, David Lombardo-aye

Motion Passed.

10. Approval of January Personnel

Non-Certified New Hire

Cassidy Sodergren, RGS Special Ed Paraprofessional, Effective 1/6/2025

Krysta Rowe, RGS Special Ed Paraprofessional, Effective 1/8/2025

Irrevocable Retirement

Lucinda Balandis, English Teacher SMMS, Irrevocable Ret, Effective end of 27-28 SY

Bryan Collins, Social Studies Teacher SMMS, Irrevocable Ret, Effective end of 27-28 SY

Carson Breed motioned to approve 2 Non Certified New Hires, 2 Irrevocable Retirements, seconded by David Lombardo.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen-aye, Carson Breed-aye, Derek Erwin-aye, Brendan Caver-aye, Charlie Hart-abstained, David Lombardo-aye

Motion Passed.

11. Approval of Contract Extension with First Student

Approval is sought for the contract extension with First Student which will see a 9% increase for the 2025-2026 school year, then 4% increase in each of the four contract years thereafter.

David Lombardo motioned to approve the contract extension with First Student for a 9% increase in 2025-2026 school year, and 4% increase each year thereafter for four years, seconded by Carson Breed.

Roll Call: Derek Erwin-aye, Carson Breed-aye, Brendan Caver-aye, Kelsey Lueshen-aye, Charlie Hart-abstained, David Lombardo-aye

Motion Passed.

12. Second Reading and Approval of Policy

- 2:120 Board Member Development
- 4:30 Revenue and Investments
- 4:150 Facility Management and Building
- 4:170 Safety
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:100 Staff Development Program
- 5:120 Personal Technology and Social Media; Usage and Conduct
- 5:230 Maintaining Student Discipline
- 6:60 Curriculum Content
- 6:135 Accelerated Placement Programs
- 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7:100 Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students
- 7:200 Suspension Procedures
- 8:10 Connection with the Community

Dere Erwin motioned to approve the above referenced policy changes, seconded by Kelsey Lueshen. All in favor 6 ayes.

13. Approval of ISC Proxy Waiver

Brandon Caver motioned to approve Illinois Scholastic Cooperative proxy allowing Kevin Finnegan voting rights while assistant superintendent, seconded by Derek Erwin. All in favor 6 ayes.

14. Old Business

15. New Business

- Route Update

16. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Anthony Muhammad and the Winnebago School District
- School Calendar

17. Superintendent's Report

- IASA Executive Director Update
- Red Barn

18. Administrative Reports

RGS Administrative Report

1. Etnyre

- a. On January 15, RGS hosted Tim Hannig & the ProKids. We had two daytime assemblies and one family night show. I stopped counting at 375 for the family show! Tim speaks to showing true character when no one is looking. He engaged students, teachers, parents and the principal during the assemblies with his magic tricks, storytelling and puppets!
- b. I just want to take a moment to stop and look around. We truly live and work in a community of kindness and unwavering support. We are truly a family for one another! Thank you! ❤️

2. PTO - Upcoming Events

- a. Movie Night - *Elemental* - See you soon! Friday, January 24th @ 5:30 PM at SMMS
- b. Snowball Dance - Put the date on your calendar! Friday, February 7, 2025 at 5:30 PM at SMMS

WPES Administrative Report

1. Forsythe

- a. The Whitman Post Cafe became a lot more colorful thanks to Mr. Enderle's artistic talents and the generous funds of our Rockton PTO. Mr. Enderle spent time over the summer and winter break adding 4 large murals to our cafeteria walls. This was the vision of our former social worker, Kristin Carroll, who always believed you could learn so much about kids' social experiences and friendships by observing the dynamics of the school lunchroom. Kristin even picked out a few of the designs that Mr. Enderle painted on our walls. Each mural has messages included such as "We rise by lifting others," "power in kindness," "Beauty in diversity," and "It is because we are different that each of us is special." And, the most recently added and largest mural of a sun shining on a horizon is "Warriors, spread your sunshine! - KC Cafe." This is a play on our message "Kindness Counts" with Kristin Carroll's initials.
- b. Rockton is assembling an Equity Team made up of a variety of staff members throughout RSD140. This team's work will include exploring professional development opportunities for our staff, implementing inclusion education for our students, examining our curriculum, ensuring accessibility for all, and rethinking our practices with equity and inclusion as a priority. Our entire staff will take part in Devon LaRosa's rescheduled presentation this coming Monday, while our Equity Team will also attend

his separate training next Thursday as well as another session in March. We will be sure to keep you updated as we embark on this journey.

2. Nelson

- a. Our teachers continue to amaze us by going above and beyond in the classroom. From classroom parties before winter break, a Ugly Sweater writing contest complete with a fashion show. Dude perfect challenges in PE, a STEM Macy's balloon parade, 2025 goal setting, and so much more!
- b. We are amazed by the community outreach and comfort they have shown the Rubitski family. Since Holland's tragic accident, the PTO raised \$8400 in a few short days to give to the family. Mr. Terry provided coffee for our staff, Laura Erwin provided extra comfort by bringing in her therapy dog, Ollie and, the staff participated in one of two planned casual for a cause days.

SMMS Administrative Report

1. Bonne

- Thanks to our community for coming together to wrap support around Holland, her family, and extended family here at SMMS. Our teachers and social workers stepped up to provide support to those in need. Thanks as well to all of the additional comfort provided from our neighboring districts and Tom Shook's support dog service. Prairie Hill and Roscoe are continuing their support and it is felt throughout the building. This Friday, SMMS will be wearing hats for Holland and collecting donations in homerooms.
- The Rockton Fire Department donated 24 emergency bleed kits to our district and today after school Lanny Wong from the Rockton Fire Dept came to teach volunteer staff members about Stop the Bleed training. He was engaging and educated us on what to do in such crisis situations. He will also be offering the same training to RGS and WPES in the near future.

2. Freeman

- SMMS is finishing up the month with its 22nd annual No Name Calling Week. This week our social workers presented a Class Act lesson on the power of words where students were able to lift each other up with compliments. Next week, themed days will emphasize using kind words, eliminating hurtful language, practicing responsible online behavior, reaching out in a positive way to someone new, and performing random acts of kindness. To further support these initiatives, Mrs. West, in the school library, is currently showcasing a collection of books that explore the impact of bullying and the power of words.

19. Members' Comments

20. Adjournment

Carson Breed motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm, seconded by David Lombardo.



Kelsey Lueshen, President



Board Member