

**ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**December 18, 2024**

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**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

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

Absent: Trish Burgan

Others Present: Glenn Terry, Kevin Finnegan, Kindyl Etnyre, Megan Forsythe, Nicole Nelson, Justin Bonne, Jodie Freeman, Lindy Daniels, Lindsey Tackeberry-RTA

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Additions/Corrections to Agenda**

None

**5. Comments from the Community**

None

**6. Correspondence**

- Thank you card from Erin Hauser for the flowers sent for the birth of her daughter.
- December 3rd-Formal resignation email from Scott Robinson.
- 1-Bus suspension for RGS
- 1-Out of school suspension for RGS
- 1-Out of school suspension for WPES
- 4-In School suspensions for SMMS
- 5-Out of school suspensions for SMMS

**7. Nomination and Election of Secretary**

President Lueshen asked for nomination for the office of Secretary, effective immediately. The following were nominated:

Trish Burgan

President Lueshen asked if there were any further nominations. "If there are none, nominations for Secretary are closed." Discussion was held on the candidate(s).

President Lueshen called for a vote on the candidate(s) by show of hands.

Results: Kelsey Lueshen-in favor, Carson Breed-in favor, Derek Erwin-in favor, Brendan Caver-in favor, David Lombardo-in favor.

5-ayes, 0-nays

Trish Burgan was elected Secretary by a unanimous vote effective December 18, 2024.

## **8. Hearing on Levy for FY26**

Kelsey Lueshen opened the public hearing for RSD#140 FY26 Levy at 6:02pm. Information detailing the 2026 Levy was published in the Rock River Herald. There was no public comment. Kelsey Lueshen closed the public hearing at 6:02pm.

## **9. Approval of Levy for FY26**

Approval is recommended for the FY26 RSD#140 Tax Levy.

Carson Breed motioned to adopt FY26 RSD#140 Tax Levy, seconded by David Lombardo.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen, Carson Breed, David Lombardo, Brendan Caver, Derek Erwin

5-ayes. Motion Passed.

## **10. IAR Presentation**

Lindy Daniels presented IAR scores to the BOE. Mrs. Daniels explained how the State of Illinois calculates the information from testing results and the comparisons made to the previous year. Stephen Mack Middle School and Whitman Post Elementary are the 2 schools out of the district that are tested. Mrs. Daniels further explained that in order for Rockton Grade School to receive a score, the State looks at the test scores from 3rd and 4th graders from 1 to 2 years prior and compares the numbers. Stephen Mack received a summative designation of "Commendable" with an overall score of 72.25 which is an increase from 2023's overall score of 71.28. SMMS received ELA growth of 58% and Math growth of 38%. Whitman Post received a summative designation of "Exemplary" with an overall score of 87.93 which is a significant increase over the previous year's overall score of 77.30. WPES growth for ELA was 60 and Math 59. WPES also had a 100% participation rate for the student climate survey.

## **11. Executive Session**

- appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))

Brendan Caver motioned into Executive Session at 6:17pm, seconded by Carson Breed.

## **12. Consent Items**

**Items recommended for the consent agenda are:**

- **Financials:** Approval of RSD #140 December 2024 bills \$246,593.70, Approval of November's Payroll Vendor Liabilities Approval of November 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 \$1,372,906.58, Payroll Liabilities Paid \$662,902.37
- Approval of November 20, 2024 BOE Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative November 2024 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report

- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative November 2024 Financial Reports

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

Roll Call: Brendan Caver, Derek Erwin, Kelsey Lueshen, Carson Breed, Derek Lombardo  
5-Ayes.Motion Passed.

### **13. Approval of December Personnel**

#### **Non-Certified New Hire**

Timothy Costa, 2nd Shift Custodian, SMMS, Effective 12/2/2024

#### **Irrevocable Retirement**

Laura Benkovich, Reading Teacher WPES, Irrevocable Ret, Effective end of 27-28 SY

#### **Non-Certified Resignation**

Kathryn Damby, SPED Para @RGS, Resignation, Effective 12/20/2024

Jessica Polnow, SPED Para @RGS (3 days), Resignation, Effective 12/20/2024

Brendan Caver motioned to approve 1 Non-Certified New Hire, 1 Irrevocable Retirement, 2 Non-Certified Resignation, seconded by Carson Breed.

Roll Call:Kelsey Lueshen, Carson Breed, David Lombardo, Brendan Caver, Derek Erwin  
5-ayes. Motion Passed.

### **14. First Reading of Policy Changes**

The following policies are being presented for a first reading:

- 2:120 Board Member Development
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure
- 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 Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest
- 5:125 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
- 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- 7:200 Suspension Procedures
- 8:10 Connection with the Community

Mr. Terry advised the BOE that the second reading and approval will be January's BOE meeting.

### **15. Old Business**

- Triple I

Mr. Terry asked the BOE if anyone wanted to share information from any sessions that they had attended at Triple I that they found interesting. David Lombardo shared that he attended a very interesting session on AI and how to use it to your advantage. Kelsey Lueshen also shared that he attended a session regarding how to assess the performance of your Superintendent and Administrators that he found quite helpful.

- Tax Appeal

Mr. Terry shared that the new owners of the old Chemtool Building have appealed their taxes and are asking for a reduction in value from over a million dollars down to \$250k. Mr. Terry stated that anytime someone asks for a reduction of their real estate value of more than \$100k the taxing bodies are notified. Rockton Township, Rockton Fire Department, Hononegah and Rockton School District had decided to intervene. An agreement was reached, and the value will be lowered to \$750k.

### **16. New Business**

- SMMS Club

Mr. Finnegan advised the BOE that a new club will be starting after the first of the year at SMMS. The goal of the club is to make all students feel included.

- Discuss BOE Vacancy

Mr. Terry and Mr. Finnegan had a discussion with the BOE regarding the vacancy left on the board due to Mr. Robinson's resignation.

### **17. Assistant Superintendent's Report**

### **18. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Terry advised the BOE that an agreement with First Student had been reached. Five year contract with 9% increase the first year, and 4% each year thereafter. The large increase in the first year was due to necessary fleet replacement. Mr. Terry also invited the BOE members to the District's Christmas party on December 20th at Grand Avenue Pub.

## **19. Administrative Reports**

### **RGS Administrative Report**

1. Etnyre
  - a. Holiday Events
    - i. Thank you, Ms. Stephanie Ballard, for a memorable concert for our 2nd graders who performed *Songs for December!*
    - ii. Santa Claus visited RGS today!
    - iii. Activities surrounding Grinch Day, Reindeer Games, Elf Day and 'all aboard' the Polar Express!
    - iv. Mrs. Graves held her annual ornament contest!
    - v. Thank you, Mrs. Rebecca Scheppmann, for organizing our Wimpy's shoppers and spirit days! We raised \$1050.00.
  2. PTO
    - a. Holiday Shoppe - 49 vendors were secured and \$7330.80 was made in Holiday Shoppe sales!
    - b. Movie Night - Put the date on your calendar! Friday, January 24th @ 5:30 PM

### **WPES Administrative Report**

1. Forsythe
  - a. Our 3rd Grade concert, The Incredible Reindeer, was held December 4th, and it was another impressive show. Thanks to Mr. Newman, our 3rd Grade teachers, and our rockin' reindeer for all of their hard work to put together not only some fantastic songs but also choreographed moves and a plot to entertain us all!
  - b. Minority Inclusion Meeting was a great success! There were 20 parents, 4 staff, and 5 administrators, as well as a guest who has done a lot of work with Diversity & Inclusion, Aaron Broadwater. The evening had such a community spirit about it and provided a space for families to share their experiences while others simply listened. We had questions from our Rockton staff members to share with this group for discussion topics but we will be tabling those to our next meeting while also switching up the format to breaking out into smaller groups to hear more voices. Overall, my favorite part was that during introductions, several members of the group shared that they hoped to connect with others and make friends through this opportunity.
2. Nelson
  - a. Tis the season for our Wimpy's Dress Up Week and Candy Cane Sales. The candy cane sales were a huge hit, raising \$3,160.00. Thank you to Rachel Garbutt and all the Wimpy volunteers and shoppers.
  - b. The staff is having fun this week playing Peppermint in my pocket, and many are also participating in Secret Santa. The students will have a visit from Santa, tomorrow!

### **SMMS Administrative Report**

1. Bonne



## Wimpys

- I would like to start by recognizing Kristin Grimes. Her efforts along with those of our NJHS students who sold candy canes during lunch helped to raise over \$2700 during Wimpys Spirit of Giving Week. The whole building is in great spirits during Wimpys Week with the fun dress up days. Thanks to the efforts of our students and shoppers we will brighten the holidays for several of our families by providing them with wonderful gifts.

### Student Council

- Our new students council supervisors (Kristin Grimes & Annie Johnson) and 51 student representatives have been creating a fun atmosphere all year long by thinking up activities. This last week, homerooms participated in the annual door decorating contest with a theme of "Winter Wonderland". These windows outside classrooms were judged yesterday and I was blown away at the talent our kids have. These decorations will be up all week long and for a few weeks after we return from break if you get a chance to stop by and check them out. Down the road our student council is planning to do candy grams during Valentines and a dance closer to Spring. With all of their fundraising efforts they are hoping to purchase items such as picnic tables to put around campus.

## 2. Freeman

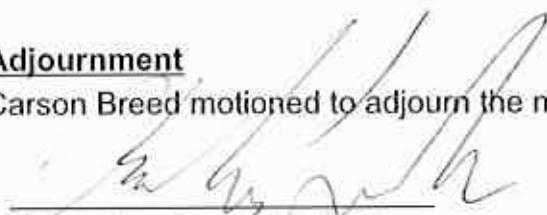
- The SMMS Winter Choir and Band Concert on December 12th was a great success! Under the direction of our amazing music teacher, Mr. McMillan, the students delivered an outstanding performance. The gym was filled to capacity, with extra chairs brought in to accommodate the crowd. It is so inspiring to witness the incredible growth of these young musicians throughout the year, and even more so from their 6th-grade to 8th-grade year.
- We are wrapping up December with a fun underground staff-only spirit week. We started out the week dressed like coaches. Tuesday was Secret Service Day and today was music through the decades day. Tomorrow will be fun socks with sandals and Friday closes out the week with anything but a cup day!

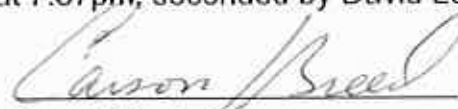
## 20. Members' Comments

David Lombardo shared with the BOE that the current librarian at Durand High School stated that she was a former student of Mr. Terry. Further, she stated that he is the reason why she still loves algebra to this day.

## 21. Adjournment

Carson Breed motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm, seconded by David Lombardo.

  
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Kelsey Lueshen, President

  
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Carson Breed  
Board Member