

ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140
Board of Education Meeting
November 20, 2024

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Trish Burgan

Others Present: Glenn Terry, Kevin Finnegan, Tara Kochheiser, Lucinda Balandis-RTA, Kindyl Etnyre, 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

- 7 In school suspensions at SMMS
- 2 Bus suspensions at SMMS
- 2 Out of school suspensions at SMMS
- 3 In school suspensions at WPES
- 1 Bus suspension at WPES
- 5 Out of school suspensions at WPES
- 2 In school suspensions at RGS
- 2 Out of school suspensions at RGS

7. Executive Session

- Lawfully closed meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21))
- Student discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9))

Scott Robinson motioned into Executive Session at 6:02 pm, seconded by Carson Breed.

8. Consent Items

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

- **Financials:** Approval of RSD #140 November 2024 bills \$851,386.29, Approval of October's Payroll Vendor Liabilities Approval of October 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 \$926,211.95, Payroll Liabilities Paid \$506,050.52
- Approval of October 16, 2024 BOE Minutes
- Approval of October 30, 2024 BOE Special Purpose Minutes

- Approval of November 6, 2024 COW Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative October 2024 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative October 2024 Financial Reports

Scott Robinson motioned to approve the above referenced consent items, seconded by David Lombardo.

Roll Call: Carson Breed, David Lombardo, Kelsey Lueshen, Scott Robinson, Derek Erwin, Brendan Caver
Motion Passed.

9. Approval of November Personnel

Non-Certified New Hire

Kirstie Davenport, Temporary Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 11/4/2024
Lani Rostamo, Classroom Paraprofessional, WPES, Effective 11/21/2024

Non-Certified Termination/Resignation

Ireland Parrish, 2:1 Paraprofessional, SMMS, Terminated 10/24/2024
Amanda Kreczmer, Classroom Paraprofessional, WPES, Terminated 11/4/2024
Michelle Dorris, 2nd Shift Custodian, SMMS, Resignation 11/7/2024

Stipend Position New Hire

Joe Dittmar, 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, 24-25 SY

Scott Robinson motioned to approve 2 Non-Certified New Hires, 3 Non-Certified Termination/Resignations, 1 Stipend Position New Hire, seconded by David Lombardo.

Roll Call: Brendan Caver, Derek Erwin, Scott Robinson, Kelsey Lueshen, Carson Breed, David Lombardo
Motion Passed.

10. Approval of Closed Session Minutes

- July 18, 2024 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- August 21, 2024 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- September 4, 2024 Committee of the Whole Closed Session Minutes
- September 18, 2024 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- October 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole Closed Session Minutes
- October 30, 2024 Special Purpose Meeting Closed Session Minutes

Scott Robinson motioned to approve the above referenced closed session minutes and recommend that they all remain closed, seconded by Carson Breed. All in favor 6-eyes.
Motion Passed.

11. Student Disciplinary Case 2024-25-1

Brendan Caver motioned to affirm the 2 day out of school suspension for Student 2024-25-1 pursuant to the Board's written findings and decision as discussed in closed session, seconded by Scott Robinson.

All in favor: 6-ayes. Motion Passed.

12. Approval of \$100,000 allocation for SMPG

Derek Erwin motioned to approve the allocation of \$100,000 for the SMPG, seconded by Brendan Caver.

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

Motion passed.

13. Approval of Bike Path-Right of Way/\$10,000 contribution

David Lombardo motioned to approve the granting of a right of way to the Village for a bike on Rockton Rd. in the amount of \$10,000 to the Village of Rockton, seconded by Scott Robinson.

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

Motion Passed.

14. Old Business

Mr. Terry discussed the upcoming Triple I conference and asked that participants notify him of the time that they would arrive so that he is able to coordinate event times.

15. New Business

- Mr. Finnegan and Mr. Terry spoke with the BOE regarding the 'Remote Days' that the State of Illinois allows. The State currently allows five 'Remote Learning Days' a year to be used for inclement weather. However, Mr. Finnegan and Mr. Terry stated that five days is a lot of instructional time that could potentially be missed. They spoke with the BOE about limiting the number of days used due to weather to three. Mr. Lombardo stated that from personal experience, adding school days at the end of the year, at a time that is already challenging to keep kids engaged could end up being unproductive and the quality of 'educational time' may be missed.

16. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- FOIA
Mr. Finnegan advised the BOE that the District had received a FOIA request from Smart Procure who requested a list of employees, their positions, the location

that they worked and contact information. Mr. Finnegan stated that Tara Kochheiser had completed the FOIA request.

- Mr. Finnegan advised the BOE of a new position at SMMS that will be 100% funded by a new grant, Student Interventionist. The Regional Office of Education applied for this grant and will be the ones paying the salary for this position. Mr. Finnegan indicated that Meghan Hawkinson at the ROE will be screening candidates. This position will be funded for the next 3 years with no additional costs to the RSD.

17. Superintendent's Report

- Triple I
- Shirland

Mr. Terry advised the BOE that he was initially only going to be helping Shirland out for a week or so. That week has now turned into several weeks. Mr. Terry shared that Shirland has been a great experience and that he will be done December 3rd.

- Mr. Terry took a moment to acknowledge Scott Robinson's service to the Rockton School Board for the last four years. Mr. Robinson was recently appointed to the role of Judgeship in Winnebago County. Mr. Robinson's last day as a BOE member will be December 3rd as he will be sworn in on December 4th. Mr. Terry stated that Mr. Robinson came onto the Board during a difficult time and has proven to be a thoughtful and respected member of the Board. Mr. Terry stated that Mr. Robinson will be missed, but congratulated him on his new role. Mr. Robinson was presented with a plaque for his years of service to the District.

18. Administrative Reports

RGS Administrative Report

1. Etnyre
 - a. Congrats to our Golden Apple Nominees: Betsy Atkins, Adrienne Engelsen, Kaitlyn Feehan, Faith (Fandel) Hamann, **Robin Hardyman**, Brianna Heitz, Paige Lanning, Laura Lueshen, Kristine Protz, Jamise Roberts, Amy Selover, Mary Spors, Mary Vosberg & **Christine Wolfe**
 - b. RGS has a new volunteer committee this school year - Community Outreach! We choose an organization each month to 'give back.' In October, we had an item collection for Rockford Rescue Mission. We also stayed after school to make blankets for the mission. ❤️
2. Hauser - Welcome Kiley Ann Hauser to the world!

WPES Administrative Report

1. Forsythe
 - a. Our Minority Inclusion Group met at the end of October, and it was a very positive experience for us all. The intention of the group is to simply provide a safe space for our families of minority students to share

experiences and come together with the common goal of making all of our students feel a sense of belonging. This went so well that we opened this up to parents at all buildings and we meet again December 12. Along with this part of our journey, we will be doing equity work with Devon LaRosa after winter break.

- b. Congrats to our Golden Apple Nominees, Shelia Ball, Amy Bigwood, Laura Brooks, Taylor Jacobi, Tristi Kriegler, Emily Larson, Amanda Mathews, Catie O'Brien, Kathy Sipe, Lindsey Tackeberry, and Taylor Williams!
 - c. Whitman Post was named an Exemplary school by the Illinois School Board of Education. This designation recognizes schools in which no student demographic area underperformed and our school's entire performance was in the top 10% of schools statewide. Thank you to our staff, students, community members, and our BOE for all of the hard work and support to receive this exemplary designation.
2. Nelson
 - a. PTO Updates: Pack the Bus and Turkey Bingo were a huge hit! The PTO is gearing up for the Holiday Shoppe on December 14th. We also want to thank the PTO for putting together food for our conference nights, much appreciated!
 - b. This week at Post the social committee put together a November Spirit Week. Wear your favorite Holiday, dress like a student, rhyme without a reason, anything but a cup day.

SMMS Administrative Report

1. Bonne
 - On Oct 19th we had two students who headed to state for cross country! Congrats to James Nichele (8) and Charlie Lueshen(7). We sent them off with a pep assembly on that Friday morning to wish them good luck at the race for their first appearance at a state meet.
 - We have started a grading practices committee with various teachers and Lindy Daniels. The purpose is to learn more and start conversations about how each grade level and content area views things like homework, our grading scale, zeros and make-up work. This was all brought up in the first meeting and we are set to meet again to discuss the purpose of grading and feedback that is provided to students and families.
2. Freeman
 - Boys Basketball is underway and both teams are in the final 3 weeks of the regular season. 7th grade is currently 7-0 under new coach Andrew Crosby, while Grant Oleson's 8th grade team has a current record of 2-5 but have been in a few very close games. Cheer is doing a great job of providing spirit at these events under new coach Jessica Harper, and the Dance Team continues to impress under Taylor Daniels week in week out.
 - On Friday, November 1st, SMMS held our 26th annual Class Act Assembly where students learned that our theme this year is kindness. Over 40

students were awarded Class Act t-shirts for exhibiting kindness during the first quarter and students watched attentively as staff put on a skit about the power of kindness. Special thanks to Beth Devries for organizing, leading, and speaking so eloquently at the assembly! We look forward to awarding more kind Warriors throughout the year!

19. Members' Comments

- Brendan Caver advised the BOE that he was at WPES helping in the reading center when an unexpected fire alarm went off. Mr. Caver stated that he was very impressed with the efficiency the staff and students displayed. It was like a well oiled military operation the way staff and students single filed out of the building.
- Kelsey Lueshen stated that he was at SMMS for the send off ceremony for his son, Charlie and other students who were going to State for track. Mr. Lueshen was very impressed with how quick and efficient the assembly was.
- Scott Robinson addressed the BOE regarding his abrupt departure from the Board. Mr. Robinson stated that he hated to leave because being on the Board has meant a great deal to him. He further stated that everyone in the District is so kind and friendly and that RSD is truly a special place.
 - Kelsey Lueshen stated that over the last 4 years he has had the pleasure of getting to know Mr. Robinson more, and not only has he proven to be thoughtful and kind, but Mr. Lueshen also feels like he can call Mr. Robinson, his friend.
 - Brendan Caver stated that he has known Mr. Robinson for half of his life and stated that Mr. Robinson will be able to help so many people in this new role.

20. Adjournment

Scott Robinson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm, seconded by Carson Breed.

Kelsey Lueshen, President

Board Member