

**BOARD OF EDUCATION, SCHOOL DISTRICT 3A
ROCHESTER, SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

REGULAR MEETING, September 18, 2024

The Rochester Board of Education met for a regular meeting on September 18, 2024. Board President Christie Magoulas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT: Dr. Christie Magoulas
 Amy Reynolds
 Bob Chiles
 Todd Hannah
 Don Carley
 Chris Jewell
 Aimee Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan W. Cox, Superintendent
 Kris Kahler, Director of Business
 Jennifer Shaw, Director of Special Education
 Suzanne Keller, Director of Educational Services
 Jon Hansen, Director of Communications
 Jeff Reed, Rochester High School Principal
 Kim Poole, Rochester Junior High Principal
 James Toland, Rochester Intermediate Principal
 Randy Krepel, Rochester Elem. 2-3 Principal
 Adrienne VanFossan, Rochester Elem. EC-1 Principal
 Carey Seaton, Executive Secretary

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Hannah and seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Lorie Carroll	Sarah Kerley	Kristin LaMontagne	Katie Nelson	Steve Patterson
Conner Carroll	Aaron Taft	Rana Kolba	Caitlyn Smith	Becky Zeibert
Ashley Coker	Sheril Flynn	Savannah Kolba	Jen Shull	Stacy Estes
Joseph Kuhn	Ellie Tweryon			

Ashley Coker addressed the Board of Education urging policy for undesignated glucagon. Sarah Kerley expressed thanks to Dr. Kahler for the detailed budget explanation and presentation.

PRESENTATION OF SUMMER WORK PROGRAM:

Mrs. Shaw highlighted the summer work program. Students who participated in the program were on hand to share their experiences and how the summer work program positively impacted them. Joseph Kuhn thanked the district for the opportunity to work in IT for the summer and for being flexible with his schedule. Caitlyn Smith shared how enjoyable it was to work at the Blastoff Kids Academy. She someday would like to go into child psychology and thanked the district for the opportunity to work with the children. Conner Carroll also enjoyed working in the Tech department and gained valuable experience. He would like to go into the technology field after high school. Ellie Tweryon also enjoyed working at the Blast Off Kids Academy. She spoke about how much she enjoyed working with all the children.

CLOSED SESSION:

Mr. Chiles made a motion to go into closed session for purposes defined in 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students

The Board entered into a closed session at 6:48 p.m.

The Board came out of closed session at 7:59 p.m.

Mrs. Reynolds made a motion to arise from the closed session which was seconded by Mr. Hannah and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of [Minutes](#)
- Acceptance of Donations
- Review of FOIA Requests
- Approval of Renewal of Meal Service Agreement with Special Education Services
- Disposal of verbatim closed session recordings older than 18 months

Mr. Chiles made a motion to approve the consensus agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jewell and carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS**Approval of Bills:**

Dr. Kahler reviewed the bills and the year-to-date fund summary review and there were no questions from the board. Mr. Jewell made a motion to approve the bills. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Johnson and carried unanimously.

Administrator Reports**Principal & Director Reports:**

Mr. Reed highlighted the senior “paint the lot” that occurred the previous Sunday. He noted that participation jumped way up from the year before. He announced that the RHS Students and Staff participated in the state-required Fire, Law Enforcement, and Bus Evacuation Drills. Mr. Carley thanked Mr. Reed for organizing Paint the Lot for seniors and families and called it a wonderful community event. Mrs. Poole detailed IAR scores for last year's 7th graders which showed improvement in ELA and reading. Mrs. Poole reported that they have Rocket Crew Leaders in grades 8 - 10 who are mentoring student groups in both 7th and 8th grade. She went on to say that the first Fun Friday that the students planned will be held on September 20. Mr. Toland highlighted some fun science in Mrs. Bartolozzi's classroom with the volcano building. Leader in me, student accountability, and goals are all being set for the school year. He also said that promoting reading throughout the Intermediate school is a high priority.

Mr. Krepel said the Elementary 2-3 building has completed its Fall benchmark for AIMSWeb testing. and have begun implementing STEM in the building. Mr. Krepel continued by saying that students and staff are engaged in the “Ready, Set, Read” initiative. Mrs. VanFossan noted that the Kindergarten pumpkin patch field trip is coming up. Upcoming events for the Elementary are Homecoming Spirit Week and parent-teacher conferences. She also thanked the Board of Education for their participation in High Five Friday.

Mrs. Keller noted that the monthly mentor meeting highlighted the evaluation process and the mentoring Program Canvas Page. She also noted that the Curriculum and Instruction Council's first meeting of the school

year is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2024. Dr. Kahler updated the board that the HVAC unit for the 2-3 building has been ordered and should arrive in two to three weeks. Mr. Hansen highlighted the building administration making one online post per day and how that is positively affecting media stories.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cox began by noting we are already at the Midterm of first quarter. He continued by saying the strategic planning process is back in progress. In September, the writing team leads will meet to share and review their work, as well as receive feedback. Also in September, Stay Interviews will be launched. He noted that participants will be selected through a random sampling process, with employee interviews conducted monthly over six months. The group sizes will be structured so that each employee is interviewed once every three months. These interviews will provide valuable insights to help ensure that Rochester Schools remains the best place for students to learn and staff to work. Lastly, he updated the Board of Education that the tennis courts are in the final stages of construction.

Approve the Updates & Revisions to the Board of Education Policies - Second Reading:

The Policy committee reviewed policy 5:310 regarding Compensatory Time-Off which is a district edit that will be rewritten. The policy is rewritten to limit the amount of compensatory time that may be accrued and the time frame in which it may be used. Compensatory time would need to be used in the pay period following the accumulation or paid out in the next payroll period. Mr. Carley made a motion to approve the updates and Revisions to the Board of Education Policies. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hannah and carried unanimously.

Finance Committee Report:

The Finance committee met on September 4th and discussed the NCL Government Capital Lease agreement. It is an alternative funding tool the Board may consider for capital projects. The recommended use for this type of lease is for the scoreboards, lighting, and sound portions of the upcoming construction project. This will move \$1 million of expenses to the lease agreement, thereby allowing for additional revenue within the bonded project. The new revenue generated through advertising will be used to pay a significant portion of the lease. The Finance Committee agreed to recommend the NCL Government Capital Lease.

Approval of Light, Scoreboard, and Sound System Upgrades for RHS Outdoor Athletic Complex and RAC:

In response to the District's procurement process for scoreboards, lighting, and sound for the facilities project, the administration, in collaboration with the District's owner's representative, conducted a thorough review process, including in-depth interviews with four scoreboard companies. The administration's recommendation includes a partnership with Formetco Sports for the scoreboards at Rocket Booster Stadium and the Rocket Athletic Complex, as well as sound equipment from NPI Audio Visual Solutions and lighting from Musco Sports Lighting. Mr. Hannah made a motion for the approval of lights, scoreboards, and sound system upgrades for RHS Outdoor Athletic Complex and RAC. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Johnson and carried unanimously.

Approval of Rochester CUSD #3A Budget FY25:

Before the board meeting, Dr. Kayler gave a detailed presentation of the FY25 budget. He pointed out that the education fund has built-in contingencies for unexpected staff changes. We are currently fully staffed as far as teaching positions but with permanent substitutes. More money was added to the supply line items for the purchase of the Reading Wonders curriculum which will be on a six-year cycle. A new driver's education vehicle has been budgeted for if approved. The deficit in fund 60 is waiting for construction invoices. There were no questions from the Board of Education regarding the budget. Mrs. Johnson made a motion to approve the Rochester CUSD #3A Budget FY25. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carley and carried unanimously.

First Reading of Board Policy Update 116:

Policy update 116 includes updates including Title IX Grievance Procedure, Staff Development Program, Teen Dating Violence Prohibited, and Administering Medicines to Students. The policy language regarding administering medicines to students is being reviewed by the Wellness Committee.

First Reading of Rochester CUSD #3A Advertising and Marketing Participation Agreement:

The Rochester CUSD #3A Advertising and Marketing Participation Agreement shows details of the collaboration between the District and partner companies. The agreement will provide revenue streams to support the District's initiatives while offering advertising exposure for businesses through a tiered process.

Motion to Approve the Personnel Report as Presented:

Mr. Jewell made a motion to amend the personnel report by removing two names from the Personnel Report. Megan Doerfler and Laela Guthries' resignations were removed from the personnel report. Mr. Hannah made a motion to approve the Amended Personnel Report. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds and carried unanimously.

Action on Items Following Closed Session

The following action items were approved following the closed session of the Board of Education:

- The following individuals were approved for employment:

Support Staff:

Knoepfle, David School Bus Driver, Transportation

Extracurricular Staff:

Boyer, Cindy Chemistry Club Sponsor, RHS
Foltz, Amy 6th Grade Girls Assistant Basketball Coach, RIS
Fry, Callie 6th Grade Student Council Sponsor, RIS
Heberling, Josh 8th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, RJHS
Ross, Kate Assistant Literary Coach, RIS/RJHS

- The following individuals were approved as volunteer staff:

Volunteer Extracurricular Staff:

Lee, John Kevin Assistant Tennis Coach, RHS

- The following individuals submitted retirements/resignations with thanks for service:

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS:***Support Staff:***

Lockard, Sarah Asst. Benefits/ Payroll Coordinator, District, Effective September 20, 2024
Patton, Jacob Blastoff Kids Academy Assistant, District, Effective August 27, 2024
Weller, Vincent Blastoff Kids Academy Assistant, District, Effective September 13, 2024

Extra-Curricular Staff:

Bruce, Kelley Assistant Literary Coach, RJHS, Effective August 28, 2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Burke, Rachel Pre-K Parent Liaison/Paraprofessional, RES EC-1, Effective January 21, 2025, through April 15, 2025
Hauck, Kim Athletic Office Secretary, RHS, Effective September 17, 2024 through September 24, 2024
Gullikson, Kimberly Special Education Aide/Recess Supervisor, RES, Effective September 19, 2024 through September 24, 2024
Long, Courtney Title I Teacher, RES, Effective September 27, 2024 through October 11, 2024

Phelps, Kelsey	Special Education Teacher, RHS, Effective March 31, 2025 through May 21, 2025
Rains, Allie	Special Education Teacher, RJHS, Effective January 6, 2025 through March 19, 2025
Range, Jessica	Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, District, Effective October 14, 2024, through January 20, 2025

Motion to Deny the Resignation of a Certified Teacher:

A motion was made by Mr. Jewell to deny the resignation of certified teacher Megan Doerfler. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Johnson and passed unanimously. Information will be provided to the Illinois State Board of Education regarding this resignation.

Approval of a Resolution to Dismiss and Authorize Notice of Dismissal and Charges of an Educational Support

Employee: A Motion was made by Mr. Carley to dismiss and authorize the notice of dismissal for educational support staff member Blake Tippet. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds and passed unanimously.

Approval of Early Graduation Requests:

After careful consideration, Mr. Reed recommended the approval of three early graduate applications. Mrs. Johnson made the motion to approve the early graduations and the motion was seconded by Mr. Chiles.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bruce Hays Administrative Center Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Mr. Hannah made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. and that was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds and then carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Christie Magoulas, President
Board of Education

Aimee Johnson, Secretary
Board of Education