

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

REGULAR MEETING, August 7, 2024

The Rochester Board of Education met for a regular meeting on August 7, 2024. President Magoulas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan W. Cox, Superintendent
 Kris Kahler, Director of Business
 Jennifer Shaw, Director of Special Education
 Jon Hansen, Director of Communication1
 Sam Gumble, Special Education Coordinator
 Carey Seaton, Executive Secretary

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Greg Kutz	Sheril Flynn	Stacy Estes	Kristin LaMontagne
Raina Kolba	Jennifer Shull	Kevin Klemm	
Katie Nelson	Bernie Burtch	Lauren Thomas	

Kevin Klemm, REA Co-President, spoke on behalf of the Rochester Education Association thanking the Board of Education and expressing appreciation for salary adjustments last year.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Approval of Bills/Payroll/Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Johnson asked if Aramark had found a way to list nutritional values for school lunches. Mr. Cox responded that he has suggested that Aramark use NutriSlice. Nutrislice is a program that lists nutritional values and has an app. Mrs. Reynolds requested Dr. Kahler list additional details in the credit card explanations. Dr. Kahler responded absolutely.

Mr. Jewell made a motion to approve the bills, payroll, and Treasurer's report. Mr. Hannah seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Year-to-Date Fund Summary

There were no questions or comments from the Board regarding the fund summary.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS AND PRESENTATION

Mr. Lauber, Mrs. Poole, and Mrs. Luttrell recently presented on Student Leadership opportunities at a National Conference in Nashville. Mrs. Luttrell is a member of the Lighthouse team at the Junior High School. Mrs.

Poole, with Mr. Hansen, made a Leader in Me video. The video interviewed staff, parents, and students about the Leader in Me project and how it has positively impacted students, culture, and climate at the Junior High School. The staff talked about how the Junior High has become a community. Students talked about how Leader in Me helped them overcome fears, such as public speaking. The program allows students to lead, support each other, and make decisions. The whole district will be seeing the video on the first teacher institute day.

Mrs. VanFossan was excited to kick off the school year with the popsicle party on Friday, August 16. She also noted that reading wonders books are being distributed.

Mr. Krepel is looking forward to his first year as a building principal. He is looking forward to meeting the students at supply drop-off tomorrow and welcoming new staff.

Mrs. Sutton, the new Assistant Principal at the Intermediate, introduced this year's theme "We rise to lead". She noted there is a lot of activity in the building with teachers busy getting classrooms ready.

Mr. Reed highlighted recently graduated student Kate Keller whose art is being celebrated at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. He noted that this is not only a tremendous honor for Kate but a reflection of the commitment our fine arts staff has to our students. He also announced that the band has been hard at work with band camp and will be performing at the upcoming state fair Twilight Parade. Mr. Reed asked for patience with the construction traffic. There will continue to be communication to help with the traffic flow and the traffic flow video has been released to ensure a smooth transition.

Mrs. Shaw praised the summer work program which kept very busy this summer. She got several compliments that the students were very hard workers. Secondly, she has been looking for new ways to develop tech opportunities for early childhood and pre-kindergarten students. New items purchased for the program are a mobile active floor and an interactive sandbox. Mrs. Flynn's goal is to get it up and running in the next few weeks.

Dr. Kahler noted that old textbooks are in the process of being disposed of. There are also green temporary walls up at the high school due to the MPR construction. The room refresh at the Elementary EC-1 is completed and he just wrapped up a very successful bus driver meeting.

Dr. Magloulas noted the Rocket review was available for board members and the public. Mr. Hansen said it will be a quarterly publication highlighting staff and events in the district. Dr. Magloulas thanked Mr. Hansen for his exceptional work and looked forward to the next one.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cox began his report by celebrating the academic achievements of our High School AP students. He continued by saying our students once again have shown remarkable success in the English Language Arts AP and Math exams. The pass rate for Rochester High School AP exam students was 100% for ELA and 84.4% for Mathematics. Secondly, Dr. Kahler, Dr. Magoulas, and Mr. Cox recently met with our new primary auditor from Sikich. They will begin the audit process in early September and hope to address the board at the December board meeting with the Annual Financial Report. Mr. Cox wrapped up his report by thanking everyone who has worked so hard to prepare for the upcoming school year.

OLD BUSINESS

Board update on CACC Board of Control update:

Mrs. Reynolds provided an update from the most recent CACC Board of Control meeting.

The June meeting for CACC introduced three new programs. A barber program and a rapid prototyping (inventing) are two new programs and all new programs are waitlisted. The welding program received a grant for new equipment. Mr. Cox noted Rochester's huge interest in CACC programs. We have 82 students attending CACC this year and receiving college credit. All Rochester students enrolled in the programs they showed interest in. Dr. Magoulas spoke highly of the variety of programs being offered at CACC. Mr. Reed said that he looks forward to visiting our students at CACC. Mrs. Reynolds spoke about our students doing well in the competitions held at CACC.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Facilities and Construction Update:

Bernie Burtch, with SM Wilson, updated the Board of Education on the tennis court project. He noted that today marked a significant milestone with the initial asphalt down. The asphalt will have a two-week dry time before the acrylics can be started. The acrylics will have a three-week time frame for drying. SM Wilson is shooting for completion on September 13th, weather permitting.

Discussion of the Construction Bids:

Greg Kuntz, with SM Wilson, gave an update on the bid process. A large number of bids came in for the construction project. August 21st will have the final results from the bids. Mr. Hannah asked how we could involve students in the construction project. Bernie would love to work directly with CACC. Students can watch the build. Mr. Hannah said feel free to reach out to the administration to involve students.

Discussion of the NCL Government Capital Lease Agreement:

Mr. Cox spoke about alternative funding tools to fund small projects. A government capital lease agreement would allow Rochester to do small projects. The lighting, and scoreboard project is an example of a project that could be paid through this option. They are still gathering information. This would allow all the alternate projects to be completed.

Discussion of Rochester Elementary 2-3 HVAC Upgrade:

Dr. Kahler explained to the Board that one of the current DX Chiller Units at RES 2-3 is no longer operational. This unit is one of three large DX units and four smaller DX units in the building that provide cooling, and it is the second unit to require replacement. After comparing bids with performance contracting with Veregy, it was found that the bids received were at a more favorable rate.

Discussion of Great Places to Work Certification:

Mr. Cox explained obtaining this certification facilitates collaboration in co-designing an optimal work and learning environment while enhancing our ability to attract and retain the best candidates. Mr. Cox said the district is looking for ways to get frank feedback from staff. Applying for Great Places to Work certification has two attractive things: a recoupment tool and staff retention. Mr. Jewell asked if there was an educational focus. Mr. Hansen noted that the survey will apply to staff in Education. After many questions from the board, it was determined that additional information was needed to make any determinations.

First Reading of Updated and Revised Library Collection Development Procedures

Mrs. Jennifer Newton, Director of Library Media Services, collaborated with Mrs. Suzanne Keller, Director of Educational Services, to update and revise the Rochester CUSD #3A Library Collection Development Procedures. The District Curriculum and Instruction Council thoroughly reviewed and discussed the proposed document during two monthly meetings. This plan promotes consistency across all five attendance centers and libraries, ensuring that our library services are equitable and effective district-wide. Mr. Cox noted this has been several years since this has been reviewed. Curriculum council, Mrs. Newton, and Mrs. Keller. would like to see a 3-year cycle of reviewing these procedures.

First Reading of Updated and Revised Rochester CUSD #3A Technology Responsible Use Policy:

The District's Technology Responsible Use Policy has been thoroughly reviewed and significantly updated to reflect the latest practices, including new provisions related to Artificial Intelligence. The policy is currently undergoing legal review before final approval. Mr. Cox said that it has been several years since the acceptable use policy was updated and thanked the technology department for their hard work.

First Reading of Rochester CUSD #3A School District Calendar 2025-2026:

The 2025-2026 school calendar has been placed on first reading. The administration and the REA have collaboratively reviewed and developed the calendar. The calendar is designed to prioritize a balanced distribution of days between semesters.

First Reading of Updates and Revisions to Board of Education Policies:

The Board policy updates and revisions are placed on first reading for review. The second reading will take place during the regular meeting of the Board of Education on September 18, 2024.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Reynolds 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)(10) 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)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in.

The Board entered into closed session at 8:23 p.m.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:37 p.m.

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

Approve Personnel Report

Mr. Hannah made a motion to approve the personnel report, which was seconded by Mr. Jewell and then passed 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:

Licensed Staff:

Alcorn, Emily	Fifth Grade Teacher, RIS
Dennison, Jennifer	Fourth Grade Teacher, RIS
Galayda, Grace	Sixth Grade Teacher, RIS

Support Staff:

Behnke, Joshua	Summer Work Program Job Coach Assistant
Borell, Nicole	School Secretary, RES 2-3
Buckles, Emma	Blastoff Academy Student Worker, District
Bullard, Braxie	Special Education Aide, District
Ealey, Abbigaile	Special Education Aide, District
Ellis, Doug	School Bus Driver, Transportation

Hunsley, David	Maintenance, District
Lovett, Reagan	Blastoff Academy Student Worker, District
Mahnich, Steve	Technology Support, District
Maley, Hadleigh	Blastoff Academy Student Worker, District
Patton, Jacob	Special Education Aide, District
Patton, Jacob	Blastoff Academy Assistant, District
Tippitt, Blake	Special Education Aide, District
Weller, Vincent	Blastoff Academy Student Worker, District

Extra-Curricular Staff:

Bliss, Michael	Assistant Girls Tennis Coach, RHS
Burke, Evan	Head Girls Soccer Coach, RHS
Carlson, Matt	Assistant Baseball Coach, RJHS
Eubanks, TJ	Assistant Girls Track Coach, RJHS
Kelley, Andrew	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, RHS

- The following individuals were approved as volunteer staff:

Volunteer Extracurricular Staff:

Carley, Patricia	Band, RHS
Chase, Angie	Band, RHS
Chase, Keith	Band, RHS
Eddy, Debbie	Band, RHS
Edwards, Erica	Band, RHS
Garland-Sutter, Tiffany	Band, RHS
Lueking, Mary	Band, RHS
Martin, Blake	Band, RHS
Martin, Carol	Band, RHS
Moore, Pat	Band, RHS
Robeen, Angel	Band, RHS
Waugh, Charlie	Band, RHS

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

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS:

Licensed Staff:

Bilyeu, Ellen	Sixth Grade Teacher, RIS, Effective July 18, 2024
Peters, Sarah	Science Teacher, RHS, Effective July 23, 2024
Webster, Kayla	Special Education Teacher, RJHS, Effective July 9, 2024
Blanchette, Gina	Special Education Aide, District, Effective July 31, 2024
Bortmess, Ellen	Special Education Aide, District, Effective August 2, 2024
Messmore, Joel	School Bus Driver, Transportation, Effective August 31, 2024

Extra-Curricular Staff:

Bilyeu, Ellen	Sixth Grade Student Council Sponsor, RIS, Effective July 18, 2024
Bilyeu, Ellen	6th Grade Girls Assistant Basketball Coach, RIS, Effective July 18, 2024
Peters, Sarah	Chemistry Club, RHS, Effective July 23, 2024

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Licensed Staff:

Cochran, Margaret	Special Education Teacher, RIS, Effective September 16 through 20, 2024
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King Mably, Amy School Counselor, RHS, Effective January 29, 2025 through March 14, 2025

Motion to Deny the Resignation of a Certified Teacher:

Mrs. Reynolds made a motion to deny the resignation of a certified teacher, Ellen Bilyeu. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jewell and carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Reynolds made a motion to adjourn at 9:57 p.m. and that was seconded by Mr. Jewell and then carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Christie Magoulas, President
Board of Education

Aimee Johnson, Recording Secretary
Board of Education