

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

REGULAR MEETING, April 17, 2024

The Rochester Board of Education met for a regular meeting on April 17, 2024. Board President Dr. Christie Magoulas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT: Dr. Christie Magoulas
 Amy Reynolds
 Aimee Johnson
 Bob Chiles
 Don Carley (6:34)
 Chris Jewell
 Todd Hannah

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan W. Cox, Superintendent
 Suzanne Keller, Director of Educational Services
 Jennifer Shaw, Director of Special Education
 Jon Hansen, Director of Communication
 Jeff Reed, RHS Principal
 Kim Poole, RJHS Principal
 Jamie Toland, RIS Principal
 Adrienne VanFossan, Elem EC-1 Principal
 Carey Seaton, Executive Secretary

Student Presentation:

Junior High students Alyssa Hill, Evie Bailey and Kelsey Amerson introduced their little buddies Norah McLaughlin and Cora Miller who all participate in the big buddy program. Once a month, the students that have been elected to RJHS student council, visit three of our kindergarten classrooms at RES EC-1 for a brief visit. The kindergarteners use this opportunity to review academic skills, practice social skills, and simply enjoy getting to know the older students. Kindergarten favorites are sight bingo and fingerpainting. Mrs. Poole recognized and thanked Mrs. Jett for all of her hard work in making this program successful.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Alyssa Hill	Joe Mihelich	Kelsey Amerson	Caley Miller	Londyn Patton
Sharon Jett	Evie Bailey	Megan Amerson	Cora Miller	Monique Davis
Debbie Kramer	Sarah Kerley	Andrea McLaughlin	Charlie Miller	Kristin LaMontagne
Laura Zulauf	Cinda Klickna	Norah McLaughlin	Lindsay Tasker	John Whitlock
Ben Clark	Andrea Graff	Aaron Merchant	Greg Kuntz	Lauren Thomas

Sarah Kerley addressed the board inquiring on the progress of live streaming board meetings, questions on the stay interview results, the parent advisory committee, a Cares room, physical education at the Elementary level, and substitute pay rates.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. The following items were approved on the consent agenda:
- a. Approval of minutes
 - b. Disposal of Verbatim Closed Session Recordings Older than 18 Months
 - c. Review of FOIA Requests from SmartProcure
 - d. Approval of Amended 23-24 School Calendar
 - e. Approval of Summer Extra-Curricular Trips
 - f. Approval of IHSA & IESA Membership for the 2024-2025 School Year

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to approve the consensus agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Reynolds and carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Investment report

Mr. Cox provided a brief summary of the Investment report. No comments or questions were presented from the Board.

Approval of Bills/Payroll/Treasurer's Report

The Board did not present any questions regarding the bills. 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

The Year to Date Fund Summary was included in the Board packet and reviewed by the Board. No comments or questions were presented from the Board.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Directors and Principal Reports

Principals gave the building reports highlighting the busy months of March and April.

Mrs. VanFossan updated the board on a very successful and well-attended Literacy night. Families were able to read to therapy dogs and listen to celebrity readers. Also in the month of March, the elementary students took on the challenge of reading 18,000 minutes and have so far reached 30,000, surpassing the original goal.

Mr. Toland thanked the PTO for a very successful Spring Carnival. His building loved being able to participate in the eclipse viewing. He also highlighted that various students and grade-level teams attended and participated in the STEM fair that was held at the Rochester Athletic Complex. The Intermediate students are also anticipating the Big Buddy picnic on April 19th.

Mrs. Poole celebrated a group of Junior High Leader and Me students, along with one of our students with Autism, who have been working on Autism Awareness Month activities and celebrations. They are planning a bulletin board and a themed spirit week. She also highlighted the much anticipated Junior High play "Shrek Jr and the big buddy visits to the Elementary EC-1 building.

Mr. Reed congratulated everyone involved with the very successful Stem Fair. He specifically wanted to thank Sheril Flynn and the whole technology department for their hard work. He noted that SAT/PSAT testing has concluded and upcoming events include the Big Buddy picnic, senior high five Friday, jazz night, and the fine arts festival.

Mrs. Keller praised our new staff for their continued participation in the monthly mentoring meetings. She noted that new staff were able to share their observations of their colleagues' classrooms and how they were able to implement what they learned to benefit their own students. She updated the board on the Curriculum and Instruction council meeting and their approval of recommendations for the board to vote on. The council also began reviewing the library collection department procedures.

Mrs. Shaw updated the Board of Education on the Blast Off Academy. Currently there are 83 signed up for summer care. Pre-kindergarten applications were sent out to current and prospective families with the majority requesting full-day prekindergarten.

Mr. Hansen displayed the specific colors and fonts for Rochesters' logos for branding purposes. Mr. Cox noted that the branding colors and fonts will be available online in the future.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cox highlighted the results of the Stay Interviews and the impact and results they are already receiving. By taking the information from those interviews, a wish to have administration more visible, a new objective called "Connecting with Classrooms" has been piloted. He made the first Connecting with Classroom visits on March 21 at the Elementary EC-1 building and will continue this month by making visits to the Junior High School. This initiative aims to foster positive relationships with teachers and students, showcase the incredible work being done in classrooms and reinforce the district's commitment to student success. Mr. Cox celebrated the huge success of the Central Illinois Stem Fair hosted by Rochester School District with over 1000 attendees, 81 vendors and 10 school districts in attendance. Special thanks went out to Mrs. Sheril Flynn, Director of Technology, for all of her hard work.

Board of Education Committee Reports

Building Committee:

Mr. Hannah gave a summary of the building committee meeting that was held on March 28, 2024 to review the design development designs for the athletic complex and RHS Science wing. He then introduced John Whitlock from BLDD architect firm to go over the designs with the board. Mr. Whitlock presented different design options for the outside features, notably different colors of brick. Different design boards were viewed and after a full discussion the board decided on the red brick option. The presentation included interior materials and design choices. The board of education was made aware of an upcoming meeting with key staff from student services, administration, science educators and IT to ensure staff input is utilized.

Old Business:

Action on Rochester CUSD #3A Bid Package Awards, Construction Contract Awards and Change Orders for RHS Tennis Courts Project.

The successful completion of this project is crucial for improving the academic, athletic, and recreational facilities available to students, faculty, and residents of the Rochester community.

The bid package came in approximately \$100,000 under budget. Three separate action items required approval to move forward with the tennis court construction project.

- Motion of Approval of Rochester CUSD 3A Bid Package 1 contract Awards to Multiple Subcontractors, Anderson Electric Inc. and Byrne & Jones, was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Carley and was passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve Assignment of Construction Contract Awards for Rochester CUSD 3A Bid Package 1 to Construction Manager S. M. Wilson was made by Mr. Jewell and seconded by Mr. Chiles and passed unanimously.

- Motion to Approval of GMP Change Order with Construction Manager S. M. Wilson for Rochester CUSD 3A Bid Package 1 was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Reynolds and passed unanimously.

Action Items

The Board of Education took action and approved the following items:

- Approval of Illinois Energy Consortium Agreement (Mr. Jewell abstained)
- Approval of Math Proposal from RJHS/RIS (6th grade)
- Approval of Science Proposal from RIS (6th grade)
- Approval of 2024-2025 Board of Education Schedule
- Approval of Summer Maintenance Projects

New Business

Updates and Revisions to Board of Education Policies

The Board reviewed updates, revisions, and newly drafted policies during their first reading. Following this, the Policy Committee will conduct a comprehensive review to formulate recommendations for the Board of Education to review.

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)(2) Collective Negotiating Matters Between the Public Body and Its Employees or Their Representatives; 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation; and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Discussion of Meetings Lawfully Closed Under the Open Meetings Act. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Johnson and passed unanimously.

The Board entered into closed session at 8:26 p.m.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:40 p.m.

Motion to arise from closed session was made by Mr. Hannah and seconded by Mrs. Johnson and passed unanimously.

8.1: Approve Personnel Report

Mrs. Reynolds made a motion to approve the personnel report, which was seconded by Mrs. Johnson and 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:

Michael Bliss	RES EC-1, First Grade Teacher
Storm Casad	School Social Worker, District
Sydney Cook	RES Art Teacher
Cailynn Martin	Speech and Language Pathologist, District
Emily Murphy	Special Education Teacher
Morgan Root	Permanent Substitute Teacher (24-25), District
Stephanie Ruyle	RES Special Education Teacher
Meghan Smith	Speech and Language Pathologist, District
Sarah Turner	School Social Worker, District
Christian Gripper	Summer Work Program Assistant Job Coach
Kiarra Mallow	Blast Off Kids Academy Site Coordinator, District

Andrea Olsen
Tara Ostrowsky
Damhoff, Kirsten
Ford, Shaina
Harvill, Ciera

Blast Off Learning Academy Site Coordinator, District
Blast Off Learning Academy Site Coordinator, District
Assistant Cheerleading Coach, RHS
Head Cheerleading Coach, RHS
6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach, RIS

- The following individuals were approved as volunteer staff:
Koontz, Preston RHS Boys Tennis
- The following individuals submitted retirements/resignations with thanks for service:
Sallie Anderson 6th Grade Teacher, RIS, Effective May 28, 2024
Andrea Ihnen School Counselor, RIS, Effective May 28, 2024
Brody Hull Maintenance, District, Effective April 15, 2024
Bene Nuding Secretary, RES 2-3, Effective May 28, 2024
- The following individuals were approved for leaves of absence:
Powell, Megan Second Grade Teacher, RES 2-3, Effective August 12, 2024 through
November 6, 2024

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Bruce Hays Administrative Center Conference Room.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Reynolds made a motion to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. that was seconded by Mr. Hannah and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Christie Magoulas , President
Board of Education

Aimee Johnson, Secretary
Board of Education