

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

REGULAR MEETING, January 15, 2025

The Rochester Board of Education met for a regular meeting on January 15, 2025. Mrs. Reynolds, Board of Education President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

THOSE PRESENT: Amy Reynolds
 Bob Chiles
 Don Carley
 Todd Hannah
 Andrea Graff
 Dan Bailey
 Kathryn Nelson

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Suzanne Keller, Acting Superintendent, Director of Educational Services
 Jennifer Shaw, Director of Special Education
 Kris Kayler, Director of Business Services
 Jon Hansen, Director of Communication
 Jeff Reed, RHS, Principal
 Kim Poole, RJHS Principal
 Jamie Toland, RIS Principal
 Adrienne VanFossan, RES EC-1 Principal
 Carey Seaton, Executive Secretary

Before the beginning of the meeting, Mrs. Reynolds announced that there would be four (4) Board of Education seats up for election in April. This change was due to the timing of the resignation of the former Board President. The seat currently being held by Daniel Bailey will now be up for election in April. She noted that the deadline to be a write-in candidate is January 31, 2025.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Jordan Powell addressed the board with concerns regarding the current snow removal company and asked that the current vendor contract be reviewed.

Sarah Kerley would like to see FOIA cover letters viewable in the board packet. She would also like to have the miscellaneous section of the agenda moved to before the closed session.

Kristin LaMontagne	Julie Tinder	Stacy Estes
Jordan Powell	Sue Tucker	Aaron Taft
Bruce Hays	Kristen Reiss	Amelia Cheek
Ben Clark	Kip Reiss	Lydia Hicks
Becky Cousin	Jen Shull	Raine Kolba
Sarah Kerley	Shannon Swaney	Savannah Kolba
Lauren Thomas	Joe Michelich	

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. The following items were approved on the consent agenda:

- a. Approval of minutes
- b. Review of FOIA request
- c. Disposal of Verbatim Closed Session Recordings Older than 18 Months

Dr. Graff made a motion to approve the consensus agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Investment report, Approval of Bills/Payroll/Treasurer's Report and Year-to-date Summary

Dr. Kahler noted that the bills were higher this month due to bond payments and the construction steel bill. Mr. Hannah asked Dr. Kahler to review the snow removal specifications and bill. Dr. Kahler responded saying he would bring back a detailed summary. Dr. Graff requested a cash flow analysis column be added to the spreadsheet and Dr. Kayler said absolutely. There were no other questions from the Board.

Mr. Bailey made a motion to approve the bills, which was seconded by Mr. Carley and carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

Directors and Assistant Principal Reports

Mrs. VanFossan was excited to share that the 100-day celebration is coming up tentatively on January 31, 2025, and she also updated the Board for Mr. Krepel's Elementary 2-3 building which is looking forward to the students that were challenged to read 50 books (or 50 chapters) over the winter break and throughout January. They hope to hold a Blizzard Blast to celebrate their accomplishment at the end of the month if they meet their challenge.

Mr. Toland praised the 5th-grade team and their classes for the annual partnership with local engineers on their Rube Goldberg designs. This event allows our students to submit engineering structures and compete at Lincoln Land Community College later this spring.

Mrs. Poole celebrated the Foundations of Leadership class. They are helping promote belongingness at RJHS by decorating lockers to recognize student achievement and organizing a door decorating competition for all Learning Labs. The RJHS student council is working on plans for a winter dance and a fundraiser to help offset the expenses.

Mr. Reed congratulated CACC Students of the Month: Tucker Burnley and Max Hallaron. They welcomed two student teachers this semester. He thanked Cindy Boyer for taking the RHS Chemistry Club to Rochester Estates. Also, he noted that MAP Assessment testing will be on January 13-17 for all freshmen and sophomores in Math and English.

Mrs. Shaw began discussing the expansion of PreKindergarten and how more updates to the PreK playground are needed at the Rochester Elementary EC-1. She has continued working with vendors to develop a plan to expand the options on the PreK playground and install a fence around the playground area. All improvements will be funded through the Prekindergarten for All and/or Prekindergarten Special Education grants.

Mr. Hansen is currently undertaking an audit of our website to improve its function and make it more navigable for students, staff, and the community. For those who are trying to find the board meeting agenda, packet, summary, and minutes they are all listed under a single section labeled as Board Meeting Materials. More improvements are planned for the future.

Acting Superintendent's Report:

Mrs. Keller updated the Board of Education that on Monday, January 6, 2025, Rochester staff members participated in professional learning opportunities remotely due to the inclement weather. She continued by saying on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, a Partners in Education (PIE) Meeting was held. Participants dedicated time to drafting a General Education Advisory Council Constitution. This work will be reviewed with the administrative team this month and examined again during the February PIE Meeting. Also, the Curriculum and Instruction Council is scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 23, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS**Board of Education Committee Reports**

There were no committee meetings held for December.

NEW BUSINESS**Discussion and Approval of RES 2-3 School Improvement Grant**

The grant allows the district to purchase materials to provide research-based interventions in ELA and ELA intervention curriculum that are research-based for students with disabilities or suspected of disabilities at Rochester Elementary 2-3. Dr. Shaw's special education ELA goal is to increase meeting AIMS web scores to 80 percent or more. Five professional development sessions were provided through ECRA to improve the use and analysis of data to drive instructional decisions, especially for our special education students in the area of ELA which are the students/subjects that are targeted.

Mr. Hannah motioned to approve the RES 2-3 School Improvement Grant. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and carried unanimously.

Discussion of Board Committee Assignments

Mrs. Reynolds read aloud the new committee assignments. Serving on the Personnel Committee will be Don Carley and Daniel Bailey. The Building committee consists of Todd Hannah and Kathryn Nelson. The strategic planning committee is Bob Chiles and Daniel Bailey. Serving on the Finance committee will be Don Carley and Andrea Graff. The Policy Committee consists of Andrea Graff and Kathryn Nelson and the Extracurricular Committee is Bob Chiles and Todd Hannah. Representing Rochester School District on the CACC committee are Amy Reynolds and Daniel Bailey. The Board President Amy Reynolds serves on all committees.

Approve Dr. Jennifer Shaw: Signer of Accounts at American Bank of Freedom

The approval of Dr. Jennifer Shaw allows them to sign checks, approve transfers, and take any other actions required in the management of the district's bank accounts, subject to the established financial policies and procedures. Mr. Hannah made a motion to approve Dr. Jennifer Shaw as a signer of accounts at the American Bank of Freedom. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bailey and carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Hannah 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, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase

Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act.

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4.5): Evidence or testimony presented to a school board regarding denial of admission to school events or property pursuant to Section 24-24 of the School Code, provided that the school board prepares and makes available for public inspection.

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10) The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Carley and passed unanimously.

The Board entered into a closed session at 7:01 p.m.

The Board came out of a closed session at 8:06 p.m.

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

9.1: Approve Personnel Report

Mr. Hannah made a motion to approve the personnel report, which was seconded by Mr. Carley and passed unanimously.

EMPLOYMENT:

Certified Staff:

Ross, Kate	English Teacher, RJHS (2025-2026 School Year)
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Support Staff:

Doggett, Linda	Pre-K Aide, RES EC-1
Schorfheide, Hannah	Blastoff Kids Academy Site Coordinator

Volunteer Extracurricular Staff:

Flavin, Lucas	Assistant Wrestling Coach, RHS
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RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS:

Licensed Staff:

Trexler, Andrea	English Teacher, RJHS, Effective May 21, 2025
Bullard, Braxie	Special Education Aide, District, Effective January 13, 2025
Trexler, Andrea	Head Girls Track Coach, RHS, Effective May 21, 2025

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Doyle, Terry	Special Education/Social Science Teacher, RJHS
Powell, Megan	Second Grade Teacher, RES 2-3

Board determination on recommendation to bar a citizen from attending school district events, activities, or being present on district property.

Regarding a recent incident that occurred at the Rocket Booster Stadium, there was a motion made by Mr. Bailey to bar a citizen from attending school district events, and activities, or being present on district property for one year from the date of the incident. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Nelson and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Mr. Hannah made a motion to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. that was seconded by Dr. Graff and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Reynolds , Vice President
Board of Education

Don Carley, Secretary
Board of Education