

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Held November 16, 2016**

**The Board of Education
Rockton School District No. 140**

1. **Call to Order** by President Littlefield at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Chanice Michowski, Gail Johnson, Shawn Connors, Josh Houghton, Stacey Heiar, Jim Meason, Katie Littlefield

Gail Johnson left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Katie Littlefield left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Others present: Superintendent Terry, Principals Kindyl Etnyre, Megan Forsythe, Autumn Czizek, Assistant Principal Matt Roer, Business Manager Sue Miller, RTA Vice President Gina Tuula and community members Mr. Wishop, Mr. Webster, Mr. Papke, Mrs. Garlow, Mr. Oster, Madison Oster and Julie Oster.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. Josh Houghton motioned to go into **Executive Session** at 6:03 p.m. to Discuss Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), Student Discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9), Selection of a Person to Fill a Public Office (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3), Other Matters Relating to Individual Students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10), Lease of Real Property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), Setting of Sale Price of Real Property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6), Sale or Purchase of Securities, Investments or Investment Contracts (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7), and Lawfully Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21), seconded by Jim Meason.

Roll call: Gail Johnson, Shawn Connors, Josh Houghton, Stacey Heiar, Jim Meason, Chanice Michowski, Katie Littlefield – 7 ayes, Motion carried.

5. **Comments from the Community**

Jeremy Oster, Hononegah Archery updated the BOE on his local archery program, as well as his involvement with USA Archery (Olympics) and National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Madison and Julie Oster, Archery students, spoke of their enjoyment of the program and their hope that it could become part of the RSD #140 curriculum.

Jeff Wishop and Jim Webster, County Board Representative, updated the BOE on the proposed plan by Great Lakes Basin Railroad to build a railway through Winnebago County and provided handouts with links for further information.

6. **Correspondence**

- Three letters of in-school suspension and one letter of out-of-school suspension.

7. **Presentation of Tax Levy for FY18 Tax Revenue**

Sue Miller updated the BOE on the 2016 Tax Levy. The levy hearing is scheduled on December 20, 2016, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockton Grade School Music Room.

8. **Resolution Authorizing Request to Intervene in 2016 Winnebago County Board of Review**

The Board of Education has received notices of property tax assessment complaints seeking a reduction in valuation in excess of \$100,000 of assessed value. A Resolution is requested to authorize the law firm of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn, LLP to intervene on behalf of Rockton School District No. 140 and represent the Board's interests. Stacey Heiar, Board Secretary, read the Resolution Authorizing the Request to Intervene in 2016 Winnebago County Board of Review complaints.

Katie Littlefield motioned to approve the resolution authorizing the law firm of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn, LLP to intervene in the 2016 Winnebago County Board of Review complaints on behalf of the Board of Education and represent the Board's interests in that proceeding, seconded by Shawn Connors.

Roll call: Josh Houghton, Stacey Heiar, Jim Meason, Chanice Michowski, Shawn Connors, Katie Littlefield – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

9. **Committee Meeting Updates**

- **11-1-16 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting**
Josh Houghton updated the Board on the committee's progress on the selection of an architect for the RGS/WPES parking lot renovation. The committee decided to stay with our current architect. Discussion was also held on tree harvesting for additional revenue.
- **11-7-16 Finance Committee Meeting**
Shawn Connors updated the Board on the status of expenditures and funding, the need to improve our technology and tree harvesting for additional revenue.

10. **Board Committee Meeting Structure**

Mr. Terry introduced the idea of having one Committee of the Whole meeting per month combining all individual committee meetings. This will allow for better access to information for all board members and will then ensure more efficient BOE meetings. More discussion on this decision will be held when the entire board is in attendance.

11. **Consent Items**

Items recommended for the consent agenda are last month's open session minutes, November bills, December payroll, October treasurer's report and all items identified below.

1. October 12, 2016 Joint Financial Committee Meeting Minutes
2. October 18, 2016 Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes
3. November 1, 2016 Building & Grounds Meeting Minutes
4. November 7, 2016 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
5. Co-op Bills, Employment & Personnel Report

12. **Personnel**

Jim Meason moved to approve the following employments for the 2016-2017 school year seconded by Josh Houghton.

Certified Staff

- Lisa Larson (5th grade) – FMLA/Child Rearing Leave

Non-Certified Staff

- Susan Jobst (Release) – 1:1 student left causing an aide position to be eliminated
- Alison Booth (Transfer) – 1:1 student left WPES moved to RGS replacing Jobst

Roll call: Jim Meason, Chanice Michowski, Shawn Connors, Josh Houghton, Stacey Heiar – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

13. **Closed Session Minutes**

Chanice Michowski moved to approve the October 19, 2016 regular closed session minutes and recommended they are to be opened, seconded by Jim Meason - 5 ayes, Motion carried.

14. **Action on Items Arising Out of Closed Session**

None.

15. **New Business**

None.

16. **Superintendent's Report**

- 1) Happy School Board Member Day and thank you to the board members for all your service to the Rockton School District. It is greatly appreciated. I enjoy working with all of you.
- 2) Stephen Mack is having a door decorating contest and is asking for one board member to help with the judging on December 15. Stacey Heiar volunteered to judge.
- 3) Mr. Terry updated the Board regarding discussions for a proposed plan for an asphalt plant to be built in our county. There will be a village board meeting December 6th at 7 p.m. at Rockton Village Hall for more information. There will be a second meeting at the Winnebago County Zoning Board of Appeals December 7th at 5:30 p.m. at 404 Elm Street in Rockford.

17. **Administrative Reports**

RGS Kindyl Etnyre

- 1) Thank you to Kelly Cleaveland, Annie Rohrer and Theresa O'Hea for organizing our school-wide election. We also appreciate our volunteers who ran our polling place on Tuesday, November 8. The Superkids leader of the school is Hot Rod!
- 2) Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 6th for the second grade winter concert at HCHS starting at 6:30 p.m.
- 3) Check out the Rockton 140 website to see Alyssa Connors (1st grade) featured in one of our Superkids library books.
- 4) Thank you to Kelly Baumgartner and Judy Davis for a successful book fair!
- 5) Thank you Board of Education for your dedication and direction! It is a true joy to work alongside each of you.

WPES Megan Forsythe

- 1) WREX Teacher of the Week: Congratulations to Mrs. Cari Benkovich, 3rd grade teacher at Whitman Post. She was WREX's Teacher of the Week, a very well deserved recognition!
- 2) Veteran's Day Assembly: I would like to recognize and thank Mrs. Rebecca Schepmann for organizing such a wonderful assembly to honor our veterans, make personal connections with many of our staff and students' family members who have served in our military, and teach our children about the meaning behind this day of observance. Thank you to Mr. Newman and our WPES Choir for performing patriotic songs to honor our veterans.
- 3) Upcoming Concerts: Join us for our 5th grade concert on December 1st and our 3rd grade concert on December 8th. Both performances will be held at the HHS PAC at 6:30 p.m.
- 4) PTO Update: a. The Fall Family Reading Night was a success and well attended. Thank you to all of the volunteers, especially Michelle Anderson, for putting together such a positive event for our community.

b. Thank you to all who were able to contribute to the canned food drive for the Old Stone Food Pantry in Rockton.

c. The PTO Holiday Shoppe will be open on Saturday, December 3rd, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. in the WPES cafeteria and gym. This is fun for the little ones to shop without an adult. There will be elves to assist these kids from the Honor Society. Coffee and donuts will be available for parents to enjoy while they wait.

5) Thank you to our Rockton School Board Members for your dedication to our community.

SMMS Autumn Czizek & Matt Roer

1) The winter band concert is on December 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the SMMS gym.

2) The Class Act assembly was held on November 8. The theme this year is Kindness. During the assembly, 30 students were recognized as being class acts. We are looking forward to recognizing more students as the year progresses.

3) NJHS hosted their handball tournament on November 9. Seven teams participated and over 600 items were donated to the food pantry.

4) Sixth Grade Economy Day is on December 21. Please come out and join us and get some of your shopping completed!

5) Thank you to Mrs. Patterson for organizing our book fair this fall. We've had a great turnout this far and hope for another great night tomorrow during conferences.

6) There were ten teachers nominated for the Golden Apple Award from SMMS. Congratulations to Mrs. Balandis, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Kazluski, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Kelly, Mr. Eiss, Mrs. Hoffland and Mrs. Limke on their nominations!

7) After discussion with staff and interviews with 3 different companies, our school district contract for student school pictures will be renewed with Inter-State Studio Publishing Company for three years.

18. Comments from the Community

None.

19. Members' Comments

Chanice Michowski thanked the administrators and the superintendent for all they do to make this a great school district and stated the Board is very appreciative of all their hard work.

20. Adjournment

Jim Meason moved to adjourn at 7:42 p.m., seconded by Josh Houghton. 5 ayes, Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held at Rockton Grade School music room on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Katie Littlefield, Board President

Stacey Heiar, Board Secretary