

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Held February 25, 2015**

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

1. **Call to Order** by President at 6:34 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Bill Midgett, Gail Johnson, Larry Schubert, Brenda Warren, Chuck Kleeberger, Jim Meason

Absent: Chanice Michowski

Others present: Superintendent Robert Willis, Principals Glenn Terry, Scott Rollinson, and Kindyl Etnyre, Assistant Principal Shaun Newmes, Mark Donaldson, Rich Mayer, and approximately 100 teachers and community members.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Comments from the Community**

Mr. Meason moved to suspend the regular order of business and opened the meeting to audience input, seconded by Mrs. Warren.

Roll call: Mr. Midgett, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Kleeberger, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

- There were many comments from RTA and community members expressing concerns with the teacher contract negotiation process. Several Board members also commented on negotiations and the District's future.

5. Mr. Meason moved to go into Executive Session at 8:00 pm 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 Mr. Schubert.
Roll call: Mrs. Warren, Mr. Midgett, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mr. Kleeberger, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

Mr. Meason moved to go into Open Session at 8:59 p.m., seconded by Mr Kleeberger.

Roll call: Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Midgett, Mr. Kleeberger, Mr. Schubert, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

6. Correspondence

There were two letters of in-school suspension and seven letters of out-of-school suspension.

7. Consent Items

Mr. Meason made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Schubert.

Items recommended for the consent agenda are last month's open session minutes, February bills, March payroll, January treasurer's report and all items identified with an **asterisk**.

*Cooperative: Action taken at the February 11, 2015 Executive Board meeting for Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative is attached for your review and action.

Roll call: Mr. Midgett, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Kleeberger, Mr Meason, 6 ayes, Motion carried.

8. Personnel

Mr. Meason made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Johnson, to approve the following employments for the 2014/2015 school year

CERTIFIED STAFF

- Stephanie Bennington: (Maternity Leave) Anticipated delivery date of April 29, 2015 with intent to return FY2016.

NON-CERTIFIED STAFF

- Christine Steinmetz: (Hire) SMMS Paraprofessional (Special Ed aide) replacing Ali Seebruck 2/5/2015.
- Kathy Gill: Transfer from RGS (reduction in class size) to WPES as a Paraprofessional (classroom size aide).
Kathy Gill began the school year as a classroom size sub aide at RGS, was hired as a regular classroom size aide on 10/17/2015. Transferred to WPES as classroom size aide 2/2/2015, 3.5 hours/day.

Judy Taylor: (Hire) SMMS Assistant Track Coach replacing Tina Lewandowski

Roll Call: Mr. Midgett, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mr. Kleeberger, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

9. Closed Session Minutes

Mr. Meason moved to approve the January 28, 2015 regular closed session minutes, seconded by Mr. Kleeberger. They are to be opened.

Mr. Meason moved to approve the February 4, 2015 and the February 16, 2015 Special Purpose closed meeting minutes and recommend they are to be opened, seconded by Mr. Schubert.

Roll call: Mr. Kleeberger, Mr. Midgett, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mr. Meason, - 6 ayes, Motion carried.

10. Action on Items Arising Out of Closed Session

Mr. Meason made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Contract for Dr. Robert H. Willis according to the contract reviewed in closed session, seconded by Mr. Schubert.

Roll call: Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mr. Kleeberger, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Meason – 5 ayes, Mr. Midgett – Nay. Motion carried.

Mr. Meason made a motion to ratify the OCR Early Complaint Resolution Settlement Agreement between the District and Parents of a District student, seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

“An OCR Complaint had been filed against the District by the family of a student. I recommend that the Board ratify the Agreement that was reached through mediation last month. As part of that Settlement Agreement, the District will reimburse the parents for educational expenses up to \$1,000. The District denies any wrongdoing but believes that this Settlement Agreement is the best use of District time, money and resources to resolve the claims raised in the Complaint.”

Roll call: Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mr. Kleeberger, Mr. Midgett, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

Mr. Meason asked for and received a consensus from Board members regarding ratifying the pending RTA Contract. A formal vote will be held at a Special Purpose Meeting March 4, 2015.

11. RGS Kindergarten Air Conditioning

One of the four compressors on the Trane air-cooled condensing unit for the Kindergarten wing has failed. Dean Snowden has a quote from Northern Mechanical for the amount of \$9,943 and a quote from Trane for the sum of \$9,840. Dr. Willis recommended the Board authorize Trane to complete the replacement of the compressor.

Mr. Schubert made a motion to approve the \$9,840 quote from Trane, seconded by Mr. Kleeberger.

Roll call: Mr. Midgett, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Kleeberger, Mr. Schubert, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

12. SMMS Carpeting

Dr. Willis recommended the Board approve the carpeting of eight classrooms at the middle school by Benchmark Flooring. The carpeting of the eight classrooms at SMMS is the last item on the SMMS Ten Year Life Safety list. Some of the carpet was purchased last year and the remainder of the carpet and installation is \$24,740.00.

Mr. Schubert made a motion to approve the \$24,740.00 for the remainder of the carpet installation at SMMS per the SMMS Ten Year Life Safety List, seconded by

Mr. Kleeberger.

Roll call: Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mr. Kleeberger, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Midgett, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

13. Network Upgrades and E-Rate

RSD needs to update our IT network by adding new switches at all three schools. This will cost approximately \$35,000. If approved for E-Rate funding, RSD would receive up to 50 percent of this cost back. Dr. Willis recommended approval.

Mr. Schubert made a motion to approve the \$35,000 for new switches on computers at all three schools, seconded by Mr. Midgett.

Roll call: Mr. Schubert, Mr. Midgett, Mr. Kleeberger, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

14. FY2015 School District Library Program Grant – Informational Item

The District was awarded an FY2015 School District Library Program Grant in the amount of \$1,077.00. These grant funds must be encumbered by June 30, 2016 and must be spent by August 15, 2016.

15. School Specialty Donation to Rockton School District – Informational Item

Julie Hayes, our School Specialty Rep, arranged for the donation of 9 new tables valued at approximately \$3,000. Julie is the parent of a former Rockton student so she is always looking out for us. The tables were an incorrect special order. The tables will replace desks in one classroom and tables in computer labs.

16. 2015-2016 Rockton School Calendar – Informational Item

The first draft of the 2015-16 Rockton School Calendar was reviewed by the Board. In this calendar, Emergency days are placed on Martin Luther King Day (1/28/16) and on Good Friday (3/25/16).

17. Superintendent's Report

- Vision 20/20 Report

Mr. Meason made a motion to adopt the Resolution supporting Vision 20/20, seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

Roll call: Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Kleeberger, Mrs. Warren, Mr. Midgett, Mr. Meason – 5 ayes, Mr. Schubert: abstained. Motion carried.

18. Administrative Reports

Mr. Glenn Terry

- Congratulations to Mrs. Ballard and our first grade students for putting on a wonderful concert February 17th titled February Fun.
- Congratulations to our Kindergarten Reef Trivia team for dethroning the SMMS team. As usual, it was a fun night.
- We are gearing up for Preschool/Kindergarten screening which will be March 9th, 10th, and 11th. That will give us our first idea of what our kindergarten numbers might look like for next year. Thank you to our office staff for all their hard work.

Mr. Scott Rollinson

- Thank you to Lindy and James for all of their hard work on getting PARCC testing ready to go.
- Read Across America week is next week. Themed days every day and fun Activities to celebrate reading are planned. Thank you to all the teachers who help put this event on!

Mrs Kindyl Etnyre/Mr. Shaun Newmes

- Thank you to Laura Zimmerman, Amy Limke, Monica Way and Bryan Collins for creating our PARCC testing schedules. Thank you for our staff and Lindy Daniels for preparing every day for this moment!
- SMMS would like to recognize Sue Patterson for her enthusiasm and dedication in organizing a successful book fair!
- Student Council collected \$400.00 for **Pennies for Patients**, a Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fund raiser.
- NJHS is sponsoring its 2nd annual PB&J drive for the Rock River Food Pantry. The drive will end in a culminating activity – a smash ball tournament on March 18th.
- SMMS track season will begin with a parent meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:00 p.m. Think spring!
- PTO is hosting a spring reading night on March 23rd from 6-7:00p.m. at RGS. PTO is meeting on March 10th at 6:00 p.m. – all are welcome!
- Thank you to the RTA and the Board for all your hard work during negotiations.

19. Comments from the Community

Mr. Meason moved to suspend the regular order of business and open the meeting for audience input, seconded by Mrs. Warren.

Roll call: Mrs. Warren, Mr. Kleeberger, Mr. Midgett, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Schubert, Mr. Meason – 6 ayes, Motion carried.

- Mark Donaldson commented that the tentative agreement on the RTA contract was ratified on Wednesday, February, 25, 2015.

20. Members' Comments

- Gail Johnson commented that the bargaining process was difficult and it's time to start on the road to healing relationships with all involved parties.

21. Adjournment

Mr. Meason moved to adjourn at 9:27 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Johnson. 6 ayes, Motion carried.

The next regular Board of Education meeting will be held at Rockton Grade School Library on March 25, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Approval Date: March 25, 2015

President

Secretary

