

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Held September 23, 2015**

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

1. **Call to Order** by President Littlefield at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Brenda Warren, Stacey Heiar, Kevin Finnegan, Gail Johnson, Katie Littlefield
Absent: Chanice Michowski, Jim Meason

Others Present: Dr. Robert Willis, Sue Miller, Principals Glenn Terry, Megan Forsythe, Kindyl Etnyre, Assistant Principal Autumn Czizek, RTA President Mark Donaldson, Barb Kubat, Sherril Erickson, Kelly Cleaveland, Mary Spors, Katie Trusner, Cori Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Mohring, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Moore, Mr. Bouhal, SMMS students Alex Moore and Rayan Bouhal and other community members.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Budget Hearing**

The district budget hearing was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mrs. Littlefield. Sue Miller presented the FY16 budget. Mrs. Littlefield moved to open the meeting to the audience for public input, seconded by Mrs. Johnson.

Roll call: Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

No one wished to address the Board regarding the proposed budget. Mrs. Littlefield adjourned the budget hearing 6:36 p.m.

Mr. Finnegan moved to approve the 2015-2016 budget at 6:37 p.m. as presented, seconded by Mrs. Warren.

Roll call: Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

5. **SMMS Presentation Regarding Water as a Lunch Drink Option**

Two SMMS students, Alex Moore and Rayan Bouhal presented a Power Point presentation to the BOE regarding adding water as an option to the purchased lunch meal during the SMMS lunch hour. Further study will be conducted into this option.

6. **Comments from the Community**

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

Roll call: Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

Kindergarten teachers Sherril Erickson, Barb Kubat, and Kelly Cleaveland presented a thank you card from the kindergarten staff thanking the BOE for adding the additional class

section to kindergarten due to the growing number of class size. "It is very much appreciated."

7. Mrs. Littlefield moved to go into **Executive Session** at 6:52 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 Mr. Finnegan.

Roll call: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

Mrs. Littlefield moved to return to open session at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Roll call: Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

8. **Correspondence**

- Thank you card from Penny Lee for the beautiful plant in memory of her mother.
- Thank you card from the kindergarten staff thanking the BOE for adding the additional class section this year.
- Three letters of in-school suspension and seven letters of out-of-school suspension.

9. **Approval for Going Out to Bid for Copy Machines**

This will be a shared contract with Hononegah Community High School, Kinnikinnick, and the North Boone District. Superintendent Willis recommended going out to bid for copy machines.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion to join Hononegah Community High School, Kinnikinnick, and North Boone District in a joint bid process for copiers, seconded by Mrs. Warren.

Roll Call: Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

10. **Consent Items**

Mrs. Johnson moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Finnegan.

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

- A-2 Approve August Open Session Minutes
- A-3 Approve Cooperative September Bills
- A-4 Approve September Bills and October Payroll
- A-5 Approve Application for Recognition of Schools
- A-6 Approve Appointment of RSD #140 Treasurer – Sue Miller

Roll call: Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

11. **Personnel**

Mr. Finnegan made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Heiar to approve the following certified employments for the 2015-2016 school year.

Certified Staff

- Hayley Miller - (Hire) 1st Grade Teacher
- Mary Vosberg - (Hire) Kindergarten Teacher
- Ric Wicks – (Resign) Girls Basketball coach
- Jenessa Zimmer – (Hire) Art Club director

Roll Call: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

Mrs. Johnson made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Warren to approve the following non-certified employments for the 2015-2016 school year.

Non- Certified Staff

- Aki Nikora – (Hire) Special Teacher Assistant SMMS (Japanese)
- Kathleen Doering – (Hire) 1:1 Teacher Assistant
- Sarah Doyle – (Resign) Reading Teacher Assistant RGS
- Michelle Williams – (Hire) Teacher Assistant RGS
- Tim Ehlers – (Hire) Maintenance Director
- Tom Fuller – (Resign) Maintenance

Roll call: Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

12. **Closed Session Minutes**

Mrs. Warren moved to approve the August 12, 2015 regular closed session minutes and they are to be opened, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. Also approved are the Special Purpose Meeting Minutes August 31, 2015, Insurance Committee Meeting Minutes September 9, 2015, and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes September 16, 2015. – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

13. **Discussion of Distribution of Communication throughout District**

Mrs. Johnson introduced the idea of broadening our distribution of communication throughout the district but due to time constraints, further discussion was scheduled out to the next BOE meeting in October, 2015.

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

Mrs. Warren, as a member of the Insurance Committee, made a motion to decrease the employee's cost of Family Health Insurance by \$200 a month, and the Employee Plus One cost by \$130 per month, and that it would be retroactive to September 1, 2015, seconded by Mrs. Johnson. The new monthly costs to the employees will be \$811.93 for Family and \$527.61 for Plus One.

Roll call: Mrs Johnson, Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

15. **Superintendent Report**

There was no report at this time.

16. **Administrative Reports**

Mr. Glenn Terry

- Wes Morgan has done a great job working two days a week at RGS. He has fit in very well and supported our staff and students.
- We just completed our first round of 'practice' growth assessments for teacher evaluation and STAR testing. All of the data from testing will be reviewed on our October SIP day and teachers will write practice goals for student achievement.
- Kindyl Etnyre and I have led the student growth committee and are near finalization of a new evaluation plan that includes student growth.

Mrs. Megan Forsythe

- I want to recognize WPES employees Kelly Gilliam and Donna Hayenga, as well as the maintenance crew for keeping up with all the changes and all the new beginnings. New to Whitman Post: 4 new teachers to WPES, a new nurse, a new head secretary, a new psychologist, and at least 16 room changes!
- The Ice Bucket Challenge was a success – students raised \$3,415.67 for the ALS Association
- 2 classes per grade are piloting the Wonders Reading Program; very comprehensive curriculum and offers a lot of variety to instruction.
- The Fun Run Assembly last Friday included a lip sync battle and incentives to get the kids excited about participating in the event and raising funds for our PTO.
- Upcoming events are: 10/2 Fun Run, 10/6 Running Club begins (every Tues & Thurs in October), 10/10 Family Bike Ride beginning at Roland Olson Forest Preserve
- PTO Update: The Fun Run set for Oct. 2 with Jason Beck & Melissa Schnur co-chairing. New this year: Fun Run website. Last meeting Thursday, September 24, at 6 p.m. October 22: Family Reading Night @ RGS. Next meeting will be October 13th – all meeting will be 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at WPES.

Mrs. Kindyl Etnyre

- Our first school dance is Friday, September 25th from 6 – 8 p.m.
- Mr. Mayer and our 7/8 grade middle school band will be performing at Hononegah's homecoming game on October 2nd
- Peer Support will be attending their annual retreat on October 16-17 with Mrs. Carroll, Mr. Hammes and Mrs. DeVries.
- I would like to thank our 6th grade students and teachers for recognizing our local responders as part of their classroom lesson on 9/11. Responses have been heart-warming!
- Our first fire drill of the school year included the local fire department and a simulated situation using a smoke machine.
- On behalf of the Booster Club, we would like to thank those who ordered mums. The first RGS movie night is October 8th. **Frozen** will be shown.

17. **Comments from Community**

Mrs. Littlefield moved to suspend the regular order of business and open the meeting for audience input, seconded by Mrs. Heiar.

Roll call: Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Heiar, Mr. Finnegan, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Littlefield – 5 ayes, Motion carried.

- Mark Donaldson thanked Tammi Gaziano and Sue Miller for meeting with him and Dan Baumgartner to explain the new rate structure of the insurance plan and how it applies to employees. Mark also thanked the BOE for approving the Insurance Committee’s recommendation to lower the Family and Employee + 1 rates for the year – retroactive to last month. Also, a thank you to the BOE for all their efforts in the last several months.
- Jamie Anderson thanked Principal Megan Forsythe for all her hard work and enthusiasm during the start-up of the WPES school year. “Mrs. Forsythe is doing a great job!”

Members’ Comments

- Gail Johnson expressed her enthusiasm for joining the REEF Committee and looks forward to the next meeting. Gail also thanked Wes Morgan for devoting his time to the mentoring program with the United Methodist Church.
- Brenda Warren thanked everyone for all their work and donations towards the ALS fund. As ALS is very personal to Brenda, she looks forward to being a part of the Ice Bucket Challenge scheduled for after the Board meeting.

18. Adjournment

Mr. Finnegan moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Heiar. 5 ayes, Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m. The next regular Board meeting will be held at Rockton Grade School cafeteria on Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Approval date: October 28, 2015

President: _____

Secretary: _____