

ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140

Board of Education Meeting

August 18, 2025

1. Call to Order

President Lueshen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Kelsey Lueshen, David Lombardo, Trish Burgan, Derek Erwin, Brendan Caver, Abby Czaja, Charlie Hart

Others Present: Daniel Phelps, Kim Garst, Lucinda Balandis-RTA, RoscoeRockton News

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

5. Comments from the Community

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Executive Session

- appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))

Abby Czaja motioned to move into Executive Session at 6:02pm, seconded by Charlie Hart.

8. Consent Items

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

- Financials: Approval of RSD #140 August 2025 bills \$398,292.36, Approval of June & July Payroll Vendor Liabilities Approval of Reports as follows: Cash Report, Revenue Report, Expenditure Report, Cash & Investment Report, Operating Funds Summary, Fund Balance Report, Treasurer's Report, Check Register, Activity Check Register, Payroll Gross Earnings \$1,644,555.98, Payroll Liabilities Paid \$1,011,625.46
- Approval of July 7, 2025 BOE Minutes
- Approval of August 4, 2025 COW Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative June & July 2025 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative June & July 2025 Financial Reports

Brendan Caver motioned to approve the above referenced consent items, seconded by Trish Burgan.

Roll Call: Abby Czaja, Brendan Caver, Charlie Hart, Derek Erwin, David Lombardo, Trish Burgan, Kelsey Lueshen

Motion Passed.

9. Approval of August Personnel

Certified New Hire

Susan Vierck, Building SUB, SMMS, Effective 25-26 SY

Non-Certified New Hire

Maycee Peterson, Paraprofessional, WPES, Effective 25-26 SY

Kayli Sanders, Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 25-26 SY

Daniel Smitley, Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 25-26 SY

Kaylie Bird, 1:1 Paraprofessional, SMMS, Effective 25-26 SY

Steven Erickson, 1:1 Paraprofessional, SMMS, Effective 25-26 SY

Ashlie Wessner, Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 25-26 SY

Melissa Hidalgo, EC Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 25-26 SY

Ashley Freund, 1:1 Paraprofessional, SMMS, Effective 25-26 SY

Non-Certified Resignation

Ryan Daniels, 1:1 Para, SMMS, Resignation, Effective 7/14/2025 (job at Hono)

Eve Pieper, Food Service, RGS, Retract Job Acceptance, Effective 7/23/2025 (personal)

Rachel Kacprowicz, 1:1 Para, SMMS, Retract Job Acceptance, Effective 7/28/2025 (Personal)

Alli Files, EC Para, RGS, Resignation, Effective 8/5/2025 (Baby end of 24-25)

Lilyana de la Uz, 1:1 Para, RGS, Resignation, Effective 8/5/2025 (moving to CA)

Rick Gomez, EL Para, RGS/WPES, Resignation, Effective 8/9/2025 (moving to S IL)

Erica Lapointe, 2nd Shift Custodian, SMMS, Resignation, Effective 9/23/2025 (moving to GA)

Non-Certified Internal Transfer

Emily Leach, RGS Para to RGS Food Service, Effective 25-26 SY

Summer School Changes

Lani Rostamo, Resigned, Effective Immediately (took new job)

Nicholas Bell, Para, RGS Summer School

Stipend Changes

Andrew Crosby, 7th Grade Boys BBall Coach to 8th Grade Boys BBall Coach, SMMS, Effective 25-26 SY

Corey Kidd Sr, 7th Grade Boys BBall Coach, Effective 25-26 SY

Lucinda Balandis, Yearbook Advisor, Effective 25-26 SY

Abby Czaja motioned to approve 1 Certified New Hire, 8 Non Certified New Hires, 7 Non Certified Resignations, 1 Non Certified Internal Transfers, 2 Summer School Changes, 3 Stipend Changes, seconded by Derek Erwin.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen, Trish Burgan, Derek Erwin, Brendan Caver, Abby Czaja, Charlie Hart, David Lombardo

Motion Passed.

10. Hearing for WCSEC Budget

Kelsey Lueshen opened the public hearing on the Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative at 6:22pm. Information detailing the 2025-2026 budget was published in the paper. (There was no public comment.) Kelsey Lueshen closed the hearing at 6:22pm.

11. Approval of WCSEC Budget

Approval is requested for the WCSEC FY26 Budget. Derek Erwin motioned to approve the Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative's FY26 budget, seconded by David Lombardo.

Roll Call: Abby Czaja-aye, Brendan Caver-aye, Charlie Hart-Abstain, Derek Erwin-aye, David Lombardo-aye, Trish Burgan-aye, Kelsey Lueshen-aye

12. Hearing for E-Learning Plan

Kelsey Lueshen opened the public meeting Rockton School District's E-Learning Plan at 6:23pm. There were no comments. Kelsey Lueshen closed the public hearing at 6:23pm.

13. Approval of E-Learning Plan

Charlie Hart motioned to approve Rockton School District's E-Learning Plan, seconded by Trish Burgan. All in favor 7 ayes.

14. First Reading of Policy

- 1:10 School District Legal Status
- 1:20 District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements
- 2:80 Board member Oath and Conduct
- 2:130 Board-Superintendent Relationship
- 2:260 Uniform Grievance Procedure
- 2:265 Title IX Grievance Procedure
- 4:15 Identity Protection
- 4:80 Accounting and Audits
- 5:10 Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment
- 5:20 Workplace Harassment Prohibited
- 5:60 Expenses
- 5:100 Staff Development Program
- 6:150 Home and Hospital Instruction
- 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks
- 7:10 Equal Education Opportunities
- 7:20 Harassment of Students Prohibited
- 7:40 Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students
- 7:50 School Admissions and Student Transfers To and From Non-District Schools
- 7:60 Residence
- 7:70 Attendance and Truancy
- 7:90 Release During School Hours
- 7:130 Student Rights and Responsibilities
- 7:140 Search and Seizure
- 7:180 Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

- 7:185 Teen Dating Violence Prohibited
- 7:190 Student Behavior
- 7:200 Suspension Procedures
- 7:210 Expulsion Procedures
- 7:250 Student Support Services
- 7:255 Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence
- 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students
- 7:300 Extracurricular Athletics
- 7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools
- 7:325 Student Fundraising Activities
- 7:340 Student Records
- 8:30 Visitors to and Conduct on School Property
- 8:80 Gifts to the District

Second reading and approval will be at the September 22, 2025 BOE meeting.

15. Old Business

- Budget Update

It was noted that the ISBE budget is currently on display. Kim Garst, Business Manager for the District went through changes made since the last budget presentation. Changes in Revenue include Medicaid, Title II, CPPRT, State Maintenance (have matched \$50,000 for the last 3 years, expected to again.)

Changes in expenses include Athletic/Nonathletic Stipends, HSA payments, increase in predicted food costs (to match last year's costs), Payments to the Co-op.

16. New Business

- ECRA

Daniel Phelps presented an option to utilize ECRA to assist with data integrity leading up to our School Improvement Plan. They offer predictive analytics and can assist with strategic planning, mapping, etc. They offer two types of data briefs: 1. State Percentage Analytics and 2. Comparative District Analytics (choose up to 9 districts with similar financials and trends). They can include data for up to 3 years - for us this would likely mean taking the two previous years and then adding in our data that will come out in October 2025. We have a say in what areas we would like analysis to focus on. We can use them as a one-time analysis to assist with planning or use them once a year for the next 3 years to assist with measuring the effectiveness of the School Improvement Plan. They do offer additional more in-depth/partner services if desired.

17. Superintendent's Report

- New Teacher Orientation

8 new certified staff were in attendance for about 1.5 days last week. They will attend the September Board meeting. Daniel Phelps mentioned that this is a diverse group of new hires and that all buildings were represented in these meetings.

Basic overview of time with staff: discussions of culture vs. climate, differentiation with students and how to work with the student services team, communication (peer-to-peer, teacher-to-student, teacher-to-families), technology (hardware and software)

- **Bike Path**

Daniel Phelps met with Rockton Village President John Peterson

Rockton Road: initial goal was to have it completed by fall 2025, now it is likely to begin and hopefully be completed spring 2026, it will run from Old Meadow Rd and stop at RGS/WPES

Possible crosswalk at St. Andrews and also at Annulet Dr.

There is a second grant opportunity that is being investigated that will have a path from the back of Hononegah High School to RGS/WPES

Route 75 to SMMS: has been in the works for 6 years now, awaiting a final signature (unknown who the last signature is), possibility of beginning path spring 2026

- **Bus Routes**

Standards: maximum of 71 students on a bus, keep routes to less than 60 minutes

Currently 2 routes are over 60 minutes (rural areas)

New policy of no students crossing the streets in the AM, smaller cross in the PM routes (smaller subdivision, one-way street - no major streets)

Currently taking steps to call students on longer routes to verify intention to ride the bus

Review of contract suggested to determine who the burden of responsibility for longer routes falls on, our District or First Student

- **Reunification site with St. Andrew's Church**

Daniel Phelps, Kindyl Etnyre, and Megan Forsythe reviewed the RGS/WPES reunification site at St. Andrews Church; it was bigger than expected and thought to accommodate all children and staff if needed. It was also a shorter walk than expected. Staff of RGS/WPES will be walking over on Wednesday to become familiar with the site/plan.

Lungo Plumbing will remain the reunification site for SMMS. Plan for administration and staff to visit the site at a later date.

18. Members' Comments

None

19. Adjournment

Abby Czaja motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm, seconded by Brendan Caver.


Kelsey Lueshen, President
Trish Buggan, Vice President