

ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140

Board of Education Meeting

December 15, 2025

1. Call to Order

President Lueshen called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

2. Roll Call

Kelsey Lueshen, David Lombardo, Trish Burgan, Derek Erwin, Brendan Caver, Anita Bond, Charlie Hart

Others Present: Daniel Phelps, Tara Kochheiser, Kindyl Etnyre, Erin Hauser, Justin Bonne, Jodie Freeman, Mary Vosberg-RTA, Dan Krita-WOLD, Taylor Hedrington

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

None

5. Comments from the Community

None

6. Correspondence

- 1 Out of school suspension at RGS
- 1 In School Suspension at WPES
- 1 Bus suspension at WPES
- 5 Out of School Suspension at WPES
- 9 In School Suspensions at SMMS
- 1 Out of School Suspension at SMMS

7. Life Safety Presentation for RGS/WPES from WOLD

Dan Krita from WOLD gave a presentation to the BOE regarding the 10 year life safety that was performed on the RGS/WPES campus. Mr. Krita went over the 3 assigned priority levels given to violations which are "Urgent", (the violation has to be corrected within a year), "Required", (the violation has to be corrected within 5 years),

"Recommended", (this is not a violation just a recommendation of repair/replacement).

RGS had \$13,000 in "Urgent" violations that need to be addressed and WPES had \$2,600 in "Urgent" violations.

8. Executive Session

- discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))
- Lawfully closed meeting minutes (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21))
- Self-evaluation, practice and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16))

Trish Burgan motioned to move into Executive Session at 6:16 pm, seconded by Derek Erwin.

9. Approval of Closed Session Minutes

- April 23, 2025 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- May 7, 2025 C.O.W. Closed Session Minutes
- August 18, 2025 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- September 8, 2025 C.O.W. Closed Session Minutes
- September 22, 2025 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- October 6, 2025 C.O.W. Closed Session Minutes
- October 20, 2025 BOE Closed Session Minutes
- November 17, 2025 BOE Closed Session Minutes

Trish Burgan motioned to approve and to open August 18, 2025 Closed session Minutes and to keep closed April 23rd BOE, May 7th C.O.W., September 8th C.O.W., September 22nd BOE, October 6th C.O.W., October 20th BOE and November 17th BOE Minutes, seconded, by Derek Erwin. All in favor 7 ayes

10. Consent Items

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

- ~~Financials: Approval of RSD #140 December 2025 bills \$279,582.85, Approval of November 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, Payroll Liabilities Paid~~
- Approval of November 17, 2025 BOE Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative November 2025 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative November 2025 Financial Reports

Charlie Hart motioned to approve the above mentioned consent items, seconded by David Lombardo.

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

Motion Passed.

11. Approval of December Personnel

Non-Certified New Hire

Kyla Emory, 1:1 Para, RGS, Effective 1/5/2026

Non-Certified Resignation/Termination/Retirement

Kimberly Goode, Classroom Para, SMMS, Effective 11/17/2025 (no show)

Alison Booth, Retirement, Effective 1/30/2026

Carolyn Braun, Resignation, Effective 12/19/2025

Kyle Dorris, Termination, Effective 12/15/2025

Stipend Changes

Dalton Holcomb, Quiz Bowl Advisor, Effective 2025-2026 SY

Chad Szarzynski, Quiz Bowl Advisor, Effective 2025-2026 SY

Kevin Rice Jr, 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach, Effective 2025-2026 SY

Building SUB Changes

Mason Adams, New Hire, Certified Building SUB, SMMS, Effective 1/5/2026

FMLA - Maternity Leave

Paige Lanning, Maternity Leave Request, May 2026

Irrevocable Retirement - Certified

Kindyl Etnyre, Irrevocable Letter of Retirement, Effective end of 28-29 SY (7/30/2029)

Approval is sought for 1 Non Certified New Hire, 4 Non-Certified Resignation/Termination/Retirement, 3-Stipend Changes, 1 Building SUB Change, 1-FMLA-Maternity Leave, 1 Irrevocable Retirement-Certified.

David Lombardo motioned to approve 1 Non Certified New Hire, 4 Non-Certified Resignation/Termination/Retirement, 3-Stipend Changes, 1 Building SUB Change, 1-FMLA-Maternity Leave, 1 Irrevocable Retirement-Certified, seconded by Derek Erwin.

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

Motion Passed

12. Approval of RSD#140 Audit Report

Brendan Caver motioned to approve the RSD#140 Audit Report for FY25, seconded by Trish Burgan.

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

Motion Passed.

13. Hearing and Approval of Tax Levy

Hearing on Levy for FY27

Kelsey Lueshen opened the public hearing for RSD#140 FY27 Levy at 7:41pm. Information detailing the 2027 Levy was published in the Rock River Herald. There was no public comment. Kelsey Lueshen closed the public hearing at 7:41pm.

Approval is recommended for the FY27 RSD#140 Tax Levy.

Trish Burgan motioned to adopt FY27 RSD#140 Tax Levy, seconded by Charlie Hart.

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

7 ayes.
0 naves.

Motion Passed.

14. Old Business

- **Triple I Review**

Daniel Phelps asked the BOE members who attended Triple I if there was any part of the conference they would like to share. David Lombardo and Trish Burgan stated that they were able to make a lot of good contacts at the conference. Mr. Phelps reported that he felt the collective bargaining session that he and several other BOE members attended was informative.

15. New Business

- **Change in BOE meetings dates**

Mr. Phelps and the BOE changed the January BOE meeting from Monday, January 19th (MLK birthday) to Tuesday, January 20th and March's Committee of the Whole meeting from March 2nd (Casmir Pulaski's birthday) to Tuesday, March 3rd.

- **Behavioral Specialist - ROE**

Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that the title of this position should be Student Support Interventionist. Board determined to seek additional information from the ROE.

16. Administrative Reports

RGS Administrative Report

1. Etnyre

a. At RGS, the staff is modeling empathy and kindness for our students. ❤️

- i. Mrs. Graves created a sock tree for the Rockford Rescue Mission.
- ii. Mrs. Scheppmann and Mrs. Brock organized a collection to provide 17 Thanksgiving Meals from Aldi's. Staff volunteered to shop and organize the meals.
- iii. RGS families raised \$1612.00 in donations for Wimpy's! Staff shopped for 15 children for the holidays.

b. It is truly a gift to work in an elementary school during the holiday season! Excitement exists every day with a Santa visit, spirit days, family gifts, Grinch Days and 'Holidays Around the World!'

2. PTO

- a. The Candy Cane Holiday Shoppe on Saturday was bustling! We had over 200 student shoppers. Thank you to all of the student and adult volunteers!
- b. Information went out to families today regarding the PTO IceHogs Night on Friday, January 9, 2026. Please come support the following groups: Whitman Post Elementary School Choir (God Bless America), Stephen Mack Middle

School Band (National Anthem) and the Stephen Mack Middle School Dance Team.

3. Hauser

- a. Last week (12/11 & 12/12), kindergarten classes visited The Williams Tree Farm! The weather cooperated and students had a blast. They rode a tractor through the Christmas tree forest and learned history about the farm. They saw the puppies, participated in a wreath demo and tree shaking. They saw more animals and enjoyed a tasty treat!
 - b. Thank you to the UW Whitewater's Wheelchair Basketball Cornerstones Project for visiting RGS and hosting an assembly. We want to give a special shout out to Jamise Roberts, Abi Krebs, Trey Bonne, Hayley Beard, Arisa Midgett, Hannah Rehfeldt and Heather Walker for participating in a scrimmage for staff and students to enjoy.
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WPES Administrative Report

Forsythe & Nelson

1. Curriculum Happenings at Whitman Post! Thank you, Lindy Daniels, for exploring these new curriculum opportunities for WPES to keep our resources moving forward for impactful learning and instruction.
 - a. We have a committee exploring new reading curricula across all grade levels with teachers receiving professional development with Magnetics Literacy (i-Ready) & Savvas, as well as piloting these options after break.
 - b. WPES purchased a new curriculum for social studies in 3rd & 4th grades (5th grade has been using a new curriculum within the last few years). *Social Studies Weekly* will provide both digital and print materials for our students to engage in current learning standards for social studies and improve their skills with reading informational text.
 2. Wimpy's Fund at Whitman Post was a fantastic success, having raised \$4,377.05 thanks to the efforts of several staff who organized the fundraising, shopped for kids, and wrapped up ALL of the gifts to be delivered to children in our community - and a shout-out to all of our candy-cane-loving kids and generous families!
 3. Thank you, Rockton, for showing such compassion and generosity to support our staff member dealing with a very difficult time - a reminder of the incredible community we are so lucky to be a part of.
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SMMS Administrative Report

1. Bonne

- a. This week on Thursday we will be welcoming Aaron Broadwater during our morning Life studies classes as part of our Presentation Series. Mr. Broadwater currently works in school helping underserved populations graduate high school. On the side, he also teaches youth about empathy and belonging which is what he will be doing this week. In order to make a stronger connection with our kids, Broadwater has met multiple times with our social workers to tie in our character education program "Class Act", and our theme "Be A Hero."

b. The Winter Wonderland door decorating contest is underway. All homerooms have been working diligently to create artistic backdrops for cold weather creations. Students take this incredibly seriously as evidenced by the email I received from a 6th grader who alleges others of copying his design. He wrote:

- i. I've heard over the past days about people saying "We should coppie theirs." or even to us "We are gonna copy your idea." Not to be one of those kids but it was Shroeder's room. Not gonna say who but if you would like to email me back I just want to let you know. And if you still don't believe me, check the camera pointing at the boys bathroom's entry in the 6th grade hall. Turn on some closed captions if needed but around 1:30 or during 8th hour that's when I heard it

A crew of select judges will meet this Wednesday to select one winner per grade level. Each will win donuts as a prize.

2. Freeman

- Thank you to our SMMS Student Council and NJHS, who helped us raise money for the Rockton Lion's Club Wimpy's Collection! Thanks to the generous student donations during Spirit Week and candy cane sales at lunch, we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$1,500, and we raised a total of \$1,992.95.
- We are thrilled to announce the return of a spring play at SMMS this year. We welcome Natalie Wooden as the new director, who has already ignited significant student interest by distributing a survey and received an overwhelming response of over 150 students eager to participate on stage and behind the scenes. Ms. Wooden has also begun holding theater focus days this winter and she is excited to start auditions for Disney's The Little Mermaid in late January.

17. Superintendent's Report

- BOE Trainings
 - Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that training will take place at our February 2nd COW meeting, and should run from 6pm-8pm with dinner being served.
- Strategic Plan Dates
 - Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that strategic plan dates have been set for June 2nd and June 3rd.
- PLC at Work Institute
 - Mr. Phelps discussed with the BOE the PLC at Work Institute training that is June 22-24. Currently the district has 10 spots available. All of the admins have shown interest and Mr. Phelps stated that he would like to have a BOE member or 2 attend.
- Holiday Party
 - Mr. Phelps invited the BOE to the District's Christmas Party which is at Grand Avenue Pub in Beloit this Friday, December 19th starting at 3:30pm.

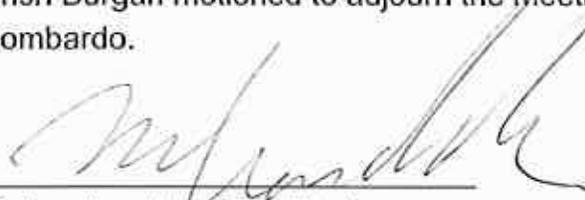
18. Members' Comments

Mr. Phelps stated that he felt one of the best parts of the District are the people who work here, stating Casual for a Cause as an example. He explained that this is a staff

funded cause that is established for employees and/or district families that have suffered a hardship or loss. Employees can donate and in return can dress 'casually' at work on the day designated.

19. Adjournment

Trish Burgan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm, seconded by David Lombardo.



Kelsey Lueshen, President



Trish Burgan, Secretary
David Lombardo