

ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140

Board of Education Meeting

January 20, 2026

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Trish Burgan

Others Present: Daniel Phelps, Tara Kochheiser, Kim Garst, Mary Vosberg-RTA, Kendal King-Kings Financial, Kindyl Etnyre, Erin Hauser, Megan Forsythe, Nicole Nelson, Justin Bonne

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

- Move #9. Executive Session to the bottom of the agenda above #18. Adjournment;
- Eliminate Approval of December Financials from #10-Consent Items. Will be approved in February.
- Add the following to Executive Session: Purchase or Lease of real property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5))

5. Comments from the Community

None

6. Correspondence

No Correspondence

7. Kendall King from Kings Financial here to present bond information

Kendall King from Kings Financial gave a presentation to the BOE regarding the history of his company, the schools that his company has worked within Illinois, and the process involved selling bonds. [Presentation linked HERE.](#)

8. Hearing on the Intent to Sell \$1,500,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds to Pay The Costs of Certain School Fire Prevention and Safety Projects

Kelsey Lueshen opened the public hearing on the Intent to Sell \$1,500,000 School Fire Prevention and Safety Bonds at 6:23pm. Information detailing this Intent was published in the Beloit Daily News on January 12, 2026. There was no public comment. Kelsey Lueshen closed the public hearing at 6:24pm.

9. Consent Items

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

- Financials: Approval of RSD #140 January 2026 bills \$450,398.81, Approval of November & December 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 \$923,757.84, Payroll Liabilities Paid \$522,606.06
- Approval of December 15, 2025 BOE Minutes

- Approval of January 5, 2026 C.O.W. Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative December 2025 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative December 2025 Financial Reports

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

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

Motion Passed.

10. Approval of Position and Job Description for Director of Teaching & Learning

Derek Erwin motioned to approve the position and job description for the Director of Teaching & Learning for the upcoming FY27 school year, seconded by Brendan Caver.

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

Motion Passed.

11. Approval of January Personnel

Non-Certified New Hire

Kathleen Sipe, Asst Sec, WPES, Effective 1/5/2026

Amanda Slocum, Paraprofessional, WPES, Effective 1/12/2026

Melissa Klotz, 1:1 Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 1/7/2026

Non-Certified Resignation

Mya Davis, 1:1 Para, SMMS, Effective 12/26/2026

Non-Certified Retirement

Lisa Rehfeldt, Head Secretary, RGS, Effective 6/15/2026

Stipend Changes

Gio Bianchi, Assistant Play Director, SMMS, Effective 2025-2026 SY

Grant Oleson, Moving from head Track Coach to Assistant Track Coach, 2025-2026 SY

Monica Way, Moving from Assistant Track Coach to Head Track Coach, 2025-2026 SY

Charlie Hart motioned to approve the January Personnel, seconded by David Lombardo.

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

Motion Passed.

12. Old Business

None

13. New Business

- Bond Discussion

Mr. Phelps advised the BOE the IWAS last 10 year life safety was not updated in their system. Once this is done, the new life safety items can be imputed. Mr. Phelps, Kim Garst and the BOE had a discussion regarding the amount of the bond to do since life safety projects did not equate to the 1.5 million stated in the hearing.

- FOIA-Security Systems/Support Contracts
Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that a FOIA request came in regarding our security systems pertaining to service agreements.
- FOIA-Illinois Retired Teacher's Association
Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that he received a request from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association for a list of teachers retiring this year. This is an annual request that the District receives every year.

14. Administrative Reports

RGS Administrative Report

1. Etnyre

- a. What is one of the best types of professional development? Peer observations! We have organized over 36 peer observation pairings over three days in January. We would like to thank Prairie Hill and Ledgewood for supporting this endeavor, too.
- b. You are all welcome to attend our Scribble Monster assembly this Friday, 1/23, at 9:30 AM or 12:30 PM!

2. PTO

- a. Thank you to all of the RSD #140 families who came out to support our student performers, the PTO and the Rockford IceHogs! We sold 630 tickets (\$3150)! Thank you to Coach Daniels/SMMS Dance Team, Ms. Ballard/WPES Choir and Mr. McMillan/SMMS Band!
- b. This Friday, 1/23, is 7th/8th Grade Rec Night from 5-7 PM. Consider volunteering!
- c. Mark your calendars for the PTO Snowball Dance to be held at SMMS on Friday, February 6th from 5:30-7:30 PM!

3. Hauser

- a. Thank you to Kristin Schmidt and Amy Stevens, for organizing an RGS staff book study! They are reading the book 'Differentiating Phonics Instruction for Maximum Impact' by Wiley Blevins. Kristin and Amy spent hours preparing for this PD opportunity and we greatly appreciate it!
- b. All of RGS earned their Little Spot rewards for demonstrating great character! On Thursday and Friday, kindergarten classes enjoyed stations in the cafeteria which include crafts, games, activities and a movie! Each grade level chose their own reward opportunity this past trimester.

WPES Administrative Report

Forsythe & Nelson

1. Whitman Post has set up a "Trusted Adult" system to ensure that every student has a staff member they trust at WPES to be able to go to with any issues that may come up during the school day. This is a program that many schools have implemented as part of their anti-bullying efforts. Students submitted a form

- that had all of the pictures and names of staff members at WPES to identify those they feel comfortable going to in order to be heard, and also help solve problems. Every WPES staff member was then given 4-8 students who were part of their "trusted adult" group to connect with throughout the month of January.
2. Way to go, WPES Choir & Ms. Ballard, on a fantastic performance at the IceHogs game!
 3. To celebrate our new Warrior Proud Behavior Expectations, we have introduced monthly challenges for students to complete. During November and December, students participated in a *Polite Challenge*. For the month of January, students will have the opportunity to complete a *Responsible Challenge*. Be sure to check out the awesome video Ms. Forsythe shared on Facebook, highlighting all of our Polite Challenge achievers!
 4. Quarter 2 Bonanza... we're headed to the movies! Later this month, students who qualify will attend our Quarter 2 reward activity as we head to Beloit Cinema to see *Zootopia 2*.
 5. Thank you, Alison Booth!
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SMMS Administrative Report

1. Bonne
1. This week we have kicked off SMMS's 23rd year of "No Name Calling Week". Throughout the week, classes will be watching inspirational videos and creating posters with positive messages. Students will also take part in lessons on how to treat others as a way to eliminate name-calling and reduce bullying behaviors. At the end of the week we will have a "Class Act" day and recognize students who exemplify great character.
2. Our boys basketball season came to an exciting close last week as both teams closed the conference tournament with wins. Our 7th grade boys finished 3rd overall, and our 8th grade team had a hard fought Championship game against Freeport but came out on top at the final buzzer after trailing most of the game. Thanks to basketball coaches Corey Kidd Sr. & Kevin Rice, dance coach Taylor Daniels, cheer coach Jessica Harper and pep band director Luke McMillan for their efforts throughout the season. Girls basketball is underway and will have their first game this week.

15. Superintendent's Report

- Updated Residency Forms
Mr. Phelps and the BOE had a brief discussion regarding a few of the residency forms that the district attorney has updated.
Charlie Hart asked Tara Kochheiser if the residency software that was purchased last year has helped to reduce the number of families falsely registered within our district, and Mrs. Kochheiser stated that it has and it has stopped a few families that have attempted to register after the school year began.
- Procedures for Managing Immigration Enforcement Officers
Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that the district's attorney has finished the new procedure regarding immigration enforcement officers. The discussion was regarding how to push this out to staff/families.
- Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Phelps stated to the BOE that he will be utilizing the services of Lynn Gibson and Sue (??? I forgot her last name) for strategic planning. The cost of their services is \$6,000 in total. 50% upfront and the remainder at the end. He asked if there were any BOE members who were willing to participate in strategic planning. Mr. Phelps stated that Trish Burgan had already agreed to participate but he would like to have one more BOE member present. Brendan Caver stated that he had already cleared his calendar for the June 2nd & 3rd meeting dates.

● ~~Wellness Audit Opportunity-1% Sales Tax~~

Mr. Phelps and the BOE had a brief discussion regarding the 1% sales tax being on the ballot in the spring and the best way to explain this to the community if asked. Some of the key points were that groceries are not taxed and that it is a continuous stream of income that the district can count on. Mr. Phelps stated that Hononegah Nations had nominated him to be the face of the Nations to the public.

16. Members' Comments

Charlie Hart stated that he stopped at SMMS and was impressed with one of the secretaries, Tina Bottensek and how she interacted with the students as well as parents. He stated that she was very professional. Justin Bonne thanked Mr. Hart for the feedback.

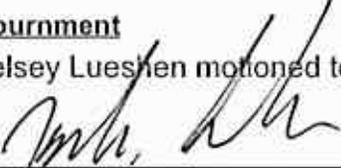
17. Executive Session

- 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))
- discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))
- Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11))
- Other matters relating to individual students (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10))
- Purchase or Lease of real property (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5))

Derek Erwin motioned to move into executive session at 7:28 pm, seconded by David Lombardo.

18. Adjournment

Kelsey Lueshen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm, seconded by Derek Erwin.



Kelsey Lueshen, President



David Lombardo, Vice-President