

ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140
Board of Education Meeting
March 16, 2026

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Others Present: Daniel Phelps, Tara Kochheiser, RTA, Kindyl Etnyre, Erin Hauser, Megan Forsythe, Nicole Nelson, Justin Bonne

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Additions/Corrections to Agenda

None

5. Comments from the Community

Christine Haeggquist-Rockford Suffrage spoke to the BOE regarding the story of Rockford's Women's Suffrage Plaza.

6. Correspondence

- Letters received from Megan Genens, Carol Rowland reiterating their desire for nondistrict certified staff to be allowed to enroll their children in RSD#140. The letters have been placed into the BOE packet for consideration.
- FMLA request from Taylor Hedrington to extend her leave through the 2026-2027 school year.
- Thank you card from the RGS Kindergarten team for the treats supplied at the last staff treat day.

7. Executive Session

- Discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1))
- Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2))

Trish Burgan motioned to move into Executive Session at 6:06 pm, seconded by David Lombardo.

8. Consent Items

Items recommended for the consent agenda are:

- **Financials:** Approval of RSD #140 March 2026 bills \$405,228.33, Approval of January & February 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: January-\$849,517.63, February-\$938,716.22, Payroll Liabilities Paid: January-\$600,078.82 and February-\$528,518.49
- Approval of February 16, 2026 BOE Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative February 2026 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative February 2026 Financial Reports

Trish Burgan motioned to approve the above referenced consent items, seconded by Kelsey Lueshen.

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

7-ayes. Motion Passed.

9. Approval of March Personnel

Certified New Hire

Heather Baker, Director of Teaching & Learning, District, Effective 26-27 SY

Non-Certified New Hire

Gabriel Mariaca Romero, 2nd Shift Custodian, RGS, Effective 2/18/2026
Trisha Mastrangeli, Para to Asst Secretary, RGS, Effective 26-27 school year
Hayley Beard, Para to Head Secretary, RGS, Effective 26-27 school year
Jasmine Stumpe, Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 3/15/2026

Non-Certified Resignation/Termination/Retirement

Patti Luevano, Paraprofessional, SMMS, Retirement, Effective End of 25-26 SY
Daniel Smitley, Paraprofessional, RGS, Effective 3/6/2026
Cheryl Daubert, Asst Secretary, RGS, Effective 3/20/2026

FMLA and Extended Child Rearing Leave

Kristine Protz, FMLA - 4 weeks, 1st Grade Teacher, RGS, 5/4/2026
Taylor Anderson, FMLA - 6 weeks, SLP, RGS, Effective 8/20/2026
Taylor Hedrington, FMLA - 12 weeks + Extended Child Rearing Leave for 26-27 SY

Certified Irrevocable Letter of Retirement

Belh DeVries, SW, SMMS, Retire end of 29-30 SY

Trish Burgan motioned to approve 1-Certified New Hire, 4-Non-Certified New Hires, 3-Non-Certified Resignation/Termination/Retirement, 3-FMLA/Extended Child Rearing Leaves, 1-Certified Irrevocable Letter of Retirement, seconded by Charlie Hart.

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

7-ayes. Motion Passed.

10. Old Business

- Health Life Safety Bond
Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that although the district went through all the steps necessary for the bond sale, at the end of the day the decision was made to withdraw. He advised that the State of Illinois caught multiple items from the original construction of the SMMS building that were included in the line items that were being used for the amount requested in the bond sale. After removing those items, the amount of the bond was reduced drastically giving pause moving forward with a bond.
- FY27 Budget Planning

Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that in April he will begin to look at budgets with each department head, including the principals, in anticipation of preparing the budget for the 2026-2027 school year. He will prepare presentations along the way to give to the BOE.

11. New Business

- FOIA request from Civic IQ; Smart Procure
Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that the district received a FOIA request from Civic IQ and Smart Procure regarding purchase orders.
- Copy Machine Lease Contract/Proposals
Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that the district was in the process of collecting bids for Copy Machines with Kinnikinnick School District.
- June BOE Date
Mr. Phelps advised the BOE that he sent out a survey to see which date would work best for the BOE's meeting in June. The original date for the BOE meeting no longer will work due to a conference that Mr. Phelps and the admin. team will be attending.

12. Administrative Reports

RGS Administrative Report

1. Etnyre

- a. Our PFA and Early Childhood classrooms have been busy! A field trip to Kids Spot, a visit to the Milky Way with Space Case Sarah and raising some chicks!
- b. Thank you to Cheryl Daubert, for her 12 years of service and dedication to RGS and RSD #140 School District!

2. PTO

- a. We are in our Rec Night era! 7th/8th and 4th/5th grade nights were a success! The 2nd/3rd grade night is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, from 5-6:30 PM.
- b. PTO would like to thank the families and community who supported the restaurant nights at Poison Ivy!

3. Hauser

- a. Thank you, Mrs. Lanning, for bringing ScribbleJim to RGS! We held two Scribble Monster Assemblies on February 18th and our students loved it! ScribbleJim performed songs, dances and learning activities that our students enjoyed greatly.

i. <https://scribblemonster.com/about/>

- b. Special shout-out to Ms. Ballard for organizing and leading an amazing first grade concert on February 17th.
- c. We are looking forward to our annual Project Fair on April 1st. We want to recognize Sally Burie (retired paraprofessional) for all of her years of dedication poured into this event. It will be her final year with Project Fair - we wish you the best, Sally!

WPES Administrative Report

Forsythe

1. Thank you to our Read Across America Week committee for organizing spirit days and some fun activities for our students! Kids got to go on a scavenger hunt throughout the school to find 8 different Cat in the Hats and enter the raffle for a prize. So fun to see the kids exploring Whitman Post and working together!
2. Thank you to our Rockton PTO and all of our volunteers for making our 4th & 5th grade rec night a great success! We had over 260 out of our 340 (over 75%) 4th & 5th grade students attend the event to enjoy the open gym, 3v3 basketball tournament,

karaoke, and play games. Always fun to see the kids come up with their own fun like hide & go seek tag together!

Nelson

1. Culver's Scoopie Night for WPES was held last week! Thank you to all the staff who came out to volunteer. It was great to see so many families there supporting WPES. We made \$876.50 and the funds raised will go right back to the kiddos for our Bonanzas and recess equipment.
2. ISA and ELA testing for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is complete! Our 5th graders completed their science assessments a few weeks ago, and all students finished their ELA tests last week. This week we will focus on any needed makeups, and after Spring Break students will finish the assessment window with the math tests. We are very proud of the effort our students have shown. Many students have been recognized for their hard work by having their "Tough Cookie" tickets drawn during announcements.

SMMS Administrative Report

1. Bonne

a. Sharing cultural celebrations

This year SMMS has continued to put an emphasis on cultural diversity. Since the first trimester our main stairwell has been transformed into an immersive "cultural awareness classroom," thanks to the incredible work of classroom paraprofessional Rena Folowell. These last two months have been no different.

During Black History Month, the stairwell highlighted a comprehensive timeline of Black history spanning from the 1600s to the present day.

This month, the display features iconic women throughout history alongside empowering quotes from our very own SMMS staff which adds a nice personal touch.

These displays are made possible through a REEF grant, and we are grateful for the resources to keep our hallways both beautiful and educational.

a. Boys Volleyball.

Our inaugural boys volleyball season is underway. We have two teams under the guidance of coach Ben Slack (who is co-owner of Inkwell Books). Several other schools have teams this season as well, including Harlem, Roscoe and Willowbrook, and we will be facing off against Rockford Schools such as Marshall as well. Thanks to Eric Eiss for being the forerunner and bringing boys volleyball to our conference and good luck to our first ever boys volleyball team!

2. Freeman

13. Superintendent's Report

- **FY26 Mentoring Update; FY27 Mentoring Plan**

Mr. Phelps updated the BOE on the current mentoring that he is receiving from Lynn Gibson and Glenn Terry. He also discussed with the BOE continuing his mentorship with Julie Schmidt who is a retired Superintendent from the Kildeer school district for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Phelps stated that her background in special education and an early model PLC could help expand his knowledge base and her services are less than the current services provided by Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Terry.

14. Members' Comments

David Lombardo gave a shout out to Brendan Caver's daughter for her performance in the show at Hononegah High School.

15. Executive Session

- Student discipline (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9))

Trish Burgan motioned to move into Executive Session at 7:01 pm, seconded by Anita Bond.

16. Consideration and Action on Student Discipline

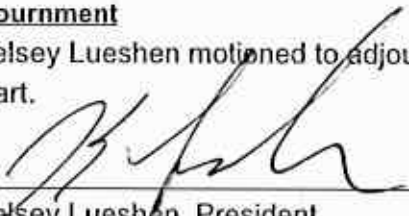
Dere Erwin motion to expel student 2526-1 through the end of the current 25-26 school year pursuant to the written findings and decision discussed in closed session, seconded by Trish Burgan.

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

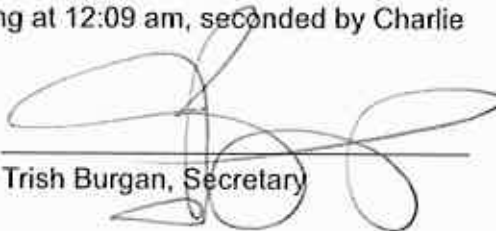
7-ayes. Motion Passed.

17. Adjournment

Kelsey Lueshen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:09 am, seconded by Charlie Hart.



Kelsey Lueshen, President



Trish Burgan, Secretary