

**Rockdale School District 84**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**715 Meadow Avenue Rockdale, Illinois, Wednesday, August 17, 2022.**

**Closed Session Meeting in the Media Center at 5:30 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting in the Media Center at 6:00 p.m.**

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**Call to Order Regular Meeting:**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Rockdale School District 84 was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 beginning at 5:40PM.

**Members Present**

Angela Stadler  
Steve Chamblee  
Ahmed Aich-Sandino  
Geraldyn Wyke  
Jolene Chamblee  
Nick Macholz  
Gerry Phillips

**Members Absent**

**Also Present**

Dr. Michael Merritt  
Jeff Peterson  
Irene Las

**Approximately 1 Guests**

**Board President Angie Stadler called to order the regular open session at 5:40PM.**

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was established.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mrs. Stadler asked all present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Adopt Agenda:**

Member Wyke made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Member Aich seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

**Closed Session:**

**Board President Ms. Angela Stadler called the closed meeting to order at 5:40 PM.**

**Motion to go into closed session at 5:40PM was made by Mrs. Wyke and seconded by Mrs. J. Chamblee to discuss the following:**

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459.
- Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- Semi-annual review of closed session minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21).

**The motion carried with all of the members voting 'aye'.**

**Motion to return from closed session was made at 6:24 PM by Mrs. Wyke and seconded by Mr. Aich. The motion carried with all of the members voting 'aye'.**

**Public Comment: None**

**Receive and Welcome Visitors:**

<b>Staff:</b>	<b>S. Mooney</b>
<b>Students:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Parents:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>None</b>

## **Consent Agenda:**

Member Wyke made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

- 5.01 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2022.
- 5.02 Approval of Financial Report: Treasurer's Report, List of Bills, Check Registry by Type, Funds Balance, and Imprest Account.  
We received a call from Dr. Frey at SOWIC to indicate that due to a bookkeeping error, Rockdale 84 realized an overcharge of \$1,007 on the August tuition bill.  
Not only will this charge be credited back to us on the September bill, but we will also realize a more accurate tuition bill as they calculate the August bill based on May tuition. The September bill will be calculated based on more accurate August enrollment.

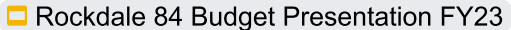
## **Superintendent Report:**

Member Wyke made a motion to approve the Communication Report as presented.

Member Aich seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

## **Dr. Merritt shared with the board the following information:**

- 6.01 FY 2023 Tentative Budget/Notice of Hearing Date – September 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.  
Dr. Merritt suggested that our annual Budget Hearing take place on Wednesday, September 21 to kick-off our September meeting.  
He asked that the board give their approval on that date.  
Then he shared the following Budget slidedeck presentation  
  
Following that he recommended the Board to approve the annual budget hearing to take place at 6:00 on September 21 and that they approve this Tentative Budget.  
Once the Facility committee comes up with a plan those extra revenues will be used.  
Board Member S. Chamblee wants to make sure our community is educated about how this works. How do we communicate that to our community?  
If we were to just concentrate on our families there would be many that may not have a way to know this. We have many renters versus taxpayers.  
Superintendent Merritt advised that if there are any other changes the board would be updated at the next meeting.
- 6.02 Registration Update  
The board was advised that in the packet, they would find registration data for the 2022-2023 school year, updated as of Friday, August 12th. He advised that Jeff, Irene, and Claudia have all been very busy with families continuing to register as the first day of the new school year approaches.

#### 6.03 Update from Facilities Committee Meeting - Aug. 10, 2022

Dr. Merritt shared that they had an awesome meeting as they brought our facilities committee back together since the start of FY23. He thanked all of the members who were in attendance including Mr. Steve Chamblee, Mrs. Beth Kelch, Mr. Eugene Lorenc, Mr. Jeff Peterson, and Mr. Chuck Puckett. After reviewing the purpose and responsibilities of the committee, they reviewed highlights from their previous meetings in April. Mrs. Sharon Uslan and Mr. Craig Campbell with Engie Services were there to present information about performance contracting, specifically the performance contracting model and its benefits. As a result of their presentation, all members of the committee indicated they thought the performance contracting model, which includes a DESIGN, BUILD approach, would be a good approach for us to move forward versus the DESIGN, BID, BUILD traditional approach with the architect.

He further advised that a collective concern of the presentation was the denied request of Engie to provide us with an estimated cost of the projects, much like we have been provided from Legat. The committee charged the superintendent with contacting a separate performance contractor, Veregy Group, who has the same national credentials as Engie whom he has partnered with in previous capacities.

During the conclusion of the meeting, the committee agreed that the watershed/storm sewer/plumbing renovation was a first priority. Additionally, the committee recommended committing 3.1M of our FY22 5.1M fund balance to these capital projects. Following the facilities meeting, Dr. Merritt met with members of our Finance Committee to review this year's budget prior to providing the tentative budget presentations. During that meeting, they discussed the allocation of 3.1M for capital projects. The members of the finance committee indicated they felt most comfortable with a maximum of 2M for capital projects. After those meetings, Chuck Puckett and the superintendent had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Veregy Group. Veregy confirmed their model would be very similar to that of Engie Services, but would be able to provide us with some preliminary draft plans and general estimates of each line item. Rather than making a decision now about funds for capital projects, Dr. Merritt recommended that they pause on any decisions relative to maximums for capital projects until they have a better understanding of the estimates to complete the projects the facilities committee feels are a priority, especially given the fact that they were advised to not set aside any dollar in Fund 60 Capital Projects from both our district auditor and attorneys.

Thus, Superintendent Merritt recommended they hold off until after Labor Day because Veregy would like to give us a more extensive list of estimated costs. That would give them time to put the prices together and then they can present to the board their findings.

#### 6.04 PRESS Issue 109 – Second and Final Reading

3:70	Succession of Authority
5:110	Recognition for Service
5:140	Solicitations by or from Staff
5:20	Suspension
5:70	Religious Holidays
6:140	Education of Homeless Children
6:330	Achievement and Awards
6:70	Teaching About Religions
2:230	Public Participation...Petitions to the Board
4:70	Resource Conservation

5:80 Court Duty  
 6:290 Homework  
 6:80 Teaching About Controversial Issues  
 7:15 Student and Family Privacy Rights  
 7:270 Administering Medicines to Students  
 7:285 Anaphylaxis Prevention...Management Program  
 7:285-AP  
 Administrative Procedure: Anaphylaxis...Program

AP - Anaphylaxis, that last part of PRESS Update, Dr. Merritt advised that he would like to form a committee consisted of the Superintendent., principal, nurse, and a parent with a medical background, to convene once per year or more frequently as needed.

He is recommends the Board to approve these PRESS updates

- 6.05 Crisis Plan Update - Second and Final Reading  
 The language in this document does meet the requirements of a plan to address threatening communication shared with Dr. Merritt. It is important to note that as we receive guidance from ISBE, Will County ROE, our attorney firm, and the Rockdale police, we will make the necessary adjustments to align with any updates that are recommended.
- 6.06 Summer Work Overview – Maintenance and Technology  
 Superintendent Merritt advised that he was very proud of Shaun and Chuck for the work they have completed over the summer relative to Building and Grounds and Technology. Updates to the Building and Grounds were to have the new doors installed on the second floor, exterior tuckpointing completed on the front of the building, the gym floor refinished, two of our classroom floors refinished, and an refresh to our Conference Room, thanks in part to Hannah Kirk and Jeff Peterson he advised . With regard to Technology, advised that we have a new camera system (still working with our rep to get the necessary software upgrades for both us and Rockdale Police), new projectors in classrooms, new poster maker in the conference room, and necessary updates to our student devices.
- 6.07 Joliet Township High School Transportation Agreement FY 2023  
 To highlight specific changes in the agreement from last year to this year, we find the daily vehicle cost increased by \$10.64; the rate per hour increased by \$.61 per hour; and the rate per mile increased \$.11. At the June Board meeting, Superintendent Merritt. was asked to create a subcommittee, of the finance committee that would be responsible for researching and investigating the possibility of facilitating in house transportation. There is one parent who has expressed interest in serving on this committee, we will need two Board members and a staff member to serve as well; similar to our finance and the facilities committee advised the superintendent. He would like to move forward with our first committee meeting in September.

He recommended the Board approve this annual Transportation Agreement with JTHS. Board members Steve Chamblee and Nick Macholz were invited by the superintendent to take part in the committee. Justin Virgin the parent interested in being part of the committee shared his interest at Meet the Superintendent. Board member Steve Chamblee wanted to know if they are limited to two board members. He thought Mr. Aich, who has an opposing view might be helpful. If we have a third board member then it would be considered a meeting advised Dr. Merritt and then the structure would also be different than our other committees.

- 6.08 Union School District Transportation Request.  
Dr. Meritt advised that they explored various options as this would mean costs could be split but it did not work out in the end.
- 6.09 Home Visits  
Mr. Peterson was wonderful to work with and shared with the superintendent. Without him there is no way we could have seen 146 families. It allowed families to be more comfortable in meeting the families. Mr. Peterson thought it was a great way to start the new year. We understand it was difficult to map out. Moving forward it will be new students and the incoming Kindergarten students. I believe we will be even more efficient every year. Board wanted to thank you. It seems to be really well received.
- 6.10 IASB Starting Right and The Board and Its Superintendent: Developing a Productive Relationship  
Remember about Monday August 22( awfully soon **Monday August 29** and September 21.  
Our representative has Rockdale scheduled for all three. We just need to advise what day works the best. It sounds like the 29th would be the best.

Kudos to all of our staff. They did a great job greeting the students.

The first round of dismissal has some hurdles to get through but it will only get better.

Member Wyke made a motion to approve the Principal's Report/Executive Summary as presented.

Member J. Chamblee seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

## **Principal's Report:**

### **Executive Summary**

- Celebrations
  - Happenings @ Rockdale, Summer version!
- Registration update for the 2022-23 school year
  - Special shoutout to Mrs. Las and Mrs. Flores for their tremendous efforts in launching registration in mid-May and diligence, above and beyond work staying caught up with this vital piece to begin the school year.
    - As of June BOE meeting, over 100 students registered.
    - As of the July BOE meeting, 190 have completed online registration with 59 students whose parents we have had no contact with even after multiple attempts, and 5 new students that are not registered to date.
    - Currently, as of 8.12.22 and after a full day of phone call follow ups, about 20 students have not registered, but we have seen an increase of about 10 new students registered over the same time.
- Update on staff access to the building
  - As of July 15th, via an email to all staff, we have the following updates to staff access to the building:
    - Effective at the start of the school year, August 15th, staff will have access to the building:
      - Monday thru Friday: 6:45 am-10 pm

- During this day/time frame, please DO NOT set the alarm.
  - Saturday and Sunday: 8:30 am-3:45 pm
  - In addition, staff are welcome to bring immediate family members into the building only when accompanied by a Rockdale staff member. Family members should remain in the same location as the staff member (i.e., hallways, bathrooms, gym, etc.), be supervised, and exercise extreme caution at all times.
  - Staff will be reminded about the BMI cleaning services during the 22-23 school year and how to arm, disarm the alarm, as needed.
- Hiring Memo
  - Mrs. Jennifer Beck, Reading Interventionist
  - [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MYfuxIKj8r4aeZVETg0nB32IVfv9e9JU\\_by m5ja8Dyl/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MYfuxIKj8r4aeZVETg0nB32IVfv9e9JU_by m5ja8Dyl/edit?usp=sharing)
  - Mrs. Beck will be paired up with Mr. Meister who has served as an interventionist in a previous district.
- Staff Recognition update
  - Reminder from July BOE meeting
    - Longevity Years of Service
      - Honor our Rockdale staff for years of dedicated service to the school.
      - Staff who have 10 or 15 years of service will receive a framed certificate, along with a service pin.
      - Staff who have 20 or 25 years of service will receive a framed certificate, a service pin, and a plaque.
- Awards of Excellence
  - Another way to recognize one certified staff member, one support staff member, and potentially one community member for their dedicated service to Rockdale School over the past year.
  - February 1, 2023, a Google form would be sent out to all parents and staff members to fill out should they be so inclined.
  - February 28, 2023, the Google form would be closed.
  - March would be analyzing the data and selecting the winners for each of the three categories based on the most responses.

Set a certain amount of credits and you can purchase items from a book.  
This can be tricky so we would need to look into this in regards to TRS and taxes.

Maybe an Amazon wishlist could do it. A T-shirt is something that is visible to students, parents and community that t-shirt, polo, sweatshirt. Some sort of acknowledgement for a week or two outside their door suggested Board Member Jolene Chamblee.

We do have an online spirit store that has been made available for staff and students. That maybe something we could do, advised Principal Peterson.

He would also like to consider an Award of Excellence a short reception ahead a board meeting. Mr. Peterson will have an update on what we could do at the end of the year.

- Extra curricular update

- On Wednesday, August 9th, large sections of the 1st base side and outfield fence was replaced by the Village. It looks great and several access gates were installed too.
- I received an opportunity to purchase a 16' x 54' batting cage with a pitching machine for \$1000. Jim from the fencing company has it and has all of the cables, etc. besides the posts to install it and would do it at no cost for the District.
- Looking to secure local partners as a sponsorship and would receive their name on a banner in the outfield.

Mrs. Stadler was wondering if we don't have funds in athletics.

Dr. Merritt funds available but this is not actually our property. It is a partnership with the village. How does the board feel about this?

Mrs. Stadler if we pay for this. The staff is looking for stipends but we are willing to spend money. Athletic budget you have to be careful as there are several different sports. We are in a refresh cycle for some sports. Prioritizing uniforms and equipment and being fiscal responsible.

- A recap from the July BOE meeting

- Collaborating with the Village, Mr. Cooling, regarding field upgrades, additions, etc. to CB Diamond
  - Baseball cage estimated cost is \$5400 and the fencing company is willing to install the posts free of charge for the school.
  - Fence cost to secure cage is estimated to be \$3790
  - The batting cage would be located next to the Rockdale Police Impound lot and is monitored by security cameras.
  - Looking to secure sponsors to offset the cost.
  - The village has secured quotes to replace the left field to center field fence along with the service gate.

- YMCA

- A reminder from the July BOE meeting.
  - Parent communication was sent out via Teacherease and Apptegy on July 31st.
  - YMCA will not be offering bus service to our Rockdale students for the upcoming 22-23 school year. This means that our parents who rely on this service for after school care for some of our students would not have this option available to them.
  - Mr. Peterson and Dr. Merritt discussed this matter and came to the final conclusion. Rockdale School will house the YMCA after school program onsite. There will not be a YMCA before school care.
  - Mr. Peterson had a discussion with Ms. Hall, YMCA rep, and will be working out the details.
  - Currently and per Ms. Hall, only 6 students have signed up for the program at the YMCA facility, but 9 students participated in the program during the 21-22 school year.
  - The YMCA will staff Rockdale School with 2 staff members to supervise the students attending the YMCA after school program. Parents are to pick their child(ren) up by 6 pm and the service is not in session on 12:30 pm dismissal or no school days.



- Mr. Peterson has determined that the YMCA after school program would be housed in the cafeteria. The YMCA would have access to the gym, pending no Rockdale School sports teams are practicing at the time and/or games, and to the playgrounds on the Rockdale School property. Students who are attending the YMCA after school program may not attend home games unless their parents have signed them out of the YMCA program for the day.
- Should the cafeteria be needed for a Rockdale School related function, an alternate location will be provided to the YMCA after school program for the day.
- The YMCA would complete the Rockdale Building/Facilities Usage form that is consistent with past practice. The YMCA will be responsible for any damages to the building that may occur during the after school program.
- Mr. Peterson will be facilitating an in person visit, pending BOE approval, with the YMCA representatives to review the space and expectations.
- Pending BOE approval, it would be communicated out to the Rockdale learning community.

Do we have a formal agreement asked by Mr. Chamblee? Insurance?  
Yes advised Mr. Peterson

- Great American Big Wheel Race
  - Our “Rock U 84” team consisting of Ms. Willis, Mrs. Olino, Mrs. Blenck, and Mrs. Shear were dressed to impress on July 31st!
    - Double elimination race
    - We came across some professional big wheel racers, but we have a plan for July 2023!!
    - Our “Rock U 84” big wheel team did WIN the best dressed category for the race! Way to go team!!
    - Special thanks to Ms. Kirk for “Rockdaleifying” the big wheel, to Dr. Merritt for his support and words of encouragement to our team, and to Mrs. Sommers and our other Rockdale fans who came out to support our Team.
  - A recap from the July BOE meeting
    - A great community opportunity presented to Mr. Peterson and Rockdale School by Mr. Colarelli, ExxonMobil.
    - The sponsorship requirement has been taken care of by Mr. Colarelli and ExxonMobil.
    - Event is/was on Sunday, July 31st.
    - <https://ucp-cds.org/events/the-great-american-big-wheel-race/>

Upcoming events:

- August 15 & 16-Teacher Institute
- August 16-Meet the Teacher/School Supply drop off
- August 17-First Day of School, full day
- August 23-Rockdale PTO meeting, 3:45 pm
- August 25-Curriculum Night, 6:00-7:30 pm
- September 5-No School (Labor Day)
- September 6-Rockdale PTO meeting, 3:45 pm
- September 9-SIP day, 12:30 pm student dismissal
  - PD for teachers, AED/CPR training for paras, cafeteria staff
- September 16-Rockdale PTO movie night
- September 23-Rockdale PTO movie night (rain date)

**Closed Session: N/A**

**Board Discussion Items:**

8.01 TrustEdge Experience

Board Member Macholz shared the information from the TrustEdge Experience Workshop.

Shared handouts from the workshop.

During the workshop he met another school board member who lived through segregation and found the information that they shared was very interesting. He shared with the board that our Rockdale works great as a team. He learned that other boards do not always work as well.

Dr. Merrit thought Board Member Macholz did a great job summarizing.

His one key take away was in the how, how.

How, how are you actually going to take action on a concern.

**Board/Action Items:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve FY 2023 Tentative Budget and annual notice of budget hearing date of September 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**

Member Wyke made a motion to Approve FY 2023 Tentative Budget and annual notice of budget hearing date of September 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Member Aich seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve PRESS Issue 109 for a second and final reading**

Member Phillips made a motion to Approve PRESS Issue 109 for a second and final reading

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve Crisis Plan Update for a second and final reading**

Member Wyke made a motion to Approve Crisis Plan Update for a second and final reading

Member Aich seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve Joliet Township High School Transportation Agreement FY 2023**

Member Aich made a motion to Approve Joliet Township High School Transportation Agreement FY 2023

Member Phillips seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six board members voting 'aye'.**

**Board Members: Aich - J. Chamblee - Macholz - Phillips - Wyke - Stadler**

**One board member voted 'naye'**

**Board Member: S. Chamblee**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to** Approve the recommendation of Closed Session meeting minutes be maintained as confidential minutes for Closed Session Meetings occurring from January 20, 2022 – June 2022.

Member Aich made a motion to Approve the recommendation of Closed Session meeting minutes be maintained as confidential minutes for Closed Session Meetings occurring from January 20, 2022 – June 2022.

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to** Approval of Ms. Jennifer Beck as the Reading Interventionist at \$51,687.44, Step 1-MA. Board Approved Dr. Merritt can make the change for the agenda with the addition of this information.

Member Aich made a motion to Approve Ms. Jennifer Beck as the Reading Interventionist at \$51,687.44, Step 1-MA Board Approved Dr. Merritt can make the change for the agenda with the addition of this information.

Member J. Chamblee seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all members voting 'aye'.**

**Comments:**

**Board Comments:**

**Board Member Aich - N/A**

**Board Member J. Chamblee -** [Great job on Mr. Peterson with the presentation about the goings on at Rockdale.](#)

[Great job Dr. Merritt on the school budget presentation.](#)

[Thank you Irene and Claudia and for all the work with registration.](#)

**Board Vice President S. Chamblee - N/A**

**Board Member Macholz - N/A**

**Board Member Phillips - N/A**

**Board Treasurer Wyke -** [Great job no more late nights.](#)

**Board President Stadler - N/A**

**Adjournment:**

Member J. Chamblee made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Member Wyke seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried on a voice vote.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM**

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**Angela Stadler**  
**President, Board of Education**

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**Ahmed Aich-Sandino**  
**Secretary, Board of Education**

**Next Board Meeting:**

**September 21, 2022 at 6:00P in the Media Center - Regular Meeting**

