

**Rockdale School District 84**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
715 Meadow Avenue Rockdale, Illinois, Wednesday, September 21, 2022.  
Closed Session Meeting in the Media Center at 5:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting in the Media Center at 6:00 p.m.**

---

---

**Call to Order Regular Meeting:**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Rockdale School District 84 was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 beginning at 5:30PM.

**Members Present**

Angela Stadler  
Steve Chamblee  
Ahmed Aich-Sandino - **Departed 6:02P**  
Geraldyn Wyke  
Jolene Chamblee  
Nick Macholz  
Gerry Phillips

**Members Absent**

**Also Present**

Dr. Michael Merritt  
Jeff Peterson  
Irene Las

**Approximately 22 Guests**

**Board President Angie Stadler called to order the regular open session at 5:30PM.**

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 5:35 PM.

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

- The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- 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).

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

Motion to return from closed session was made at 6:10PM by Mrs. Wyke and seconded by Mrs. J. Chamblee. **The motion carried with all of the members voting 'aye'.**

**Report on Closed Session:**

Mrs. Stadler advised that items mentioned per the agenda were addressed during the closed session.

**Public Comment: None**

## **Annual Budget Hearing (See Board Policy 4:10)**

### **Call to Order of Annual Budget Hearing Meeting:**

The Annual Budget Hearing Meeting of the Board of Education of Rockdale School District 84 was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 beginning at 6:11PM.

### **Board President Angie Stadler called to order the Annual Budget Hearing at 6:11PM.**

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was established.

#### **Members Present**

Angela Stadler  
Steve Chamblee

Geralyn Wyke  
Jolene Chamblee  
Nick Macholz  
Gerry Phillips

#### **Members Absent**

Ahmed Aich-Sandino - Departed 6:02P

#### **Also Present**

Dr. Michael Merritt  
Jeff Peterson  
Irene Las

### **The Board President opened the Meeting**

### **Discussion and Questions Concerning the Proposed Budget FY2023:**

Dr. Merritt gave the board another overview of the budget advising that there were two minor adjustments to it. The first was to the F10 fund and the second to the F20. These adjustments were made to allow for further transparency of these item lines.

There were no questions after his presentation.

A motion to close the Budget Hearing was made by Vice-President Steve Chamblee and seconded by Mr. N. Macholz.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

The Board President Closed the Budget Hearing at 6:18PM

### Receive and Welcome Visitors:

**Staff:** S. Moone, H. Kirk, S. Shear, J Domenico, M. Olson  
**Students:** Approximately 16 students attended  
**Parents:** Approximately 5 parents attended  
**Guests:** None

### Recognitions:

- **Celebrations**

Jared Domenico, Hannah Kirk, Matt Olson, and Stephanie Shear attended the Board meeting and led us through the recognition of our baseball and softball players, as well as highlights from a successful season.

### Consent Agenda:

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

Member Phillips seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

- 5.01 Approval of Regular and Closed Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2022, and Facilities Committee Meeting from September 13, 2022.

The minutes from the Special Board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 7 will be included on the October regular meeting agenda

- 5.02 Approval of Financial Report: Treasurer's Report, List of Bills, Check Registry by Type, Funds Balance, and Imprest Account.

Two particular purchases that were mentioned by Dr. Merritt are as follows:

The first is on page three of the Board Bills report. The purchase of 10 projectors at a cost of \$5,990 which was included in the ESSER II grant and will be paid for using ESSER II funds.

The second is also on page three. The purchase of iReady assessment materials and licenses for all learners grades 2-8.

## **Superintendent Report:**

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

Member J. Chamblee seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

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

### **6.01 FY 2023 Final Budget**

Dr. Merritt advised the board that the budget has a projected overall surplus of \$607,323, which is an increase from the projected surplus of \$582,892.00 included in the tentative budget shared in August. The projected surplus is a result of our total estimated revenue is \$5,474,453.00, with total estimated expenditures being \$4,867,130.00. Again, it is important to note he continued that we will continue to monitor fund balances in all funds to ensure we are mindful of the state's formula not to exceed 2.5 times annual operating expenditures.

The Annual FY 23 Budget as presented. A breakdown of the estimated revenues and expenditures in each fund, along with total revenues and expenditures, can be found [here](#).

Dr. Merritt is recommending the Board approve the budget as presented.

### **6.02 2023 Consolidated Election - Candidate Petitions Due Dec. 19, 2022**

As we prepare for the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election, Dr. Merritt reminded the board that we have three Board seats available as Mr. Aich, Mrs. Chamblee, and Mrs. Wyke' terms expire on May 1, 2023. He continued to advise if they or someone they know is interested in serving on the Board of Education, to please access or encourage them to access the Will County Clerk's website at [willcountyclerk.gov](http://willcountyclerk.gov) and click on Consolidated Election at the top of the homepage. Petitions may NOT be circulated prior to September 20, 2022. Filing period for petitions are December 12-19, 2022.

### **6.03 Update from Facilities Committee Meeting - Sept 13, 2022**

The superintendent shared how truly grateful for the time and energy all of our committee members put forth thus far into the facilities upgrades plan and process. The members of the committee all bring valuable insights into our discussions and are very respectful of each other's thoughts. He is excited to continue in the process as we prepare for some much needed upgrades to our facilities. As a result of our meeting, he was happy to share the following updates and recommendations:

The committee is in full support and recommends partnering with a performance contractor to complete future facilities upgrade projects.

The committee would like to forego the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and make our selection of Performance Contractor/Energy Service Company (ESCO) using The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) as a means to expedite the process of selection as we realize a short time frame to execute planning and design in preparation for next summer's projects. When using TIPS, it is within our legal right to avoid the 30-60 day RFP process. An update to this process that is important for the Board to note, which Dr. Merritt just learned that we would be the first district in IL to use TIPS rather than engaging in the RFP process. The superintendent will continue to consult with Mr. Petrarca on TIPS, which he continues to indicate it is a legal avenue to utilize to select a contractor.

The committee recommends the initial projects that need to be a priority focus for the summer of 2023 would include the storm sewer/watershed issue on the north side of the building and plumbing/sewer renovation including the courtyard renovation.

Consider construction an early learning center and brick and mortar for instructional purposes we would need to go to a referendum. That could change the timeline.

#### 6.04 Updated Threat Assessment Plan

There are a few changes to the original plan that was created back in 2019 shared the superintendent. He continued by advising that we are now required to include a Guidance Counselor on our team. Being a K-8 district, we do not employ an in-house guidance counselor. We have partnered with JTHS 204 to include Joliet Central Guidance Counselor, Lindsey Furczyk, on our team should the need arise to consult with her. The only other minor changes included updating the letterhead on which the document is posted and updating names of individuals included on the Threat Assessment Team. Annually we are required by the Will County ROE to review the plan, make necessary updates, submit the updated plan to the ROE Superintendent.

#### 6.05 Illinois Employment Information System FY22 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report

Annually, to ensure alignment with school code, we are required to present the previous year's Administration and Teacher Salary Report and Benefits Report to the Board of Education for approval; then follow up by submitting both reports to the ISBE for their records advised Dr. Merritt. We are only required to include in the Benefits Report those non-certified employees whose wages and benefits exceed \$75,000 he shared. Again he continued, please keep in mind the information for these reports are collected from the previous years.

Dr. Merritt is recommending the Board approve the FY22 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report and Total Compensation Report as presented.

6.06 Change of Electric Supplier - NextEra Energy

Back in February 2022, Dr. Schrick signed an agreement with the Illinois Energy Consortium (IEC), which is Illinois' largest electric and natural gas pool — providing competitive, reliable electric and natural gas account management and supply options to all public school districts, private schools, junior colleges, colleges, universities and intergovernmental agencies reported Dr. Merritt. The agreement is in effect for three years, until Feb. 16, 2025. As a result of our participation in the IEC, by September 30th our electrical supplier will now be NextEra Energy; no longer Engie Services.

6.07 Superintendent's Advisory Council

The Superintendent shared that he is very excited to collaborate with this newly formed council, made up of a mixture of grade-level educators, all who have been identified by the staff as colleagues they admire and look up to. Our first meeting was very successful as we highlighted celebrations since the start of the year, as well as preliminarily identified some areas of focus for continued improvements. He would also like to create two other subcommittees, one with families, and one with learners.

6.08 Board of Education Picture - Oct. 19 5:15 PM

6.09 Will County Preliminary EAV Report

As a member of the Will County School Business Officials (WILCO), Dr. Merritt received this initial preliminary report, which indicates our EAV to be \$97,330,133. He will continue to monitor notifications from the Will County Assessor's Office to determine if there are any updates to the EAV prior to me beginning work on the levy for FY24. He has registered for IASA's workshop titled Tax Levy Basics: Preparing and Filing the Tax Levy Certificate on October 12, during which he will begin completing our tax levy documentation.

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 six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

**Principal's Report:**

**Executive Summary**

**Agenda Point:**

- Celebrations
  - Rockdale Lady Rams Softball team

- Rockdale Baseball team
- Ryan Cooling, 8th Grade baseball player
  - 2nd Rockdale student athlete to hit a home run at CB Diamond field since 2008.
  - Hit it on September 7, 2022.
- Registration update for the 2022-23 school year
  - As of September 15, Rockdale School has 239 students at the physical building, plus 13 SOWIC students.
    - 12 students that are transported to Rockdale School, classified as McKinney Vento.
    - Recently, high number of new students being enrolled, several of them are “newcomers”
- Extra curricular update
  - Mr. Whalen and Mr. Peterson will have “exit” meetings with our baseball and softball coaches next week to prepare for the 23-24 school year.
  - Band and Choir update
    - Mrs. Kelch is the Band and Choir Director
    - 21 students in Band, Grades 4-6, 8th
    - 28 students in Choir, Grades 3-8
  - Girls basketball starts up Friday, September 16.
    - Coach Richards, 4th Grade teacher, is coaching both Varsity and JV teams.
    - Former Rockdale students, current 9th Graders, are slated to volunteer time to assist with practices and games as part of community service.
  - Soccer as an option at Rockdale?
    - Currently is in the fall, which will coincide with baseball/softball for IESA sporting seasons. Several current student athletes are on traveling teams outside of Rockdale.
    - IHSA soccer season is in the fall, but baseball and softball is in the spring.
    - Mr. Whalen to survey students interest
    - Continued research of other local school districts that offer soccer, Little 7, etc.
- Update-Spirit wear for BOE members
  - Special thanks to Ms. Nurczyk, Chasing T’s Incorporated, for creating and processing the orders through the Rockdale Online Spirit Store.
  - Spirit store was reopened for the BOE after the August BOE meeting.
  - Next opportunity to purchase will be in November. More information to come.
  - Thanks to everyone who ordered.
- Update-University partnerships at Rockdale School



- Alaina Hamilton, Lewis University, Social Work intern with Mrs. Stewart, 3x per week for the entire school year.
  - Fatima Agredano, Field Experience candidate with Mrs. Stewart, 3 weeks for observations.
  - Quinn Reade (Mrs. Shear), Hailey Bartlaga (Mrs. Richards), Azury Sanchez-Boyzo (Mrs. Lorenc), St. Francis, Field Experience practicum candidates for 1st semester.
  - Marlisha Peten, Premier Alternative School in Morris, Field Experience practicum candidate with Mrs. Sommers in 2nd semester.
- Update-Car Rider line, school
    - Revised car rider dismissal procedure for student safety.
      - Parents park on Belleview, facing east, form a single file line and continue down the Belleview hill west of the building by the green park.
      - More efficient each and every day. Several staff members assist with the dismissal to make it smooth.
      - Walkers exit the building through the front school doors.
    - Mrs. Stewart started her SEL, Social Emotion Learning, lessons with all grade levels this week. Each classroom and/or grade level has one dedicated time per week where Mrs. Stewart facilitates an SEL lesson. When available, Ms. Hamilton assists.
    - Working with Ms. Bohnenstiehl/Mr. Meister (ELA) and Mrs. Beasley/Ms. Kirk (Math) to support our teachers to bolster ELA and Math instruction. This includes adding a Math WIN time at the K-5 level to scaffold material so students' needs can be met while building foundational skills according to the ISBE Priority Standards.

#### **Upcoming events:**

- September 16-PTO Movie Night with blacktop opening up at 6:30 pm, movie around 7:15 pm
- September 20-Grades 3-5 Math PD with Mrs. Beasley
- September 21-Kindergarten-2nd Grade Math PD with Mrs. Beasley
- September 27-LPAC Meeting at 3:45 pm
- September 28-8th Grade PSAT assessment for HS
- October 7-Fire Drill, Time TBD
- October 12 & 19-ELA modeling with Ms. Bohnenstiehl
- October 13-Fall Picture Day
- October 14-End of 1st Quarter
- October 18-PTO Fall Family Fun Night
- November 7-Grades 3-5 ELA PD with Ms. Bohnenstiehl
- November 8-NO SCHOOL (Election Day)
- November 9-Kindergarten-2nd Grade ELA PD with Ms. Bohnenstiehl
- November 21-Fall PT Conferences, 3:30-7:30 pm
- November 22-Fall PT Conferences, 8:30-12:30
- November 23-27-Thanksgiving Break

**Closed Session: N/A**

**Board Discussion Items: N/A**

**Board/Action Items:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve Rockdale School District FY 2023 Annual Budget as presented**

Member Wyke made a motion to Rockdale School District FY 2023 Annual Budget as presented

Member Phillips seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve offer to purchase property located at 1500 Belleview and 1504 Belleview at a combined total value of \$207,00 as indicated on the appraisal.**

Member S. Chamblee made a motion to Approve offer to purchase property located at 1500 Belleview and 1504 Belleview at a combined total value of \$207,00 as indicated on the appraisal.

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve Updated Threat Assessment Plan (updated, Sept. 7, 2022)**

Member Phillips made a motion to Approve Updated Threat Assessment Plan (updated, Sept. 7, 2022)

Member Wyke seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve Illinois Employment Information System FY22 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report**

Member J. Chamblee made a motion to Approve Illinois Employment Information System FY22 Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report

Member Wyke seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

**Comments:**

**Action item: A motion to Approve the FY22 Total Compensation Report**

Member Wyke made a motion to Approve the FY22 Total Compensation Report

Member Phillips seconded the motion.

**The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'.**

**Mr. Aich was absent for the vote.**

**Comments:**

**Board Comments:**

**Board Member Aich - N/A**

**Board Member J. Chamblee:**

Great job PTO.

Thanks for the cleanup.

It sounds like we are off to a great start for the new school year.

Glad the kids are having fun with it.

**Board Vice President S. Chamblee:**

Thank you for the presentation with our students.

It's nice to see how professional everything looks.

I like the brighter uniforms. It looks like a much better sports year.

**Board Member Macholz - N/A**

**Board Member Phillips - N/A**

**Board Treasurer Wyke -**

**Board President Stadler -**

Loved seeing the students back in.

Bring them back every month and love to see them be recognized.

It is important that they see that they are recognized not only by the staff but by the Board of Education too.

Dr. Merritt advised the board that our Audit Information was now available and shared with them should they like to take the time to review it. He further explained that it must be turned into the ROE (Regional Office of Education) by Friday, October 14, 2022 which would be prior to our next board meeting. He asked that they please take a look and call him if there are any questions.

**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 7:23PM**

---

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

---

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

**Next Board Meeting:**

**October 19, 2022 at 6:00P in the Media Center - Regular Meeting**

**October 26, 2022 Special Board Meeting**

