

Rockdale School District 84

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

715 Meadow Avenue Rockdale, Illinois, Wednesday, November 16, 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, November 16, 2022 beginning at 5:33PM.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Gerry Phillips

Also Present

Dr. Michael Merritt

Irene Las

Approximately 66 Guests

Board President Angie Stadler called to order the regular open session at 5:33PM.

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 Macholz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Closed Session:

Board President Ms. Angela Stadler called the closed meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Motion to go into closed session at 5:35PM was made by Mrs. Wyke and seconded by Mr. Aich to discuss the following:

- 2.01 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).
- 2.02 Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Motion to return from closed session was made at 6:00PM by Mrs. Wyke and seconded by Mr. Chamblee.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Report on Closed Session:

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

Receive and Welcome Visitors:

Staff: S. Mooney, E. Kelch, C Puckett
Students: Approximately 30 students attended
Parents: Approximately 30 parents attended
Guests: Veregy, Inc. - Michele James - Brendan Kinzler and David ????

Recognitions:

- 4.01 Rockdale Choir
Mrs. Kelch introduced the choir who then sang to the board and their parents. She explained that these songs all were recently used in the presentation for Veteran's Day last week. They show how thankful we can be to so many - so appropriate for Veteran's Day, Board Appreciation Day and to thank their parents. They all apply.
- 4.02 Rockdale Rockstars
Dr. Merritt shared with the board and parents the process of how the students are each chosen. He then called each student up individual shared the letter from their teacher that explained why they were chosen.
- 4.03 Rockdale Board of Education Members
The superintendent also took a moment to let the parents and students in attendance know that this is Board Appreciation Week and yesterday was Board Appreciation Day. He then called each board member up individually to present them with Board Appreciation Certificates.
- Updated Board Picture
He then shared the new Board Picture with the board and advised that it has been posted to various social media platforms.

Public Comment: (See Board Policy 2:230)

- 5.01 Veregy, Inc. - Michele James
Dr. Merritt advised that from this point on we would like to have Veregy present updates to the board at the board meetings moving forward. He then introduced Michele James who shared with the board what they are recommending for Phase 1 and Phase 2 along with time lines.
- Veregy was the selected performance contractor through TIPS Cooperative Contract 220104 Energy Savings Performance Contracts authorized by the State of Illinois Statutes 5 ILCS 220/3 Sec. 3.
- After their presentation the board members showed concern for their plans of the back door. At this time there would be a brick wall. The concern is that it would limit visibility greatly. They plan to take these comments into consideration and see what other possibilities can be shared.

Consent Agenda:

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

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

The motion was carried with four (4) members voting 'aye'.

Two members voted Present

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

- 6.01 Approval of Regular and Closed Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2022, Facilities Committee Meeting on October 25, 2022, Special Board Meeting on October 26, 2022, and revised Facilities Committee Meeting on September 13, 2022.
- 6.02 Approval of Financial Report: Treasurer's Report, List of Bills, Check Registry by Type, Funds Balance, and Imprest Account.

Superintendent Report:

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

Member Aich seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Dr. Merritt shared with the board the following information:

- 7.01 2022 Tax Levy - Draft Presentation

Dr. Merritt shared the two options they previously requested.

He took a moment to share with the board as to how he came to the two options he presented.

Dr. Merritt advised the board that his recommendation would be to vote for the second option and not do the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing

- 7.02 2022 Annual Statement of Affairs

The superintendent advised that in their packets, they would find the three documents that will be published in the paper as required by school code. Those documents include the summary of expenditures and revenues (pg 6), the salary schedule (pg 7), and vendors over 2,500 (pg 8) All of the information included in these documents is derived from Michalesko's audit that was approved last month. The salary schedule is broken between certified and non-certified. He also shared that the substitute educators listed under both categories as those substitutes who are licensed as certified teachers are reported under certified staff. The vendor list includes any firm or corporation that we paid over \$2,500 total for the year who are not employees of the district (55 vendors).

Also included in the ASA, but not required to be published in the newspaper, is a disaggregation of vendors paid in a range of 25,000 and over (11 vendors); 1,000-2,500 (34 vendors); and 500-999 (27 vendors). He then extended a huge thank you to Malinda for her work in creating this document.

He recommended the Board approve the 2022 Annual Statement of Affairs as presented.

7.03 2022 Illinois School Report Card

The State and federal laws require public school districts to release report cards to the public each year. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires that states annually assign schools a summative designation that meaningfully differentiates school performance based on multiple performance measures explained the superintendent. The academic progress portion of the report is disaggregated between proficiency and growth. You will notice in the proficiency category, when all students are considered, we are below the state average percentage for learners who have achieved proficiency against the Common Core State Standards. However, you will notice in the growth category, when all students are considered, we are above the average percentage for learners who have closed the gap towards proficiency against the Common Core State Standards.

The main takeaways from this report Dr. Merritt continued is that as a school we are achieving at higher rates in ELA than Math; the learning gap experienced by some of our learners has been reduced as indicated in our growth percentages being higher than the state average; our Hispanic learners are significantly outperforming the state average in ELA; and we have a need to continue to address chronic absenteeism. As Mr. Peterson presented last month, we understand and appreciate the data we have been provided and will use the information to continue to inform school improvement initiatives and practices.

Superintendent Merritt recommends the Board approve the 2022 Rockdale 84's Illinois School Report Card.

7.04 Facilities Update

Dr. Merritt advised that he recently received a letter we received from Neil Craig, Regional Operations Manager of ENGIE Services, Inc. and the topic of the letter was discussed.

The superintendent also shared with the board that Michele, Brendan, and Dave of Veregy met with our Superintendent's Advisory Council yesterday to provide a summary of the scope of work that will need to be done over the next few years. Along with Chuck and the Veregy team, he advised that he was specifically looking for feedback from our educators on how we could most appropriately use the existing courtyard, which will be converted to an indoor learning space. Several great ideas were shared. He would like to bring the ideas back to our Facilities Committee on Thursday, Dec. 1 during which we meet with the Veregy team and finalize plans for the projects we have completed next summer.

7.05 Updated Unicare Building Maintenance Incorporated (BMI) Agreement

He advised that there will be another agreement that will apply through February 15, 2023

He recommended to the Board that they approve the updated agreement and allow him the opportunity to sign the agreement once received.

Board Member Steve Chamblee advised that he would like to see if we can add to the contract the ability to hire and train our own staff to work for us as well.

7.06 IASB PRESS Issue 110 - Policy Updates

At this point Dr. Merritt advised that there is nothing specific to report out on other than the fact that an update has been issued. He is waiting to hear from the school attorneys in regards to specific guidance on these updates. He also shared that he will be participating in a webinar on Dec. 6 during which he anticipates learning more about any particular changes that would be of significance. Should there be any items that need to be addressed he will add them on the December meeting agenda as a first read for these policy updates.

7.07 Staff/Board Holiday Gathering

The Superintendent shared with the board that a second survey was distributed to our staff last week along with the findings from the original survey.

7.08 Triple I Joint Conference Update

Principal's 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. Phillips was absent for the vote.**

Dr. Merritt shared the following information with the board:

Executive Summary

Agenda Point:

- Celebrations
 - Rockdale Rockstars, formally Students of the Month
 - Mrs. Kelch for an outstanding Veterans Day assembly held in front of about 100 people, including 10-12 Veterans which our very own Mr. Puckett was in attendance. Her hard work and vision is what made this ceremony successful as we honor and recognize current active service

members, Veterans who are still with us, and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom!

- A special thanks to the Rockdale Board of Education for your commitment to the District and setting policies so our Rockdale Rams can have a quality education.
- A special thanks to Visitation and Aid of Joliet for their Thanksgiving assistance for 5 of our Rockdale families, Mr. Zoretic from Roc City in Rockdale who is providing 10 fully cooked meals for 10 families at Thanksgiving, and Mrs. Kelch, St. Joe's and St. Paul's churches for their Thanksgiving baskets to benefit our Rockdale families.

- Library Update

- Update from Ms. Walls for September, and October
- 593 new books added to the library since July 1
- 2,043 books checked out since September 6th
- Highest Circulations
 - Grades K - 2: Mrs. Vallera's class (60)
 - Grades 3 - 5: Mrs. Lorenc's class (153)
 - Middle School: Ms. Kirk's class, 8th grade (115)
- Highest Average Circulations Per Student
 - Grades K - 2: Mrs. Vallera's class (4)
 - Grades 3 - 5: Mrs. Lorenc's class (6.95)
 - Middle School: Mr. Olson's class, 6th grade (5.09)
- Most popular book titles
 - A child called "it"
 - Minecraft
 - One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish
 - David gets in trouble
 - Creepy pair of underwear
- Ms. Walls, last month, applied for the school to receive 40 Build a Bear Reading Buddy teddy bears and \$200 to purchase new books from First Book. She found out last week that we are the recipient of the grant!

- Extra curricular update

- Boys basketball started up and had their first game on Friday, November 11 vs. Taft.
 - Have had several home and away games to begin the season
 - 7th Grade Girls Basketball Regionals is November 19
 - 8th Grade Girls Basketball Regionals is November 28
- Girls Volleyball set to start the week of November 14th.
- Potential donation of a batting cage for CB Diamond field by Mayor and Mrs. Wyke. Will revisit in the early spring so it is set up by the end of the school year.
- Student Council, lead by Mrs. Vallera and Mr. Domenico, held their first meeting on Friday, November 11th.

- 2 student representatives for Grades 5, 6, and 7, and 4 student representatives for Grade 8, plus 4 Leadership positions (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President).
 - The process has begun for reinstating National Junior Honor Society which will be sponsored by Ms. Kirk.
- Update-Spirit Store
 - Special thanks to Ms. Nurczyk, Chasing T's Inkoperated, for creating and processing the orders through the Rockdale Online Spirit Store that we had in August.
 - Spirit store will be open by Monday, November 14 at the latest for the next opportunity to purchase Rockdale Ram gear! When the link becomes available, I will share it with Dr. Merritt to send out to the BOE.
 - Thanks to everyone who ordered or are considering purchasing.

Upcoming events:

- November 15-LPAC Meeting, 3:45 pm
- November 16-Rockdale BOE Meeting
- November 16-PTO food fundraiser at Chicago Bar and Grill, 75 N. Chicago St., Joliet
- November 17-Fall Picture Retakes
- November 17-Rockdale Family Literacy Night, 6-7:15 pm
- November 18-Secrets in Science event for Grades 6-8, Rockdale School
- November 18-2nd Grade Biography Museum, 2:30 pm
- November 21-Fall PT Conferences, 3:30-7:30 pm
- November 22-Fall PT Conferences, 8:30-12:30
- November 23-27-Thanksgiving Break
- December 2-6th Grade Field Trip to MSI

Closed Session: N/A

Board Discussion Items: N/A

Board/Action Items:

Action item: Motion to approve administrative transfer of a student to alternative placement in lieu of expulsion.

Member Aich made a motion to approve administrative transfer of a student to alternative placement in lieu of expulsion

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Comments:

Action item: Motion to approve the FY 2022 Tentative Tax Levy as recommended

Member S. Chamblee made a motion to approve the FY 2022 Tentative Tax Levy as recommended

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Comments:

Action item: Motion to approve the 2022 Annual Statement of Affairs

Member Macholz made a motion to approve the 2022 Annual Statement of Affairs

Member Aich seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Comments:

Action item: Motion to approve the 2022 Rockdale SD 84 IL Report Card

Member Aich made a motion to approve the 2022 Rockdale SD 84 IL Report Card

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Comments:

Action item: Motion to approve Veregy through TIPS Cooperative Contract 220104 Energy Savings Performance Contracts authorized by the State of Illinois Statutes 5 ILCS 220/2 Sec. 2. and 5 ILCS 220/3 Sec. 3. Veregy will design, bid, estimate, and perform construction management for district preferred scope of work.

Member Macholz made a Motion to approve Veregy through TIPS Cooperative Contract 220104 Energy Savings Performance Contracts authorized by the State of Illinois Statutes 5 ILCS 220/2 Sec. 2. and 5 ILCS 220/3 Sec. 3. Veregy will design, bid, estimate, and perform construction management for district preferred scope of work.

Member Aich seconded the motion.

The motion was carried with four (4) members voting 'aye'.

One member voted 'naye'

One member voted Present

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Comments:

Action item: Motion to approve the Unicare BMI Cleaning Service Agreement through February 15, 2023

Member Macholz made a motion to approve the Unicare BMI Cleaning Service Agreement through February 15, 2023

Member Aich seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Phillips was absent for the vote.

Comments:

Board Comments:

Board Member Aich:

Thank you for the dinner and the recognition.

It was great to see all of the parents here.

Mrs. Kelch did a great job!

Thank you Mrs. Las for the binder for the conference

Board Member J. Chamblee:

Thank you for the dinner

Kudos to Mrs. Kelch!

It was wonderful to hear the letters written by the teachers for all of the Rockstars.

So many of the students were so helpful to the non-English speaking students.

That was so nice.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Board Vice President S. Chamblee:

Thank you for the dinner and the recognition for the board members

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Good Luck at the conference. It has been a few years since I have attended and hope to go again next year. I always enjoyed it and learned so much.

Mrs. Kelch is such a great cheerleader to all the students.

In regards to Transportation will that be discussed - Community would be welcome to the meetings

Dr. Merritt advised that he needs to work on the Facilities committee and then in January/February can discuss this. Has reached out to Lion Electric for information.

Board Member Macholz:

Thank you for the dinner and the recognition see you in Chicago at the conference

Board Member Phillips: Absent

Board Treasurer Wyke:

Thank you for the dinner.

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Love to see the young children sing.

They love singing.

It is so nice to have the younger students included in the choir.

Great to see so many in attendance.

Have a great holiday!

Board President Stadler:

Great turn out

I am amazed at how Mrs. Kelch keeps all of the different groups going.

She always outdoes herself!

Thank you for dinner and the recognition.

Keep us up to date on the choir and band dates.

Dr. Merritt:

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!! We really appreciate all you do for us!

Adjournment:

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

Member Macholz seconded the motion.

The motion was carried on a voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM

Angela Stadler
President, Board of Education

Ahmed Aich-Sandino
Secretary, Board of Education

Next Board Meeting:

6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 16, 2022, Media Center

