Rockdale School District 84 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

715 Meadow Avenue Rockdale, Illinois, Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

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

Regular Meeting in the Gymnasium 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, April 19, 2023 beginning at 5:30PM.

Members Present

Steve Chamblee
Ahmed Aich-Sandino
Geralyn Wyke
Jolene Chamblee - Attended by Phone
Nick Macholz
Gerry Phillips

Members Absent

Angela Stadler

Also Present

Dr. Michael Merritt Jeff Peterson Irene Las

Approximately 59 Guests

Board Vice-President Steve Chamblee called to order the regular open session at 5:30PM.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was established.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Chamblee 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 six (6) members voting 'aye'. Mrs. Stadler was absent

Closed Session:

Board Vice -President Mr. Steve Chamblee called the closed meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Motion to go into closed session at 5:33PM was made by Mrs. Wyke and seconded by Mr. Phillips to discuss the following:

- 2.01 Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- 2.02 The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees. ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459.

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

Motion to return from closed session was made at 5:57PM by Mr. Macholz and seconded by Mr. Aich.

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

Report on Closed Session:

Mr. Chamblee advised that items mentioned per the agenda were addressed during the closed session.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Chamblee asked all present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Receive and Welcome Visitors:

Staff: S. Blenck, E. Kelch, H. Kirk, A. Richards, S. Shear, C. Puckett

Students: Approximately 26 Students Attended

Parents: Approximately 26 Parents Attended

Guests: Michele James, Mark Ganzer

Recognitions:

4.01 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.

4.02 Band and Choir Awards

Incredible proud of our Band and Choir learners who recently participated in the ILMEA Elementary Festival and Solo and Ensemble Contest. Please help me welcome Beth Kelch who will lead us in publicly recognizing these learners

4.03 Bergstrom - Todd Baum

Back in late February, Board member Mrs. Wyke notified me that a local company was willing to donate some items that we may be interested in. I reached out to Todd Baum with Bergstrom, Inc. who invited us to their facility to identify some supplies that we may be able to make use of here at Rockdale School. As a result of Bergstrom's generosity, wwe gladly accepted a donation of many office supplies, two flat panel televisions, and a nice display case that will be mounted in our gymnasium.

Public Comment: (See Board Policy 2:230)

5.01 Veregy, Inc. - Michele James - Mark Ganzer

The Superintendent introduced Michelle James and the Veregy group would be presenting tonight. Veregy shared a new presentation including the additional cost of \$384,409 as presented by Veregy to include the cost of renovations to the Courtyard and surrounding areas (classroom, conference room, SSC office/tech area).

Public Participation:

Stephanie Shear - 4th Grade Rockdale School Teacher
Shared with the board the staff's feelings regarding the need of another social worker.

Consent Agenda:

Member Nick Macholz made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented Member Wyke seconded the motion.

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

6.01	Approval of Regular and Closed Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2023.
6.02	Approval of Financial Report: Treasurer's Report, List of Bills, Check Registry by Type,
	Funds Balance, and Imprest Account
	Charge of \$38,995 Johansen and Anderson saved \$11,000 on ESSR Grant and
	will need to make an amendment so that those funds can now be used in other ways to
	support our students.
6.03	Approval of Personnel Report: Employment of the Student Services Coordinator,
	Administrative Salaries for Director of Building and Grounds and Director of Technology
	Dr. Merritt took a moment to congratulate Ms. Kirk on at the board approval of her new
	position of Student Services Coordinator. Principal Peterson also took a moment to
	share the various experiences they have shared over the years as a mentor.

Superintendent Report:

Member Aich made a motion to approve the Superintendent's Report as presented.

Member Phillips seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Stadler was absent

Dr. Merritt shared with the board the following information:

7.01 3rd Quarter Fund Revenue/Expenditure Report

Dr. Marriott shared that in each fund our revenues continue to be higher than our expenditures. Overall our current revenue is \$4,519,989 compared to our expenditures at \$3,166,292. We did just receive a seventh installment of Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) on April 7 valued at \$466,449. This installment puts us at an excess of \$1,321,234 over our original estimated CPPRT budget of 1,799,300. He does expect one more installment of CPPRT in late May or early June. This final installment will put us close to the originally estimated CPPRT revenue at \$3.6M. Although I continue to be pleased with our current financial landscape, we will continue to monitor revenues and expenditures to ensure fiscal responsibility.

7.02 Will County 2023 Consolidated Election Results

Congratulations to Ahmed Aich, Jolene Chamblee, and Geralyn Wyke for being re-elected to serve on the Rockdale 84 Board of Education as a result of the Will County 2023 Consolidated Election advised the Superintendent. The new term takes them through April of 2027 he continued and we are required to facilitate a meeting during which all three members take the Oath of Office and a reorganization of the Board takes place. By law, this meeting must be conducted within forty (40) days after the election is certified through the Will County Clerk's office. Our regular May Board meeting falls within that time frame, so we will swear in the members and complete the Board reorganization to begin the May meeting.

7.03 Rockdale 84 2023-2024 Public School Calendar - Second Reading

In your packet you will find the adjusted copy of the proposed Rockdale 84 2023-2024 Public School Calendar that was approved in March reported Dr. Merritt.. The adjustment that you will find in the calendar he continued is the reduction of student attendance days from 178 to 176. As he was entering the approved 2023-2024 school calendar into the state system for approval from the Will County ROE and ISBE, hel was finding the calculations through the system had us with a total of 178 school days; or two over the required 176. He called Dr. Walsh with the ROE to talk through the reason for the extra two days. He reminded him that the two Parent Teacher Conference days (October and February) both count as student attendance days, which changed a few years back.

As a result, he reached out to the Calendar Committee to elicit feedback on a few options that we had to eliminate two of our student attendance days. The committee decided on pushing back the start of the school year to August 16th with a Teacher Institute (TI) Day. Originally, we had two TI Days on Aug 14 and 15, with the first day for learners being Aug 16. We will now hold the two TI days on Aug 16 and 17, with learners returning on Friday, Aug 18. Although only a two-day delay, the committee felt this was our best option as it gave Veregy two additional days to complete summer renovation work and educators to get back in their classrooms to prepare to welcome learners back to the new school year.

He is recommending the Board approve the adjusted Rockdale 84 2023-2024 Public School Calendar as presented.

7.04 Resolution of Disposition of Equipment

Superintendent Merritt advised the board that they will be provided with a Resolution of Disposition of Equipment or the purpose of disposing of equipment that is no longer needed, including classroom furniture, office storage furniture, Track and Field jump pit, old textbooks, athletic equipment, and library books. The purpose of this disposition is to clear out some of our storage spaces, which the Board has seen during our building walkthrough

I am recommending the Board approve the Resolution of Disposition of Equipment as presented.

7.05 Athletic Directors Job Description - Second and Final Read

An updated copy of the Athletic Directors job description has been provided shared Dr. Merritt. This job description remains the same as presented for a first reading. The only adjustment was under the Qualifications/Local Requirements section. Originally this section included a requirement of "at least five years teaching experience". That qualification/requirement would eliminate Mr. Whalen, our current Athletic Director, from serving in the role as he is only in his third year of teaching (finishing his first in Rockdale 84). Therefore, I have removed that requirement.

He is recommending the Board approve the Athletic Director Job Description as presented for a second and final reading.

7.06 School Fees for 2023-2024 - Second and Final Read

A copy of the draft School Fee Schedule for the 2023-2024 school year has been shared advised Dr. Merritt. The schedule includes comparisons between this year's fee schedule and his recommended fee schedule for next year. There have been no adjustments from last month's first read. To remind you, the most significant changes from last year's fee schedule will be to school fees, including the \$60 charge for school fees and \$5 charges for both gym and hall locker. You will also notice the cost for a PE uniform has been eliminated as we no longer require a specific Rockdale PE uniform to be worn. Learners are welcome to bring school-appropriate activewear to use when participating in their Physical Education class. The rationale for eliminating school fees is to lessen some of the burden on those families who have not been identified as low income. Currently, we budget for a revenue from school fees to be \$4,500. Given our current financial situation, I believe eliminating school fees will be a welcome gesture to our families.

He is recommending the Board approve the School Fees for 2023-2024 as presented for a second and final read.

7.07 2023-2024 Staffing Plan

This current staffing plan includes an additional Social Worker due to a continual increase in various social emotional needs. Dr. Merritt, Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Stewart have had several conversations throughout the second semester relative to the increase in additional support that is needed to most effectively address the needs of our learners. Superintendent Merritt advised that you will find a letter crafted by our current Social Worker, Allyson Stewart, with a rationale as to the need for additional support. You will also find copies of her daily schedule, a description of the duties she is responsible for (including her caseload of 32 learners), and her compiled list of general education learner walk-ins since August. She did indicate the list of general education learners is not exhaustive as she may not have documented certain crisis situations in the moment.

We have realized an increase in Rockdale learners who are identified as needing support in our outside programs including Early Childhood, which require Allyson to spend time at those facilities to participate in play-based assessments, which then require additional documents to be completed to determine if learners qualify for services. It is also an expectation of the administration that she provide support for educators in their classrooms to teach SEL lessons. We also would like to see her observe learners in classrooms with the intent of her providing feedback to educators on how to most appropriately address social and emotional behaviors the learners exhibit. With her current schedule she is not able to provide this type of support within the classrooms. You will notice on the document that outline her duties, she indicates bi-weekly times during which she can facilitate these SEL lessons in classrooms. We would like to see this take place on more of a weekly basis.

Based on preliminary grant funds, Dr. Merritt is anticipating that a significant portion of this position's salary could come from both Title I and ESSER III dollars, at least in year one.

Currently, this is an idea we are exploring. We are not currently looking for approval, but more so providing you with information and an opportunity for you to ask initial questions.

Any questions?

Board member Jolene Chamblee understood that the newly formed position would handle some of these situations. If that is so, why do we need an additional Social Worker? Mr. peterson advised that during the day we could have 3-4 situations going on at the same time. Mr. Peterson would not have the social worker knowledge to be able to help them cope with some situations. The student services coordinator will be available to help with the discipline issues but if Mrs. Stewart is pulled away from servicing her minutes. The second person could help address that as the team works through the situation.

Dr. Merritt also shared that before winter break this conversation started to assess the situation and what support would be needed. It was decided to bring it to the board so that it can be considered this was fiscally difficult to decide. Once a month the Superintendent has been talking to other superintendents to share their thoughts and needs. There has been an increased need throughout the area for social workers.

Board Member Aich suggested that the staff knows what they need. I believe this is something we need to support he continued.

Board Vice President Steve Chamblee indicated that he understands that the needs are different fiscally for us but can be different emotionally too. In the long range this is another cost. We have smaller class sizes. There does seem to me a move to focus on social workers. Mr. Chamblee spoke to many friends in the educational field and they are indicating that there is a need in their districts too. I just want to make sure we keep an eye on our fiscal needs, he said. It does sound like we need it whether it has to do with COVID I don't know.

Superintendent Merritt advised that originally it was said that the cost of COVID will take us 3-5 years to get past. The timeline is more like 5- 10 years now. Our students missing school for a year and half and I believe this is likely to affect them for their whole educational career.

7.08 Branding/Mascot Update

In January, we engaged in discussion related to our School Branding/Mascot explained the superintendent. You may recall he engaged in discussion with a former colleague, David Pohlmeier, during which he asked where we got the Ram logo and if we had the copyright to use this logo. Not being sure he indicated he would do some research and Dr. Merritt agreed that he would inquire with Jeff and Shaun when he returned from the conference. After he and I both found some answers, I realized that our Ram logo is not original and we do not have a copyright to use that logo. David reminded me of the importance of using an original brand for our school. Essentially, if we do not have the copyright for our brand/logo/font, we could potentially put ourselves in a position to be litigated against. As a follow up to this discussion, the superintendent reached out to our legal team for guidance with a direction to address this issue. He received an update from Justin Petrarca earlier in the week. Along with a colleague of his, they were able to do some research to, find that several schools in the Chicagoland area use the exact same image of the Ram (included in the letterhead of this document), only with different colors that match their chosen school colors. Due to the fact that this is a stock photo found through a Google search with seemingly no organization having a copyright of the image, Justin suggests it is within our right to continue using this as our mascot. He went on to explain that we could actually move forward in the process to have the image/mascot copyrighted, but that could be a pretty extensive process, coming with a cost that may be more than we want to spend. Based on his guidance, Dr. Merritt is recommending that we continue to use the image as a component of our school branding as we move forward with updating signage and beautification of the building.

7.09 Board of Education Meeting Dates FY2024

To keep with our current schedule of facilitating our regular meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, I am recommending the following meeting dates for the 2023-2024 school year:

July 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center August 16, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center September 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center October 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center November 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center December 20, 2023, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center January 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center February 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center March 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center April 17, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center May 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center June 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m. in the Rockdale School Media Center

Dr. Merritt would like to request a change to the June meeting date. If possible, change Wednesday, June 21, 2024 to Tuesday, June 20 or Monday June 19, 2024 although this is a holiday.

The dates above note the change to Monday, June 19, 2024.

7.10 Summer Hours for 2023

The recommendation that the school office hours from the first full week in June through the second week in August be Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m was made by Dr. Merritt. Typically, we would have learners in the building for summer school from Monday – Thursday. However, with the scheduled building renovations we will not this year. Given the scope of interior renovation, Chuck is condensing his work so most maintenance projects will be done in July/August. Unlike last year, public access, including educators access, will be extremely limited due to the renovations and focus on safety for all. Depending on when water is shut off for the plumbing renovation the office will be closed. When the office is open, the public can access the building through the walk-up window. Should a guest need to enter the office, they will be allowed entry. unless guidance changes allowing for entrance into the building advised the superintendent.

Anticipated maintenance work for the summer of 2023 includes the installation of approximately 22 interior doors to replace those identified in the district's 10 Year Life Safety Plan. In addition, we will look to have our lockers repaired and refinished. These projects are in addition to the extensive interior and exterior renovations that will take place including exterior storm and sewer renovations, interior plumbing renovations, courtyard and adjacent rooms renovations, gym roof replacement, and complete tear out and replacement of the southwest blacktop area.

Principal's Report:

Member Macholz made a motion to approve the Principal's Report as presented. Member Phillips seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Stadler was absent

Mr. Peterson shared the following information with the board:

Executive Summary

Agenda Point:

- Celebrations
 - Rockdale Rockstars-April
 - Band and solo ensemble
 - ILMEA participants
 - twelve students from 4th and 5th Grade participated in the District 1 Elementary ILMEA Festival on Saturday, April 15
 - Chamber of Commerce Essay winners (May BOE meeting)

• Extra curricular update

- Track and Field had their first meet in over 6 years at the Little 7 Conference meet at Lockport East High School.
 - We had track and field student athletes competing in events, like, but not limited to: shot put, discus, 100 M hurdles, 4 x 100 relay, 4 x 200 relay, 200 M dash, 400 M dash, 800 M, 1600 M, long jump.
- Ms. Kirk and the NJHS (National Junior Honor Society) members are hosting a Pet Supply Drive for Paws Up 4 Rescue from Monday, April 24th-Friday, May 12. This is their service project for the school year.
- Potential donation of a batting cage for CB Diamond field by Mayor and Mrs. Wyke. Dr.
 Merritt and Mr. Puckett is beginning the process so it is set up by the end of the school year.

Rockdale Rammy Awards

- Parents and staff can nominate individuals for the inaugural Rockdale Rammy Award.
 - We will be recognizing one Rockdale Teacher, one Rockdale Support Staff member, and one Rockdale Parent Volunteer for this award.
 - Light reception prior to the May BOE meeting where they will be officially recognized for their commitment to Rockdale School for the 22-23 school year.
 - Nominations are due Wednesday, May 3rd at 4 pm and nominations will be submitted via Google form.

- IAR testing (Illinois Assessment for Readiness)
 - IAR testing started on Tuesday, April 11th.
 - MS students have completed all sections of IAR, outside of makeups due to student absences.
 - o 8th Grade has completed the ISA, Illinois Science Assessment.
 - 3rd-5th Grade students have two days of testing remaining, Tuesday, April 18th and Wednesday, April 19th.
 - Mr. Peterson will begin conducting make ups this upcoming week.
 - 5th will be taking the ISA, Illinois Science Assessment, as per state requirement, over two days on April 25th and 26th with Mrs. Lorenc, Mrs. Ortiz, and Mrs. Hicks.

Building update

- o 8th Grade Graduation will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd at 6 pm
 - Rockdale BOE members are invited to attend
 - Twenty-three (23) graduates for the 22-23 school year.
- Tenured and non-tenured certified staff evaluations
 - All have been completed, filed in their Personnel file, and staff received a copy for their records.
 - 17 staff members were on cycle during the 22-23 school year.
 - Eight (8) staff are non-tenured (4 years or less), with three staff becoming tenured on the first day of 23-24 school year
 - Nine (9) staff are tenured
 - 24% (4 out of 17) of our staff received an overall Summative rating of Excellent
 - 76% (13 out of 17) of our staff received an overall Summative rating of Proficient
 - Summative ratings consist of 70% Professional Practice from formal and informal observations and 30% is Student Growth (20% iReady growth from Fall to Winter benchmark & 10% a type II or III classroom or curriculum assessment)
- April 26-Annual Science Expo, sponsored by ExxonMobil, and held at Minooka Intermediate School.
 - Last year, Rockdale was representing with the most club teams (6)
- Horizontal and vertical articulation meetings between grade levels are scheduled for May 10 as tentative class lists are drafted.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

- o April 20-Elementary team meeting, 8 am, library
- o April 21-ABC countdown begins
- o April 25-26-5th Grade administer ISA, Lorenc's classroom
- o April 26-Rockdale Rammy Award nominations due
- o April 26-Science Expo at Minooka Intermediate School, 5:00 pm
- o April 27-Spring Band and Choir Concert, 6:30 pm
- April 28-ExxonMobil Secrets in Science Event (Kindergarten thru 8th Grade)
- o April 28-Rockdale Talent Show sponsored by Student Council, 6:30 pm
- May 4-Kindergarten Screenings
- May 5-2nd Grade Culture Fair
- May 8-12-Teacher Appreciation week
- May 12-SIP Day, 12:30 pm student dismissal
- o May 12-Student Council Dance, 6-8 pm
- May 18-Tentative 8th Grade Class trip to Great America
- May 22-Graduation practice, PM
- o May 23-Graduation practice, AM & 8th Grade Graduation breakfast, 12:00 pm dismissal
- May 23-8th Grade Graduation
- May 26-12:30 pm student dismissal and last day of school

Board Discussion Items: N/A

Board/Action Items:

Action item: Motion to Approve the 2023-2024 Extracurricular Stipend Schedule as proposed

Member Aich made a Motion to Approve the 2023-2024 Extracurricular Stipend Schedule as proposed

Member Phillips seconded the motion.

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

Mrs. Stadler was absent

Comments:

Action item: Motion to approve the project status update as presented by Veregy to include the
Courtyard and surrounding area renovation the additional amount of \$384,409

	ember Macholz made a Motion to approve the project status update as presented by Veregy to clude the Courtyard and surrounding area renovation in the amount of \$384,409
Th	ember Aich seconded the motion. ne motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'. rs. Stadler was absent
С	comments:
Action ite School Ca	m: Motion to approve the recommended adjustments to the Rockdale 84 2023-2024 Public alendar
	ember Phillips made a Motion to approve the recommended adjustments to the Rockdale 84 023-2024 Public School Calendar
Th	ember Macholz seconded the motion. ne motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'. rs. Stadler was absent
Co	omments:
Action ite	m: Motion to approve the Resolution of Disposition of Equipment as proposed
М	ember Macholz made a Motion to approve the Resolution of Disposition of Equipment as proposed
Th	ember Aich seconded the motion. ne motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'. rs. Stadler was absent

Comments:

Action item: Motion to approve the Athletic Directors Job Description - Second and Final Read		
Member Phillips made a Motion to approve the Athletic Directors Job Description - Second and Final Read		
Member Aich seconded the motion. The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'. Mrs. Stadler was absent		
Comments:		
Action item: Motion to approve the School Fees for 2023-2024 - Second and Final Read		
Member Macholz made a Motion to approve the School Fees for 2023-2024 - Second and Final Read		
Member Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'. Mrs. Stadler was absent		
Comments:		
Action item: Motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates FY2024 as proposed		
Member Aich made a Motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates FY2024 as proposed		
Member Macholz seconded the motion.		

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

Mrs. Stadler was absent

Comments:

Board Comments:

Board Member Aich:

What can we do for you to stay Mr. Peterson?. We appreciate you. I hope you change your mind.

Mr. Peterson responded with a thank you.

This was a very difficult decision and I am very optimistic with the direction the school is going. What is best for the school students and staff is to have an instructional leader to help the kids thrive academically. I appreciate the five years I have been here. Once a Ram always a Ram. I will stay in contact. This is a very difficult decision. I reflected there needs to be growth in the academic area very optimistic with the candidate pool. That they will continue to build moving forward. Great job Mrs. Kelch and Shear

Board Member J. Chamblee: N/A

Board Vice President S. Chamblee:

Congratulation Ms. Kirk.

Mr. Peterson, thank you for the great honor to hear from you and talk to you. It was an amazing conversation. We will miss not only in height but also in professional conduct. We appreciate everything you have done for us . What will take you to keep you in the building? You have changed the lives of many of our students. I hope you know that we are always available to you. It has been a great honor. Thank you, we wish you well. If we were voting, I would vote no to your letter of resignation.

Congrats to all of those who won the election.

Board Member Macholz: N/A

Board Member Phillips: I would like to throw in my support for another social worker.

Board Treasurer Wyke: N/A

Board President Stadler: N/A

Dr. Merritt: N/A

Member Macholz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was carried with all six (6) members voting 'aye'. Mrs. Stadler was absent

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM

Steve Chamblee
Vice - President, Board of Education

Ahmed Aich-Sandino Secretary, Board of Education

Next Board Meeting:

6:00PM, Wednesday, May 17, 2023, Media Center