

**ROCKDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #84
SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Meadow Avenue Rockdale, Illinois, Tuesday, July 15, 2020
Regular Session p 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, July 15, 2020 beginning at 6:03PM.

This meeting was held telephonically due to the COVID-19 health concerns. Public Comment was made available through a phone link via Google Meet.

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum:

Members Present

Angela Stadler
Steve Chamblee
Stephanie Gordon
Geraldyn Wyke
Jolene Chamblee
Ahmed Aich-Sandino

Members Absent

Also Present

Dr. Paul Schrik
Jeff Peterson
Irene Las

Approximately **2 Guests**

Board President Angie Stadler called to order the regular open session at 6:03PM.

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 carried with all members voting 'aye'.

A closed session was not needed and was N/A

Public Comments:

N/A - Dr. Schrik did not receive any requests to enter the meeting and no one was at the doors to participate in the meeting.

Receive and Welcome Visitors:

Staff: Two staff members

Students: None

Parents: None

Guests: None

Recognitions:

Consent Agenda:

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

Member Stadler seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

- Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting Wednesday, June 16, 2020.
- Approval of Financial Report: Treasurer's Report, Monthly Cumulative, List of Bills, Check Registry by Type, Funds Balance, Imprest Account, Activity Account for Month and by Fund, and Cash Flow Report.

Communications/Delegation or Reports:

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

Member Aich seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Dr. Schrik shared with the board the following information:

a. 2020-21 Draft Budget

Dr. Schrik shared information regarding the budget.

District 86 has given our staff the opportunity to do PD online with conjunction with them. Dr. Rouse Superintendent of District 86 is putting this together and offered to include our district too. This usually costs \$500 per person. However, they have negotiated a better rate and extended the opportunity to our staff.

This would be in addition to the Cares Act for the fall plan. They need to put in approximately 10 hours each and Dr. Schrik would like to add to the budget to reflect this and to pay for stipend and cost of this professional development.

b. Registration Update

Dr. Schrik took a moment to thank Mr. Peterson, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Puckett, Mrs. Flores and Mrs. Las for all of the work that they have put in place to make this process easier for parents, staff and students.

He continued with the current numbers of students enrolled and breakdown of anticipated classes. He then advised that many districts were calling families to see if they intend to enroll their children and return in the fall. This information would allow us to better plan for the start of the school year. Keeping this in mind, he suggested that Mrs. Flores and Mrs. Las start this process with our families as soon as possible.

c. Summer Maintenance and Technology Update

Again, the superintendent took a moment to thank Mr. Peterson , Mr. Mooney and Mr. Puckett for their efforts this summer.

One of the board members asked for an update on the lockers. Did we move forward with that? However, due to COVID-19 painting them was put off since they would not likely be used this year with the guidance that was received. As far as the gates were concerned pull downs are not permissible as it closes off exits from the building. However, you can use a collapsible gate. Mounted gates can not be used according to school code.

They also wanted to know the status of removing the outside grate of the Kindergarten room and some of the obsolete vents on the back of the building.

The work being done now advised Dr. Schrik involved some unexpected expenditures responded Dr. Schrik as they discovered that there was no flashing and this was causing water seepage. This had to be addressed now.

Board President Stadler advised that she had a chance to tour the school.

They painted the gym and it looks beautiful, she advised. The dust is gone and it looks awesome, she continued. The back of the school looks great too . The superintendent shared that the funds for his all came from the Maintenance Grant that was received. The money is here too, he advised.

d. Amending 2020-21 Rockdale Public School Calendar

Dr. Schrik advised the board that the governor is requiring that all schools close on November 3, 2020. It has extended the year by one day and we have sent this on to the state for approval.

e. Disposition of Equipment

These are items that over the work that we can not reuse, sell or recycle advised the superintendent

f. Sub Nurse for 2020-21 school year

This will be very important for the school year. He would like to have Danielle Opperman sub again this year for the same amount of \$25. This will be less expensive than using an agency. Moving forward it is very important to have a nurse or sub nurse on hand. If we do not have one we may need to cancel school for the day.

g. PRESS 4:170-AP6 Administrative Procedure Update

Needed to update with new names of staff on the information.

h. Mask Wearing Policy

He shared the language that our attorney shared with us for the guidelines. They must wear it while in the building without it they cannot enter. This would be true of anyone entering the building. It will be placed in the handbook, points of entry and our website. The only exception would be medical. We plan to let parents know in advance. Knowledge of this will be important.

Especially incoming Kindergarten may find this harder. We have a document of appropriate face coverings to share with our students. In most cases our students aim to please, we just need to make them aware and get used to it. It is going to be teachable. Hopefully with getting the message out parents in advance they can help prepare the students to wear it.

How will the face mask be handled when it becomes a biohazard?
The board would like to consider a separate place to dispose of these masks. Not just using a trash can. Dr. Schrik advised that we will look into it and reach out to the entire board with what is learned.

Principal's Report:

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

Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Subject: Executive Summary for July BOE meeting

Executive Summary

Thanked everyone in the building for their hard work for everything so far.

Agenda Point:

- Update on school materials
 - Student belonging pick up started on Monday, May 18
 - Information has been sent out via Teacherease and on the district website
 - Ongoing phone calls being made by Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Flores for Spanish speaking families.
 - Currently, outside the main office for ease of distribution, 18 bags of student belongings are left to date. Decrease of 2 since the June meeting.

- Return of Chromebooks
 - Began Tuesday, May 26 and is ongoing which includes phone calls/emails being made.
 - As of 7.15.20, we have 8 outstanding Chromebooks plus chargers, which includes one student who is out of town until the fall and one student who is using it for summer school, ESY.
 - One student has an outstanding charger and one student has an outstanding Chromebook bag
 - Per Mr. Chamblee's request, a formal "return of device" letter has been created and will be sent out starting Monday, July 13, both first class and regular mail.

This has been delayed slightly and the letters will likely go out tomorrow, Thursday July 16, 2020.

 - Language in the letter outlines potential consequences if not returned. A date of July 24 has been set for parents to reach out and schedule a drop off date of the devices.

Agenda Point:

- Consideration for start of 2020-21 school year
 - Flexible plan, based on guidance could move to full in person or full remote learning, designed with safety, equity, and in person learning at the forefront while mitigating the virus.
 - New language at beginning on page 5 of the Rockdale Parent-Student handbook, plus on signage around the building and on the District website as related to COVID 19, per legal
 - Transitioning Back to In-Person Instruction (Face Coverings): During the 2020-2021 school year, while the District operates using in-person instruction under Illinois' "Restore Illinois" plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with joint guidance issued by the Illinois State Board of Education ("ISBE") and the Illinois Department of Public Health ("IDPH"), all students will be required to wear face coverings (i.e. masks) at all times while in the building, except: when eating meals; if they have trouble breathing; if they are unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance. Face coverings must be worn at all times in the building even when social distancing is maintained. Face coverings do not need to be worn outside of the building if social distancing is maintained. For those students who are unable to wear a face covering due to having trouble breathing, a doctor's note will be required to substantiate such an inability. These requirements are meant to ensure the safety of fellow students, staff and their families, and may change pursuant to updated public health guidance and varying public health conditions. The failure to adhere to these requirements will be treated in the same manner as other student handbook violations.
 - **Return to In-Person Instruction Plan-Phase 4**, see attached
 - outlines general safety precautions, modified physical spaces, protocol for accessing school and/or district office, academic and co-curricular activities, etc.
 - Presented to BOE, then share with staff, and then a condensed version of this document sent to parents after the BOE meeting.
 - **Blended Learning/Hybrid Model Schedule-Phase 4**, see attached
 - worked quite extensively with the focus group we created.
 - assessment to drive instruction which priority standards drive in person learning as we look to address anticipated academic gaps
 - Students will have access to breakfast and lunch everyday whether it is in person or they take it the day before. Working with Quest to provide more

variety in lunch options over the course of the week, but it will be to go and only one option per day for prep logistics at Union.

- 5 hours of ISBE guidance for instruction (hybrid of in person and remote), staff fulfill CBA obligations, building to be cleaned thoroughly starting at 4 pm (which addresses safety).
- A/B schedule with full remote learning, no students in the building one day per week which looks to be Friday's as it aligns with our already scheduled SIP days, allows for EQUITY based on the number of days A students will be in person learning as compared to B students in person learning.
- In person learning has the biggest impact on academic achievement, plus it allows for in person social emotional learning and building of rapport which is difficult behind a screen or if a student even checks in.
- Consideration for IEP and/or Tier 3 students to attend in person learning 3-4 times per week for continued exposure to the content material and more targeted instruction, i.e., small group, etc.
- Students will be in the building from 8:20-12:20 pm, will leave with a to go lunch, and homework to complete before the next time they are in person learning. This allows for one extra hour, 30 minutes for two days, in a full week of in person learning and the ability in the A/B model to have more direct impact sooner to address deficits and/or misconceptions.
- All students will have access to a Chromebook to take home, when/if applicable.
- Specialists could be utilized in a co-teaching model, small group instruction, and/or remote learning for their specialty area, i.e., music, PE, etc.

The remote learning in the fall needs to be an extension of learning, advised Dr. Schrik. We need to assess the students to find any loss and address it. The safety plan reflects the guidance of the state. We need to be flexible and the plan can change from day to day.

Today the superintendents addressed various questions that they have for instance:

Is there enough staff at the health department.

The board asked if we are required to start using a hybrid model in August? No, the superintendent responded.

Subs are also an issue many have retired. How easily will we be able to find one during a pandemic?

Staff - Self Certification? In our case the website and aptegy app has been very helpful. We can have parents, staff or anyone entering the building do it. If they opt not to do so at what point can we take action?

The ROE will be passing on these questions to ISBE and IDPH.

We checked with our attorney and we have put in place the guidelines to use when we open but things that are changing.

Staff have been very helpful in presenting issues and considerations.

Many districts are backing off of a full five days in school due to comments from the governor. Although we have a very good plan in place there is a concern that we might move from the current Phase 4 back. We meet the guidelines. We want the students in front of our teacher's even though it may be 20-25 percent of the week.

Principal Peterson talked about our iReady for the diagnostic taken three times a year. Last year we were not able to test in March due to the school closure. Our staff responded immediately and there was nothing that could have prepared them. They were all in. Prior to the pandemic there was talk of remote plan but not to this degree. The staff worked very hard. Our teachers did a phenomenal job of putting everything in place. We learned as everything was put together. Now we will be moving back to traditional grading. Equitable plan 69 days an A student would be in person and 69 days a B student would be in the building.

We have worked with Quest to provide meals throughout the time. They will take home meals for the days that they will not be at the school at the end of the day. We have requested that they offer various meal options.

Our plan is in person learning from 8:20 to 12:20 targeting Math and ELA. That will allow the teacher to check in with the students in the afternoon. Maybe to meet with the students at home or maybe a student that is struggling.

For middle school students will have the four content areas.

This will be very difficult for our incoming kindergarten students. Hoping to put together some small videos to show them what the school behaviours are.

They will be eating prior to arriving at school. Originally, we were going to do breakfast at school. As a safety procedure it was decided that they would be safer to eat at home with the provided meal. They need the opportunity to meet their teachers but they will not just be able to move around the school.

They are going to monitor progress for IEP's. The therapies they can get are OT, PT and speech services.

The plan is that they work in the afternoon with an extension of what they are learning in the morning. That way when they are face to face with the smaller class size. The staff can have targeted interventions and focus on their needs. The B students can work on iReady, homework, they can access the online resources. The team working on using one platform using google classroom and then flip lessons.

Dr. Schrik advised that this plan put through to the board follows the guidelines by the state. Majority remote plan keeping the student safety in mind. There is definitely an advantage to the student with an in person with the teacher. This plan allows for that in a safe way allowing to address the student's gaps in person. It provides equity to all of the students.

We need to be flexible. On June 23, 2020 it changed from being able to use a mask or face shields to strict guidance on face coverings. We have exhausted ourselves trying to meet the guidelines of the state. We are making a full attempt. We would like to recommend the plan as we have shared it. If needed we could move into remote learning. There are definitely concerns to do in person instruction. In the end the district needs to approve a way to move forward. These are very unique times and circumstances that we are in. We will try to answer any questions but it is important to know how the board feels about all of this. Please present concerns and thoughts.

Moving forward we can see that much work has gone into this. We should approve this but suspect that by August things should change. Sometime in the future it is very likely that we will be using this plan regardless.

How many students will be in school?

Looking to make both groups are even keeping families together as much as possible.

So approximately 125 in each group.

How do you do that with meeting groups of 50?

This can be done because they are arriving over three different entries. That is how we can do it. We are looking to keep the students in specific class rooms and the teachers will move from room to room instead.

Will there be a log of who is together should something happen?

Yes. We will be taking attendance as well as self certification . This will be harder for the teacher as they will have more work.

President Stadler had a chance to tour the rooms. They, meaning students, truly are six feet apart. Extra items have been removed as they have requested.

The board showed a concern for proper ventilation with the students and teachers wearing masks all day. We need to make sure that there is enough ventilation.

Also, do we have enough masks, hand sanitizer, gloves on hand.

Dr. Schrik advised we have a large supply of what would support the guidance. There is quite a bit of PPE as we were able to take advantage of the Imprest account to purchase this. It is one size fits all. The board suggested that if there is extra money to purchase some character masks for the lower grades. If they are in their size and colorful they may want to wear them more too.

Another concern the board shared where our stance on face masks children with sensory issues. How is that going to be handled? Can they be taught remotely? If that would be an issue. Dr. Schrik advised that we would need a note from the doctor and they would be full remote learning. We also have some staff that may need to work remotely too. So that may be who would work with those students.

Substitutes - Last year we had issues with this. Other districts had issues with this too. Now with a pandemic what will we do when we do not have enough substitutes.

The superintendent stated that this is very valid. We need to know what the tipping point would be. There are many things that would cause us to move to a full remote model quickly. There could be no subs, issues with our teachers, maybe there is a regional issue. We need to decide what the tipping point would be. It could be two weeks or indefinitely. These issues are all real and valid and difficult to answer.

Mr. Peterson advised that in working with Mrs. Flores they have learned that some subs have officially retired. Within the last two weeks we heard from one of our subs who is all in. It will depend day to day. I appreciate that it is only one person. If there are multiple teachers calling off at some point there will be a shortage.

Another concern would be in junior high once we have a student that has covid. The plan is for the teacher to be moving from grade to grade. Once the first case comes it would affect the whole junior high. Not only the A students and the B students too. This is a risk. If done remotely they still see the teacher without affecting their health and the possibility of getting seriously ill. In good conscience I can not vote for that shared one of the board members.

It is obvious that extensive thought has gone through this. President Stadler believes that the board should approve the plan knowing that in August it might not be possible to continue and the school will move to remote learning.

There was great effort that was put into this plan, advised another board member. I applaud all of that. I look forward to this plan being used after a vaccine is in place. Not much mentioned regarding remote learning or that there are so many more requirements for a better standard of learning and a better follow through. Other district remote learning plan was nowhere near the remote learning plan we used. If we have it on hand and it works then let's use it.

We are in a hundred year pandemic. Mr. Peterson suggested that we should get our younger students here to teach them. We have a duty to protect the safety of our students and staff. We can not do that until vaccine day. One of the first guidelines indicated if you get to any steps that can not be done then you need to go to remote learning. The six feet distance can not be maintained. At that point, the plan should be set aside and move to remote learning. It is obvious that Mr Peterson and the others are passionate. However, we have a duty to protect the safety of the students and staff of the district. We can not do that until vaccine day. We are blessed to have such an excellent administration and staff.

We have heard the governors comments. His plan in keeping the state of Illinois safe should be applauded. In regards to the liability. Districts would be liable if they do not commit to meet the standards that have been set. Does insurance cover us if they get sick. No it doesn't.

Schools must open so that they can go back to work. We are not babysitters. This is a 100 year pandemic. We all have to make sacrifices. There is nothing more important than our staff and Students. The plan presented allows for someone to get sick too easily versus remote learning. We must use remote learning to move forward. There is nothing more important than a life.

President Stadler those are some very valid points. She continued to share that she just learned that Plainfield will be starting with remote and in another phase will move to the hybrid model so maybe we should start remotely.

According to the news our peak is anticipated to go back up in late August. This would be two weeks after the anticipated start of school.

First thing it is a very solid plan for when we return to school. I do not believe this is a good idea in August but better for maybe the spring suggest another board member. . Our county and the state is seeing a resurgence. I believe that by August it will be higher. I am not ready to vote on this hybrid plan for the fall. I do not want to vote for this because it is for the opening of the school. I only approve opening remotely in August. Young children will have a hard time with the masks, wanting to touch their friends. If starting we start with the remote learning model you can take the time to teach the children what the new expectations are.

Testing standards don't exist, everything has shifted. We need to adjust what we are doing, learning. The iReady is that it is not done on the computer anyway asked a board member. Why can't it be done remotely? Maybe only have a few students come in at a time to test.

Last year Mr. Meister who shared this program and implemented it last year. It is adaptive based on student responses. The reason why the in person utilization of the iready program when you are doing a google meet you are not able to control the situation. If at home, not able to control the situation.

Could you still come up with a plan with a proxy to get that information and still open remotely. If we spread that testing out maybe we could get that information without opening the school in the hybrid model. If a decision is made in a different direction we can see how we can handle it remotely.

Dr. Schrik asked Mr Meister if he could share his expertise regarding this and if he could see if we can find a way to take the iReady assessment remotely. Would they be skewed? Can we lockdown the chromebook, you could do a google meets. If they test and it is skewed higher then the test would show that because they would not be able to keep it up. So there are ways to do it remotely if needed. The board member indicated that regardless of how we decide to start the year. We still need to devise a way to do remote learning assessments.

It is important to assess our students and address their gaps remotely and in an authentic way. These were some very good suggestions stated Dr. Schrik. If we saw that they are unable to pass lessons independently that would be an indicator that they would need to be reassessed.

At this time we are split three to three. After learning the information Mrs. Stadler gave us Dr.Schrik contacted the superintendent of Plainfield and more and more districts are moving to remote learning and accessing eight to nine weeks later.

Dr. Schrik summarized the situation the following way. The board can direct the superintendent that they need another meeting to revise a plan. The board will approve a remote learning plan and the board will decide how to move forward in a certain period of time.

It sounds like the board is split, he continued. He would like to present to all of the board members to start in a remote plan and then they will re-evaluate in six weeks and if applicable would move to the hybrid model. Then give a week to determine what a new plan for remote learning would look like. This would give him time to meet with Mr. Meister to discuss remote assessment and the committee of staff members.

He further suggested that his recommendation would be to table motion item g. Next he would recommend we meet again. This would give time to work on a remote plan and decide on a date to re-evaluate the situation. He thought that six weeks would be a good amount of time and then see if we could move from remote to the hybrid.

One of the board members indicated that he would prefer to have a vote called on item g. He would like to have on record that he voted no the the hybrid plan and they would like to be able to vote on the remote plan. Issues with nutrition also need to be addressed. The nurse should Be able to evaluate a student's medical needs.

By tabling an action item you are indicating that you are not ready to make a decision and you can give a date to be revisited the group was advised.

The board is expecting a remote learning plan to be presented to the board on July 27, 2020 with a special meeting.

Dr. Schrik advised that the remote plan is pretty much in place. This extra time will allow time to talk to the focus group and prepare for the remote iReady assessments.

Superintendent's Report:

Member Gordon made a motion to approve the Superintendent Report//Executive Summary as presented. Member Stadler seconded the motion.

The motion carried with five (5) voting 'aye' and one (1) member voting 'nay'

a. Joint Annual Board of Education Conference – Consideration for November

At this time the board would only be interested in attending this if it were virtual.

Closed Session: N/A

Board Discussion Items:

The board shared the following information and concerns:

We have a duty to protect our students and staff and we can not do that until there is a vaccine.

To the board thank you for the discussion today this is a very difficult decision. Thank you to Paul Jeff and the staff that was here tonight .

This is one of the hardest decisions that the school board has to make.

Board/Action Items:

Action item: A motion to Approve FY21 Draft Budget

Member Wyke made a motion to Approve FY21 Draft Budget

Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Comments:

Action item: A motion to Approve Revised 2020-21 Rockdale Public School Calendar

Member Gordon made a motion to Approve Revised 2020-21 Rockdale Public School Calendar

Member Wyke seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Comments:

Action item: A motion to Approve Disposition of Equipment

Member Gordon made a motion to a motion to Approve Disposition of Equipment

Member Wyke seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Action item: A motion to Approve revision to Board Policy 4:170-AP6 Administrative Procedure

Member Aich made a motion to a motion to Approve revision to Board Policy 4:170-AP6
Administrative Procedure

Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Action item: A motion to Approve Mask Wearing Policy

Member S. Chamblee made a motion to a motion to Approve Mask Wearing Policy

Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Action item: A motion to Approve Danielle Opper mann as substitute nurse for the 2020-21 School Year

Member Aich made a motion to a motion to Approve Danielle Opper mann as substitute nurse
for the 2020-21 School Year

Member Gordon seconded the motion.

The motion carried with all members voting 'aye'.

Action item: A motion to Approve Rockdale Fall 2020 School Opening Plan

Member Gordon made a motion to a motion to Approve Rockdale Fall 2020 School Opening
Plan

Member Aich seconded the motion.

The motion failed with five (5) members voting 'naye' and one voting 'aye'.

Board Comments/Considerations:

Thank you for all of your work.

Thank you Mr. Peterson, Dr, Schrik and Teachers for bringing that plan. I think it was a great plan but not for now. The Board directed both Mr. Peterson and Dr. Schrik to bring a school opening plan for the academic year 2020-21 utilizing a full remote plan. There is to be a date selected for a Special Board Meeting at the end of July where a full remote plan will be submitted to the Board and expected to be approved. This date will be determined within a week and allow for time for administration to meet with the focus group to develop a fully remote plan to start the academic year, 2020-21.

Everyone is doing a fabulous job. We have come together as a group. We all have preconceived ideas but have done a great job of listening. Thank you all for having the courage for doing this.

It is very difficult for the administrators and staff. I believe the hybrid model took a lot of thought and they did a great job. Congratulations on the good job and keep moving forward.

Adjournment:

Member Gordon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Member Wyke seconded the motion.

The motion was carried on a voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:33PM

Secretary, Board of Education

Next Board Meeting:

August 19, 2020 at 6:00P in the Media Center - Regular Meeting

