

RUSH COUNTY SCHOOLS
Regular School Board Meeting
November 4, 2024

Open Regular School Board Meeting

Call to Order A regular meeting of the Board of School Trustees of Rush County Schools was held at the Administrative Offices on November 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Steve Sickbert at 6:30 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence and the reciting of the vision statement. Members present were Kevin Banks, Angie Kuhn, Tammy Jackman, Jeff Amos, and Addam Carmony. Superintendent Jim Jameson was also present. Member Ron Lienemann attended via phone.
(See Exhibit Number 1 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

Public Comment Mr. Jameson stated no requests had been received for public comment.

Tell Me

Something Good Mr. Jameson introduced the Tell Me Something Good portion of the meeting. The following were honored as Employee of the Month and Student of the Month: Arlington- Molly Wehr- Grade 4; Kaitlyn Sallee- Special Ed Teacher
Milroy- Connor Showalter- Grade 1; Kim Durand-School Nurse
RES- Sally Bosse- Kdg.; Lilyana Heideman- Grade 3; Anne Zachery- Grade 4;
Rick Cummings- Custodian
BRMS- Hope Kirk- Grade 8; Susan Hill- Special Ed Aide
RCHS- Jenna Lawler- Grade 12; Elizabeth Meek- Asst. Principal
RCS- Kevin Cregar- Maintenance
(See Exhibit Number 2 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

*Board Member
Comments*

Addam Carmony congratulated all honorees. Mr. Carmony appreciates all the time and heartfelt comments administrators put into this portion of the meeting. He also congratulated the RCHS FFA members for a great National convention. Mr. Carmony was also very proud of RCHS FFA member, Jenna Lawler's accomplishments as a National recipient. Tammy Jackman shared there were 4 National FFA finalists from RCHS. Mrs. Jackman gave kudos to the new RCHS FFA teachers who were responsible for 60 students at the FFA convention. She also congratulated all FFA members on a successful National convention. Kevin Banks stated America is known as the Land of Opportunity. He believes RCS is the School District of Opportunity. Mr. Banks feels RCS offers students courses that prepares them for success throughout, not only their school career, but into future job opportunities. Angie Kuhn complimented the RCHS football team for a great season! Jeff Amos congratulated the RCHS football team and cross country team on their season. Mr. Amos congratulated all honorees tonight. He congratulated Jenna Lawler on her accomplishment as a National FFA champion. President Dr. Steve Sickbert acknowledged Dr. Anthony Meek for his kind words expressed for RCHS Assistant Principal, Elizabeth Meek.

Consent Items Mr. Jameson recommended approval of consent items as presented which includes minutes of the previous Regular meeting and Special meeting, Revised Personnel Report, Donations, Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips, and Claims/Payroll. Jeff Amos made a motion. Kevin Banks seconded the motion. Sami DeLey, RCHS FFA teacher explained the FIRE Leadership conference is a great opportunity based at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center. The FFA members develop leadership skills, gain Agriculture knowledge and meet new people. The vote was in favor 4-0. Kevin Banks, Angie Kuhn and Addam Carmony abstained. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 3 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

*Resolution to Transfer
Amounts from the
Education Fund to
the Operations Fund* Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the annual resolution which gives the Superintendent the authority to transfer up to \$3,000,000. from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund to reimburse the Operations for expenses that are not allocated to students instruction and learning under IC 20-45.5 from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Kevin Banks made a motion. Tammy Jackman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 4 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

*Surplus Items
for Auction* Mr. Peters, Assistant Superintendent explained in June an online auction was a strong possibility to be pursued. Since that time, Mr. Peters has been advised by auctioneer, Menno Hershberger to have an in person auction at the RCS Bus Garage. The auction will take place on November 19th at 9:00 a.m. Each member received a handout with a list of miscellaneous items included in the auction. Mr. Peters recommended approval of the surplus items. (See attachment) Tammy Jackman made a motion. Jeff Amos seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 5 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

*Board Policy
Updates* Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the second reading of the following board policy updates: C125, C125-R, C275-R, F-300, F300-E1, F125, F225, F300-E2, F325, F350. Kevin Banks made a motion. Tammy Jackman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 6 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

*Consider Approval/
Ratification of
Teachers' Contract
2024-2025* Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the Teachers' contract for 2024-2025. He stated a public hearing was held on October 29, 2024 pursuant to IC 20-29-6-19. Angie Kuhn made a motion to ratify the 2024-2025 Teachers' Collective Bargaining Agreement. Kevin Banks seconded the motion. The vote was in favor 4-0. Kevin Banks, Angie Kuhn, and Addam Carmony abstained. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 7 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

*ADM Count Day
Information* Mrs. Julie Innis, Grant Coordinator shared the Fall ADM count information. Count day was on October 1, 2024. RCS student count was 1,815 compared to last year's fall count of 1,830 students. Mrs. Innis explained staff, multi learners,

and graduate counts are also required in this ADM report. She also reported the Special Ed count day will be on December 1st.

Mr. Jameson gave “Hats Off” to Mrs. Innis, Mr. Runnebohm and Mr. Anderson for training the building secretaries on reporting the correct information which will help to alleviate errors that show up on State Reports. Mr. Jameson stated no action is needed on this topic. This is for information only.

(See Exhibit Number 8 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

Other

Mr. Jameson shared 56 teachers responded to the survey regarding Parent-Teacher Conferences. Each member received a handout with the survey results. Mr. Jameson shared the next school year calendar will be given to board members at the December meeting for approval.

Mr. Jameson also gave each member handouts of various utility expenses.

(See Exhibit Number 9 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

Important Dates

November 27-29, 2024- Thanksgiving Vacation

December 3, 2024- Regular Board Meeting at CO at 5:30 p.m.

December 20, 2024- Last Student Day of First Semester

December 23, 2024- January 6, 2025- Christmas Holiday Break

January 6, 2025- Teacher Workday

January 7, 2025- Students Return- First Day of Second Semester

Regular Board Meeting at CO at 6:30 p.m.

*Administrators’
Reports*

Administrators’ comments were heard at this time.

Mr. Grant Peters excitedly reported Alexa Welborn is acclimating very well to her role in the Transportation Dept. Mr. Peters also thanked Rhonda Ruble for her efforts and willingness to help out. He reminded everyone inclement weather will be upon us very soon. Parents, students, and staff members receive alerts to keep everyone notified and safe. Mr. Peters stated there are custodial openings at this time. He also reported RCS Maintenance Dept. does an excellent job of making in house repairs on various projects.

Julie Cramer was not in attendance.

Pat Anderson reported Special Ed count day will be on December 1st. Mr. Anderson also shared a Behavioral grant has become available for Special Education. This grant would be beneficial for training for all teachers who work with students who have IEP’s.

Julie Innis has applied for over \$200,000 in grants for PLTW materials for all grade levels. Mrs. Innis reported Title I monies have been received but Special Ed monies have not yet been received. She is wrapping up all Title II, Title III and Title IV end of the year reports. Mrs. Innis has been working with Mr. Jameson and Mr. Peters to apply for a KOPS grant which is used for safety purposes.

Dr. Jennifer Nahlik reported working closely with teachers regarding the reading curriculum. Dr. Nahlik is making sure elementary teachers are meeting teaching standards.

Brevin Runnebohm reported the fiber projects are completed. Mr. Runnebohm stated the internet will continue to improve. He also reported RCS is eligible for a \$481,000 advance from the state. This money would be used for classroom

technology and replacing smart boards. Mr. Runnebohm shared he and the building techs along with Julie Innis will attend the annual tech conference this week. Mr. Jameson urged the board members to stop in at RES to witness the remodeling changes. He is extremely impressed with the refresh!

(See Exhibit Number 10 in the November 4, 2024 Minute File)

*Motion to
Adjourn*

Angie Kuhn made a motion to adjourn. President Dr. Steve Sickbert adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Dr. Steve Sickbert, President

Jeffry A. Amos, Member

Jon Kevin Banks, Vice- President

Tammy Jackman, Member

Addam Carmony, Secretary

Angela Kuhn, Member

Ron Lienemann, Member