

RUSH COUNTY SCHOOLS
Regular School Board Meeting
May 7, 2024

Executive Session An executive session was held for discussion at 6:00 p.m. with respect to I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1 (b) (9). The Board certifies that no other items were discussed in executive session that adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

I. 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 May 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Steve Sickbert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence and the reciting of the vision statement. Members present were Tammy Jackman, Kevin Banks, Angie Kuhn, Ron Lienemann, Addam Carmony and Jeff Amos. Superintendent Jim Jameson was also present.
(See Exhibit Number 1 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

Public Comment Mr. Jameson stated there are no public comments.
(See Exhibit Number 2 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

Tell Me Something Good Mr. Jameson introduced the Tell Me Something Good portion of the meeting. Each building principal honored a Student and Employee of the Month.
Arlington Elementary: Mia York, Grade 2; Bill Holman, Head Custodian & Noreen Kemple, Cafeteria Staff
Milroy Elementary: Nicole Angle, Grade 5; Kalissa Hellmich, Grade 5 & Carly Moore, Kindergarten
RES: Roxie Daubenspeck, Grade 5; Ashley Daubenspeck; Home School Liaison
BRMS- Kimberlin Argueta, Grade 7 & Mollie Corn, Grade 7;
Terry Marcum, Math
RCHS – Alyssa Williammee, Grade 12, Lanea Adams Grade 12 & Dominick Evans, Grade 12; Blair Orme, Agriculture
RCS- Phil Brashaber, Custodial Coordinator
(See Exhibit Number 3 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

Board Member Comments Jeff Amos thanked and congratulated the parents of tonight's honorees for doing a good job with their kids. Mr. Amos also congratulated Mr. Orme and the entire RCS staff.
Kevin Banks congratulated all honorees. Mr. Banks recently attended a workshop on volunteerism. He thanked the spouses of our teachers for allowing them the time to do their jobs. Mr. Banks also encouraged everyone to acknowledge the educators who made a difference in their lives.
Addam Carmony congratulated all the students this evening. Mr. Carmony thanked the staff for a great school year. He wished everyone a good summer. Mr. Carmony thanked Mr. Orme for all he has done for RCS. He also thanked Mr. Brashaber and wished him well in the future.
Tammy Jackman thanked RCS teachers for all they do. Mrs. Jackman thanked Mr. Orme for all he has done as an educator especially for her children.

Ron Lienemann did not have any comments.

Angie Kuhn stated seeing all the current and former students in attendance for Mr. Orme is very heartwarming. Mrs. Kuhn encouraged RCS teachers to keep going, summer break is almost here!

President Dr. Steve Sickbert applauded Mr. Jameson, Mrs. Mastin and all RCS administrators for their efforts making our schools better.

Consent Items

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the Consent Items as presented which include minutes of the previous meeting, Revised Personnel Report, Out-of-State/ Overnight Field Trips, Donations, and Claims/Payroll. Tammy Jackman made a motion. Ron Lienemann seconded the motion. The vote was in favor. The motion passed. Jeff Amos, Angie Kuhn and Kevin Banks abstained.

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

*Consider
Approval of
Agreement with
Head Start*

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Head Start. Mr. Jameson confirmed the Head Start program is housed at Milroy Elementary School. Angie Kuhn made a motion. Kevin Banks seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 5 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

*Request for
Authority to
Advertise and
Receive Quotes
and Bids for
2024-2025*

Mr. Jameson requested permission to advertise and receive quotes and bids for petroleum products for the 2024-2025 school year. Tammy Jackman made a motion. Jeff Amos seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 6 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

*Consider
Approval for
Textbook
Adoption*

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the textbook adoption for K-6 curriculum. This includes the Open Court reading series with a 5 year rotation, i-Ready Math with a 5 year rotation and Amplify which is Dibels testing with a 1 year contract. Angie Kuhn made a motion. Kevin Banks seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

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

*Consider Approval
of Stipend for
Kayleigh Gordon*

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of a \$2,000.00 stipend for Kayleigh Gordon, McKinney-Vento Liaison. This money will be paid out of a \$5,000.00 grant RCS was awarded. The remaining \$3,000.00 will be used for student needs. Jeff Amos made a motion. Kevin Banks seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Number 8 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

*Consider Approval
of Handbook
Changes*

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the student elementary, middle school, and high school handbook changes for the 2024-2025 school year. These changes include modernizing and updating language for the following: cell phones, attendance, dress code, and homework policies. Discussion included cell phone videos, cell phone offenses and consequences, perfect attendance, homework guidelines when student is absent, truancy and dress code length. Kevin Banks made a motion. Ron Lienemann seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The motion passed.

(See Exhibit Numbers 9, 10, & 11 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

Other

Mr. Jameson recommended approval of the Laughlin Center Facility Use Application and Agreement adding a \$45 per hour Laughlin Manager Fee. This fee will be paid by the renter of the facility. Jeff Amos made a motion. Kevin Banks seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Jameson acknowledged and thanked all RCS teachers and staff for the amazing job they do daily! Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

Mr. Jameson shared front page news of Arlington Elementary becoming a High Reliability School Level 1 for a safe and collaborative environment.

Mr. Jameson also congratulated Milroy Elementary for being selected for the second year in a row by the IDOE as a Family Friendly School.

Mr. Jameson proudly announced 20 RCHS Seniors will graduate with the Indiana College Core and 8 more Seniors will graduate with CT and Animal Agri- Business.

(See Exhibit Number 12 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

Important Dates

May 24- Last Student Day

May 27- Memorial Day (Central Office Closed)

May 28- Teacher Records Day

May 30-July5- RCHS Summer School

June 2- Graduation at Hinshaw Field at 8:00 p.m.

June 4- Regular board meeting at 7:00 p.m. at CO

Administrators'

Administrators' comments were heard at this time.

Comments

Grant Peters reported there is a massive shortage of bus drivers across the state. Mr. Peters was happy to report a couple of new bus drivers are in the process of being hired to replace this year's retirees. There will be a retirement luncheon on May 20th at the bus garage. Please feel free to stop in. The annual safety meeting will be held on June 6th. Mr. Peters reported constant repairs are ongoing throughout the buildings. He thanked all maintenance and grounds workers for their efforts. The grounds crew have done a phenomenal job keeping the campus looking beautiful. Mr. Peters reported more problems have been found with the lightning strike at Arlington Elementary. He also stated there have been no insurance issues to date. Julie Cramer gave each member a handout of the interest earned and the bank balance fund report. Mrs. Cramer reported she and Michelle Colestock will be attending the IASBO conference in French Lick this week. Tammy Jackman requested the board docket include a summary page. Mrs. Cramer will see if this is possible.

Pat Anderson reported there were about 140 athletes who participated in the Future Champions event last Thursday. Mr. Anderson thanked all involved for their help with this event. Next year, RCS will partner with Relay Medicaid which will help provide reimbursement for Speech, OT, PT and Mental Health. The reimbursement can be between \$60,000 to \$180,000 per year. Relay will handle the billing and in turn they will receive a percentage for their services. Mr. Anderson thanked the Special Ed department for all their help.

Nancy Schroeder reported grants are being expended as needed. The grants for Title I, Title II and Title IV are delayed this year. Mrs. Schroeder shared this is her last meeting before she retires.

Brevin Runnebohm reported the new radio system went live last week. The three antennas are located at the Police Dept., Milroy Elementary and Arlington Elementary. He also reported the new fiber project has been ran from BRMS to the Operations Center. This project is now complete. Nicole Tuttle will begin working as a technology intern next week. Mr. Runnebohm stated e-rate dollars will be spent on beefing up the network so many problems will be resolved. Mr. Peters thanked Brevin for all he does for the corporation.

President Dr. Steve Sickbert thanked Mr. Powers for his time with RCS.

(See Exhibit Numbers 13, 14, & 15 in the May 7, 2024 Minute File)

*Motion to
Adjourn*

Ron Lienemann made a motion to adjourn. President Dr. Steve Sickbert adjourned the meeting at 8:37 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