

**Rockford Charter School Organization
Board Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2021
Meeting Held In Person at:
Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107**

1. Call to Order – 11:41 a.m.
 - a. Present: Kenneth Cunningham, Anisha Grimmett, Antonio Turner, Jacob Bradt, Jay Ware (Arrived at 11:44 a.m.), Principal Shavina Baker, Emily Wallen, Rick Aylward, and Attorney Roxanne Sosnowski.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Anisha Grimmett and seconded by Antonio Turner.
 - b. Roll Call Vote:
 - i. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 - ii. Antonio Turner – Aye.
 - iii. Kenneth Cunningham – Aye.
 - iv. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - v. Motion passed.
3. Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021
 - a. Anisha Grimmett inquired about the budget impact for the next school year of the educational assistance program and the retirement benefits. Attorney Sosnowski advised that there was a short presentation at the last meeting in terms of the retirement program and what that would look like in terms of the budget, and Rick Aylward indicated that there was funding in the budget to allow for that expenditure, and it was relatively small. Attorney Sosnowski stated that regarding the educational assistance program, a discussion took place at the previous Board meeting regarding the projected number of teachers that might take advantage of the program and what area in the budget that those funds would come from.
 - b. A motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021 was made by Antonio Turner and seconded by Kenneth Cunningham.
 - c. Roll Call Vote:
 - i. Anisha Grimmett – Aye.
 - ii. Antonio Turner – Aye.
 - iii. Kenneth Cunningham – Aye.
 - iv. Jacob Bradt – Aye.
 - v. Motion passed.
4. Jay Ware joined the meeting virtually at 11:44 a.m.
5. Public Comment – None.
6. New Business

- a. A Resolution of the Rockford Charter School Organization, an Illinois Not For Profit Corporation, Approving and Authorizing an Agreement with the Northern Illinois University NIU STEAM Program;
 - i. Attorney Sosnowski stated that this program is an expenditure from September through November of \$6,400.00.
 - ii. Principal Baker stated that this is the third year that they will be partnering with NIU for this program.
 - iii. Discussion took place regarding the program.
 - iv. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Kenneth Cunningham and seconded by Antonio Turner.
 1. All aye. Motion passed.
- b. Discussion on potential new Board Members
 - i. Attorney Sosnowski stated that the Board can have up to nine members on the Board. The goal is between seven and nine members because with more Board Members there is a greater chance at more Board Members being available for quorum purposes.
 - ii. Principal Baker is working on recruiting another parent as a board member.
 - iii. Attorney Sosnowski stated that they have reached out to Sarah Brinkman at Home Start a couple of times, but they have seemed to have lost contact.
 - iv. Attorney Sosnowski stated that she reached to Mick Gronewold at Fehr Graham to see if they had anyone that would be interested in serving as a member, but did not hear back.

7. Principal's Report

- a. Principal Baker stated that they have had two accidents with RPS buses. One was with a car and maybe did not want to stay there after it was hit. Another accident happened at Jackson where two buses collided. One was the same bus that was in the previous accident, but a different driver. Principal Baker stated that there are no injuries to report, however, yellow cards go out to parents whose students were involved in the accidents. Principal Baker stated that with the late buses and the accidents, parents are losing confidence in the ability to get kids to school safely. For this reason, Principal Baker stated that she is exploring other options for transportation for the next school year.
- b. Principal Baker stated that they currently have buses, however, they do not know what time the buses will arrive due to RPS constantly having to replace bus drivers.
- c. Attorney Sosnowski stated that she and Principal Baker discussed the reimbursement from the school district, would the school district consider a different average or adjustment due to the kids not getting to school because the buses are not bringing them and that is not the school's fault. However, the language in the Charter Agreement is clear that our calculation is our calculation, but the subject could be broached with the District.
- d. Attorney Sosnowski stated that she reviewed the contractual rights as far as transportation goes with the District and the contract can be terminated at any time.
- e. Principal Baker stated that the current enrollment is at 213 students with a goal to get to 250 and she has re-engaged in the school's marketing efforts to meet enrollment standards. There are four pending applications currently for enrollment.
- f. Anisha Grimmertt inquired about what the class sizes are. Principal Baker stated

that the largest class size they have right now is 3rd grade and it is about 24-25 students. Principal Baker stated that they can have as many as 30 kids in the classroom, however, that is not successful.

- g. Principal Baker stated that they are continuing to work with the Winnebago County Health Department and they have only had one Covid case that was at the beginning of the school year. There have not been anymore. Students and staff will continue to wear masks.
 - h. Principal Baker stated that 5th grade is out preforming and this signifies that Jackson is closing achievement gaps.
 - i. Principal Baker stated that the school is in need of new clocks. There was a power outage that affected the main clock that talks to all of other clocks and now all of the clocks display the wrong time. Principal Baker got two quotes for new clocks, one from Spinnello which is \$19,000.00 for the analog clocks and if they were to replace them with digital clocks it would be \$29,000.00. Principal Baker stated that they are going to try one more time to fix the clocks.
8. Finance Committee Report
- a. Rick Aylward presented the financial reports.
 - i. The next payment from RPS will arrive in October.
 - b. Attorney Sosnowski inquired if RCSO has received all of the Esser I funding from RPS 205. Principal Baker stated that they have not began to issue those funds and RPS is still doing the close out from the previous school year and are behind in their disbursements.
 - c. Rick Aylward stated that RCSO has received a little bit of the Esser I funds, but nothing from Esser II funds.
 - i. YTD Budget to Actuals
 - ii. YTD Cashflow Update
9. Principal Baker advised the Board Members that on November 15, 2021, the District will be on campus for a site visit with SchoolWorks. It is Principal Baker's understanding that they will only be there to find out classroom environments and where learning is taking place, it will not be as extensive as they did for the Charter Renewal.
10. Update on Required Board Member Training
- a. Attorney Sosnowski stated that by January 1, 2021, everyone was to have received 4 hours of training in order to serve on the Board. Attorney Sosnowski stated that they are going to reach out to INCS to try to get Board member training for Board Members to make it easier to get completed. Attorney Sosnowski stated that once the 4 hours are completed then it is 2 hours per year.
11. Rick Aylward stated that they have completed the Audit and it went well.
12. Executive Session – Personnel (if needed) - None
10. Adjournment
- a. A motion to adjourn was made by Antonio Turner and seconded by Anisha Grimmett.
 - i. All aye. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: December 16, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. (Meeting will be held in-person at Jackson Charter School, 315 Summit Street, Rockford, IL 61107)