The regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education was called to order by President Harmon Mitchell at 4:34 p.m.

Present: President Harmon Mitchell, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson, Ms. Ronnell Moore (arr. 5:14 p.m.), Mr. Kenneth Scrivano, Mr. Tim Rollins, Mrs. Laura Powers (arr. 4:44 p.m.)

Absent: None

Motion by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Ms. Jackson that the Board hold an executive session to consider the appointment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees; the discipline of students; pending or imminent litigation; collective bargaining matters; or other matters provided for pursuant to §2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act.

Approved: 5-2-0

The Board was in executive session from 4:36 p.m. until 6:57 p.m.

1. Call to Order – President Harmon Mitchell called the regular meeting of the Rockford Board of Education to order at 7:15 p.m.

2. Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: President Harmon Mitchell, Vice President Jude Makulec, Secretary Lisa Jackson (arr. 7:20 p.m.), Mr. Kenneth Scrivano, Mr. Tim Rollins, Ms. Ronnell Moore, Mrs. Laura Powers

Absent: None

Mr. Mitchell introduced Auburn High School Media Class students: Carmen Cardenas, Ashley Polak and Helena Queudio who work with District staff to operate the broadcasting equipment.

4. Recognition – Mr. Dotson presented for recognition:

A. Thurgood Marshall School, First Place State Chess Championship Winners

   The Thurgood Marshall School chess team earned first place in the 2013 Illinois K-8 Chess Championship in the junior high division. The tournament was held at Illinois State University in Bloomington. The team includes Vincent Do, Steven Do, McKinley Torre, Henry Harmon and Kirkland Shun.

   Individual winners include:

   - Fifth grader Vincent Do: first place in the junior high division. He finished with a perfect score.

   - Eighth grader Steven Do: 16th place trophy in the junior high division.

   Washington Academy also had three players at the tournament: Paranjay Gupta, Ryan Sweeney, and Kamalesh Sureshkumar. Kamalesh, a first grader, won a 19th place trophy in the primary/K-2 division.

B. Poetry Out Loud State Finals

On March 8, students across Illinois competed in the 2012-13 Poetry Out Loud State championship in Springfield, sponsored by the Illinois Arts Council. Auburn High School’s Caitlin Harmon was the first runner up in the competition among nearly 6,000 high school students to compete in this year’s final competition. Sixteen regional contest winners were asked to compete in the finals. Jefferson High School’s Anna Lepke was also among the 16 regional contest winners to advance to the finals.

   Harmon won $100 for herself, and $200 for her school library.

5. Petitions & Communications – the guidelines were read by Mr. Mitchell.

John Gile spoke of the April School Board election.

Kate Schnell spoke in support of staff at West Middle School.
Cyndy Janssen thanked Mrs. Powers for her donation of empty wrapping paper roles to Bloom School. Her donation made a difference in the class project.  
Tasha Anderson spoke of diversity and her concerns of the District.  
Juan Reyes spoke of Alice Saudargas' ballot position.  
Jane Hayes spoke of her support for Alice Saudargas.  
Alice Saudargas spoke of being allowed to have a hearing regarding the ballot.

Board Member Comments
Mrs. Powers thanked Bloom School for their recognition. She also thanked Mr. Lewis for his work, especially for the financial stance of the District. Mrs. Powers commented on her reasons for voting "no" on the evening's student discipline cases; stating there is a lack of partnership between students and District staff members and a lack of interventions on behalf of many of these students.  
Mrs. Makulec expressed her kudos to Whitehead School, which held a career and college readiness day for their fifth graders. She also thanked the cross-section of community members who donated their morning to attend the event; including medical, police, ambulance, musicians, accountants, etc. In addition, students from Rock Valley and Rockford Colleges spoke of their college experiences. 
Ms. Moore congratulated Eisenhower's seventh grade basketball team, who played in a championship game the previous Thursday. This is the second year in a row they have won. She also thanked Johnson Elementary School for the opportunity to be Principal for a Day. She was welcomed with t-shirts, banners and flowers.  
Mr. Rollins responded to the comments made by Mrs. Powers. There are 28,000 students enrolled in the District, and Board members receive and review a large number of discipline packets. The large number of cases is proportionately small in comparison to overall enrollment. Mr. Rollins spoke of the challenges individual students covered in these reports. He continued that the decision to expel students is not lightly done, but that the Conditional Probationary Agreements (CPAs) have given students a second chance to be successful. Mr. Rollins spoke of his decision making based on the safety risk for other students and staff in the buildings, and how everyone needs to be concerned for the 28,000 students who are not a discipline problem. In addition, the District has to give staff a disruption free environment in which they can teach.  
Ms. Jackson echoed Mrs. Powers' sentiments and spoke of the work which needs to be accomplished. She spoke of making changes in the environment; and challenged the District to make changes. Ms. Jackson stated she would vote "no" on the Superintendent's Employment Agreement, as she did not agree with the process.

7. *Consent Items
A. Approval of Minutes - 03/12/13 pulled by Mrs. Powers  
B. Payroll  
C. Accounts Payable Checks  
D. Purchase Orders  
E. Contracts Under $10,000  
F. Air Travel  

8. *Bid Recommendations
A. Invitation for Bid 13-12 E-Rate Technology Project - pulled by Mr. Scrivano  
B. Invitation for Bid 13-13 E-Rate Technology Project Material - pulled by Mr. Scrivano  
C. Invitation for Bid 13-17 Ethernet Dedicated Internet Service  

9. *Other Consent
A. Financial Results - YTD, February 2013 - pulled by Mrs. Makulec  
B. Interest Transfer from Working Cash - February 2013  
C. Monthly Investment - February 2013  
D. IHSA Membership Renewal  
E. Intergovernmental Agreement By and Between ISBE and Rockford Public Schools #205  
F. Closed Session Minutes Release  
G. Freedom of Information Log  

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Ms. Moore and Ms. Jackson to approve Consent Items not pulled.  
Approved: Unanimously.  

Motion by Mrs. Powers seconded by Mrs. Makulec to approve the 03/12/13 minutes.  
Mrs. Powers amended the minutes to add Mr. Rollins' support of the Alternative Learning Environment update requested by Ms. Jackson at the February 12, 2013 Board meeting.
**Motion** by Mr. Scrivero seconded by Ms. Moore to approve the 03/12/13 minutes as amended.

**Approved:** Unanimously.

**Motion** by Mr. Rollins seconded by Ms. Moore to approve Bid Recommendation 13-12 E Rate Technology Project and Bid Recommendation 13-13 E Rate Technology Project Material.

Mr. Scrivero asked Mr. Schmidt to clarify the bid requests. Mr. Schmidt explain E Rate funding, which is set up through the Federal Communications Corporation (FCC) and administered through the Universal Service and Administration Company (USAC). This provides districts the opportunity to increase their telecommunication bandwidth; internet in the classrooms. The bids are for equipment and installation. These will provide outlets to plug in computers, and data ports for computers, smart boards, printers, etc. The E Rate bids include priority one and priority two funding. Dedicated internet connectivity is a priority one funding that provides an additional 1 GB of internet bandwidth for the District. The bids with the priority two funding can only be applied for every two out of five years. Once the District files for and receives the E Rate funding commitment letter, up to ninety percent (90%) of the funds can be received by the District. The net cost to the District could be $500,000. The project will not start until the funding commitment is received. The bid process was followed, however; certain vendors did not complete and/or sign the correct documents, which made them ineligible.

Mr. Mitchell called for the vote on Bid Recommendation 13-12 E Rate Technology Project and Bid Recommendation 13-13 E Rate Technology Project Material.

**Approved:** Unanimously.

**Motion** by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve the Financial Results Year-to-Date, February 2013.

Mrs. Makulec asked for a clarification on the deficit, stating a year ago the District’s deficit was $17.7MM versus this year’s $47.6MM; and how the District will move towards balancing the budget with this deficit. There is also an $8.8MM increase in salaries and a $7.4MM increase in benefit and pensions. Mr. Keffe explained the District had placed $10MM deficit for the current fiscal year, but there was a $24MM surplus for fiscal year 2012. $30MM is current year to date variance from fiscal year 2012. Mr. Lewis spoke of anticipating two State Aid payments for the year, property tax payments in May/June, which will bring the current year to date operating deficit closer to the FY 2013 budget amount.

Mr. Mitchell called for the vote.

**Approved:** Unanimously.

10. *Closed Session Consent Items*

   A. Administrative Appointments – pulled by Laura Powers
   B. Resolution Authorizing Reclassification of Certified District Administrators to Teacher Status – pulled by Administration
   C. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Non-Tenured Administrators – pulled by Ms. Jackson
   D. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers Unsatisfactory Performance – pulled by Administration
   E. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Probationary Teachers
   F. Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Temporary/Part-Time Teachers
   G. HR Organizational Report & Addendum

11. *Closed Session Consent Items – Student Discipline*

   A. QS 1 – held in abeyance contingent upon a Conditional Probation Agreement.
   B. NC 2 – expelled for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year and first semester of 2013/2014 school year.
   C. EL 3 – held in abeyance contingent upon a Conditional Probation Agreement.
   D. TSA 4 – expelled for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year.
   E. JB 5 – 10 day suspension is upheld.
   F. DB 6 – 10 day suspension is upheld
   G. JG 7 - expelled for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year and first semester of 2013/2014 school year.
   H. JC 8 – 10 day suspension is upheld.
   I. TP 9 - 10 day suspension is upheld.
   J. DV 10 - expelled for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year and first semester of 2013/2014 school year.
L. TM 12 – 10 day suspension is upheld.
M. MC 13 – held in abeyance contingent upon a Conditional Probation Agreement.
N. CW 14 - expelled for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year.
O. JB 15 – 10 day suspension is upheld.
P. SL 16 - 10 day suspension is upheld.
Q. JL 17 - 10 day suspension is upheld.
R. TE 18 – expelled for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year.

*Closed Session Consent Items - CPAs

A. TB 1
B. AC 2
C. CF 3
D. SG 4
E. AG 5
F. SGO 6
G. JJ 7
H. TK 8
I. CK 9
J. BLM 10
K. AL 11
L. VM 12
M. DO 13
N. LR 14
O. GR 15
P. JS 16
Q. SS 17
R. CH 18
S. EB 19
T. OG 20

Motion by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Mr. Rollins to approve Closed Session Consent Items not pulled.

Approved: Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Ms. Moore to approve Closed Session Consent Item pulled, Administrative Appointments.

Yea: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell
Nay: Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Powers

Absent: None

Approved: 5-2-0

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Scrivano to approve Closed Session Consent Item pulled, Resolution Authorizing Dismissal of Non Tenured Administrators.

Yea: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell
Nay: Ms. Jackson,

Absent: None

Approved: 5-2-0

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mr. Scrivano to approve Closed Session Consent Item pulled, Student Discipline, NC2.

Yea: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell
Nay: Ms. Jackson,

Abstain: Mrs. Powers

Approved: 5-1-1

Motion by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Ms. Moore to approve Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline not pulled and Closed Session Consent Items Student Discipline CPAs.

Yea: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell
Nay: Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Powers

Absent: None

Approved: 5-2-0
13. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Willis followed up on comments made by Mr. Rollins as it relates to the 28,000 students in the District. Over eighty percent (80%) of students attending classes are not a discipline problem. The small number of students dealt with in the discipline portion of the meeting, needs to be tempered. Students expelled stay in an educational environment. The Regional Office of Education provides support educational programs for each of the students expelled from the public schools.

14. Committee Reports

A. Education Committee – Mrs. Makulec

The committee met on March 18, 2013. Two items were covered; the first a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which will be covered under New Business. The next item covered was the Advance Now through CEANCI, that Mr. David Carson explained. The current model through CEANCI contains programs where students travel between schools to access different programs. CEANCI will have a central campus at the Stenstrom Center, where resources can be leveraged and dual credit courses offered through Rock Valley College. The dual credit opportunity will be at no cost to the students, and they will attend either morning or afternoon classes. The next committee meeting is Monday April 1, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

B. Operations Committee – Mr. Rollins

No report. The committee will meet Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room

15. Action Items

A. Gift Agreement with Midway Village

Motion by Mr. Rollins seconded by Mrs. Makulec to approve Gift Agreement with Midway Village.

Approved: Unanimously.

B. Superintendent’s Employment Agreement – Atty. Hoadley

Motion by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Scrivano to approve the Superintendent’s Employment Agreement.

Yeas: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Powers

Nays: Ms. Jackson,

Absent: None

Approved: 6-1-0

16. Other Business/New Business/Agora Recommendations

A. “Northern Illinois Manufacturing Sector Partnership Agreement

The Administration has requested the Board suspend the rules to approve the Northern Illinois Manufacturing Sector Partnership Agreement.

Motion by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Mrs. Powers to suspend the rules to consider the Northern Illinois Manufacturing Sector Partnership Agreement.

Yeas: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell

Nays: Ms. Jackson, Mrs. Powers

Absent: None

Approved: 5-2-0

Motion by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Mrs. Makulec to approve the Northern Illinois Manufacturing Sector Partnership Agreement.

Ms. Jackson questioned suspending the rules on this item. Mr. David Carson explained this partnership agreement is used for grant application, which is due March 28, 2013. The Work Force Investment Group applies for the grant and approval of the agreement allows the District to take part. Mrs. Makulec explained this was presented at the Education Committee meeting and the grant money cannot be used by the District unless there is an agreement. This agreement ensures training opportunities and education to ensure the needs of the labor force are met. This also makes certain the District can pursue grants. It also shows the District is working collaboratively with secondary and post-secondary school districts. Former District students can contact the Work Force Connection for information. Media material will be published through the internet, media, career coaches. A schedule of forums will be published. Mr. Rollins requested a change to the verbiage regarding suspension of rules, to “The Administration is going to require a suspension of the rules...” Mrs. Powers asked for reassurance that former District students will be eligible to participate. Former students can immediately access the services. The Work Force Connection can be contacted. She also asked Mr. Dotson how the District is communicating this information to former students. Media material will be published through the internet, media, career coaches, and school counselors. A schedule of forums will be published.
Mr. Mitchell called for the vote.

**Yea**: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Powers

**Absent**: Ms. Jackson

**Abstain**: Ms. Moore

**Approved**: 5-1-1

**B.** Certified Speech and Language Pathologist

The Administration has requested the Board suspend the rules to approve the Certified Speech and Language Pathologist.

**Motion**: by Mr. Scrivano seconded by Mr. Rollins to **suspend** the rules to consider the Certified Speech and Language Pathologist.

**Yea**: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Powers

**Absent**: Ms. Jackson

**Approved**: 6-0-1

**Motion**: by Mrs. Makulec seconded by Mr. Scrivano to **approve** the Certified Speech and Language Pathologist.

Mrs. Makulec commented there have been many contracts brought to Board to continue with the services. She commented that the Boone County Special Ed Coop is disintegrating, and is the District recruiting those specialists to fill the District’s gaps. Mrs. Cyrus and Human Resources are creating a plan for hiring speech and language pathologists and also for many difficult to fill positions. Currently there are six interns in the District, and it is hoped to secure their services for the coming year. This particular contract is for Rolling Green Early Childhood services.

Mr. Mitchell called for the vote.

**Yea**: Mr. Rollins, Mr. Scrivano, Mrs. Makulec, Ms. Moore, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Powers

**Absent**: Ms. Jackson

**Approved**: 6-0-1

**C.** PMA Financial Network, Inc. Financial Planning Program – Mr. Cedric Lewis, Chief Financial Officer

This program is a system which can provide in one database the District with financial, enrollment, and current bargaining agreements of other school districts. The annual fee is $11,000; however the total cost is $16,000. The information in the database is acquired from ISBE.

This will be presented for vote at the April 10, 2013 meeting.

**D.** Lease Agreement with Regional Office of Education re: 5949 Safford Road, Rockford, Illinois

The Regional Office of Education (ROE) will use the Page Park building to consolidate their programs to one sight. The District is not selling the facility as there is a future possibility of using it in future years. There are no major renovations planned for the next ten years.

This will be presented for vote at the April 10, 2013 meeting.

**E.** Board Policy 2.30 Board of Education Elections

This policy reflects the election code and the recommended language by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to be used. The statute controls members on the election panel, which is reflected in this policy.

**F.** Board Policy 2.150 Committees

**G.** Board Policy 2.200 Types of Board of Education Meetings

Policies 2.150 and 2.200 reflect changes to the Open Meetings Act (OMA). The three major changes are: the opportunity to speak at Board committee meetings, mandatory training for OMA for Board members and administrators, and includes a new exception for adjourning to Closed Session. The new exception is to meet with the District’s public accountant regarding certain allegations of wrongdoing. Subcommittees of the Board are required to follow the OMA changes and allow public speakers. OMA training is not required for community committee members.

**H.** Board Policy 2.220 Board of Education – School Board Meeting Procedure

The language is changed to reflect the recommendations of the IASB.

These will be presented for vote at the April 10, 2013 meeting.
• Ms. Jackson asked if the Accountability and Community Input committees, Budget and Finance subcommittee still meet. The CIC meets occasionally; the next meeting is scheduled for the end of April. Accountability meets regularly.

• Mrs. Makulec commented the Alternative Learning Environments update will come before Board members.

• Mrs. Powers requested if an assessment of 8th graders is taking place. Mr. Vosberg reported the District is proceeding with the policy, monitoring students through the mandatory tutoring program, and targeting those students. Currently there are approximately 200 students that are identified as not being ready for high school. Parents have been notified and affected students will be referred to the summer transition program at the end of second semester.

• Ms. Jackson inquired if there is a District wide retention policy for 8th graders. There is no policy; students that are struggling are identified and must be in mandatory tutoring if they only pass three classes. Students reading and math scores are reviewed to determine retention, and are done on a case by case basis.

17. **Adjournment**

Motion by Ms. Jackson seconded by Mr. Scrivano to adjourn.

Approved: voice vote

Board adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**President:**

**Secretary:**

Approved:

/If