Jul 1, 2026

Rockwell Board Meeting

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Attachments Rockwell Board Meeting Notes - Rockwell Board Meeting

Meeting records Transcript Recording

Summary

Board members finalized key security and student conduct policies and reviewed critical facility and financial updates.

Policy and Student Regulations
The board approved new policies regarding medical recommendations, student device usage, and safety discipline. These updates ensure state compliance and establish clear enforcement standards for school operations.

Security and Infrastructure Upgrades
Ongoing facility improvements include installing ballistic window film, advanced surveillance systems, and stricter visitor access controls. These enhancements aim to maintain a secure environment across the campus.

Financial and Operational Updates
Leadership discussed utilizing Employee Retention Credit funds for strategic upgrades and celebrated new course offerings. The meeting concluded by prioritizing responsible resource allocation and future administrative planning.

Decisions

Aligned

- **Medical recommendations policy approved** The board formally adopted a medical recommendations policy prohibiting school personnel from providing unauthorized medical or treatment recommendations for students.
- **Personal student device policy established** The school implemented a bell-to-bell ban on personal electronic devices and cell phones, with strictly defined exemptions for medical, safety, and specific accommodation needs.
- **Safe schools discipline policy revised** The Safe Schools Discipline and Behavior Policy was revised to update the definition of burglary to align with state legal codes.
- **FY27 mental health screening participation approved** The board authorized continued participation in the state's mental health screening program for students for the FY27 school year.
- **Visitor security protocol established** The group established a mandatory visitor security protocol, requiring the installation of a directional sign for check-ins and the implementation of a visitor sign-in and sign-out log.

We've **updated the Decisions section** using your feedback.

Let us know what you think: Helpful or Not Helpful

Next steps

- [ ] [Kat Mitchell] Call Window Contractor: Contact the window film contractor Jeff after the meeting to verify the expected arrival time for work tomorrow.
- [ ] [Teen Center] Provide Building Access: Meet with Gunther tomorrow to provide him with necessary access to the building.

- [ ] [Cynthia Phillips] Verify Policy Law: Consult state law to determine if the bell to bell phone policy covers usage only or both usage and physical possession of devices.
- [ ] [Teen Center] Send Resume: Distribute the resume of Shan Wilkinson to the full board of members.
- [ ] [Shan Wilkinson] Attend Board Meeting: Participate in the next scheduled board meeting taking place in August.
- [ ] [Shan Wilkinson] Check Meeting Dates: Verify the specific date for the August board meeting using the information on the school website.

Details

- **Facility Maintenance - Window Film**: Kat Mitchell reported that contractors were scheduled to install ballistic film on the school's interior and exterior windows, specifically covering areas within 75 feet of entrances. While the work schedule had been inconsistent, there was an expectation that the team would finish soon, and staff coordinated to provide building access to ensure the project continued (00:02:03) (00:49:05).
- **Meeting Call to Order**: Teen Center called the board meeting to order on July 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM. Participants included Evan Caldwell, Julie Young, Kat Mitchell, Chris Kiefer, and Joshua Thompson. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the board approved the agenda, agreeing to prioritize policy discussions to accommodate Joshua Thompson's limited availability (00:05:25).
- **Policy Approval - Medical Recommendations**: Kat Mitchell introduced a new policy regarding medical recommendations, which was developed to ensure compliance with state assurances and to prevent school personnel from acting outside their professional scope by suggesting medication or psychological treatments to parents. The board discussed the policy's prohibitions against recommending specific medical interventions unless they are provided by a licensed individual or specified within an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 accommodation plan. Following this discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the policy (00:07:23) (00:12:58).

- **Policy Approval - Personal Student Device and Cell Phone**: Kat Mitchell presented the new Personal Student Device and Cell Phone Policy, created in response to Senate Bill 69, which requires a bell-to-bell ban on personal electronic devices during school hours effective July 1, 2026. The policy mandates that students must store their devices in locked storage at the start of the school day, with the school assuming no liability for lost or damaged personal items (00:14:14).
- **Student Device Policy - Exemptions**: The board discussed specific exemptions to the cell phone ban, which include access to the Safe UT crisis line, medical necessity (such as glucose monitoring), or accommodations outlined in a student's IEP or 504 plan. The board clarified that these exemptions are narrow and intended only for essential purposes, and that unauthorized devices, including simple MP3 players, are strictly prohibited (00:19:02) (00:23:15).
- **Student Device Policy - Enforcement and Logistics**: The discussion addressed the logistics of the bell-to-bell ban, focusing on how to manage students who might attempt to keep phones in backpacks rather than the designated locked storage. Cynthia Phillips noted that the school has the right to search if they have a credible report of a device on campus and emphasized that consistent enforcement will be necessary. The board agreed to clarify that the policy prohibits both the use and possession of cell phones during school hours to ensure effective implementation (00:24:05) (00:29:24).
- **Student Device Policy - Approval**: After addressing questions regarding enforcement, seminary students' access to devices, and the need for future adjustments as the school learns from implementation, the board voted unanimously to approve the Personal Student Device and Cell Phone Policy (00:33:26).
- **Policy Approval - Safe Schools Discipline and Behavior**: Kat Mitchell and Cynthia Phillips presented revisions to the Safe Schools Discipline and Behavior policy. The update clarifies the definition of burglary by citing specific Utah codes, which helps members of the public understand the scope of the definition and ensures transparency. The board voted unanimously to approve this policy (00:34:34).
- **Mental Health Screening Participation**: The board discussed the annual requirement to vote on participating in state mental health screenings and the use of the Panorama climate survey to collect student data on feelings and

relationships at school. Cynthia Phillips noted that parents retain the option to opt out of these screenings during registration. The board voted unanimously to approve the school's participation for the 2027 fiscal year (00:38:02).

- **Board Member Appointment Discussion**: The board discussed the interest of Shan Wilkinson in joining the Rockwell board. Teen Center noted that while they approved the resume, the current meeting lacked a full board to finalize the vote. The board agreed to distribute Shan Wilkinson's resume to all members and invited them to return for the August meeting to finalize the appointment (00:40:14) (00:42:59).
- **Facility and Infrastructure Updates**: Kat Mitchell provided an update on various facility projects, noting that cafeteria lights, HVAC systems, and new Chromebooks were being implemented. The school also completed significant landscaping, including xeriscaping the area between the seminary building and the school, and addressed minor painting and maintenance needs throughout the middle and high school hallways (00:48:08).
- **New Sewing and Textiles Class**: The board celebrated the addition of a new sewing and textiles class funded by a grant from Larry H. Miller. The school has acquired necessary equipment, including sewing machines and sergers, and student interest in the new course has been high (00:53:34).
- **Security and Safety Upgrades**: The board reviewed recent and ongoing security enhancements, including the installation of 27-mil ballistic film on windows, new camera systems (including fisheye cameras for the front door and license plate readers in the driveway), and the installation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) readers on doors. Additionally, they discussed new visitor protocols, emphasizing that all doors will remain locked during the school day to maintain a secure environment (00:54:35).
- **Visitor Access and Security Measures**: Kat Mitchell stated that supervision for students will always be present on campus during activities, and that access will be restricted so that individuals cannot simply walk in. Cynthia Phillips proposed installing a large sign in the middle of the hall with an arrow directing all visitors to check in at the front office. Regarding the buzzer system, Cynthia Phillips explained that staff will continue to verify visitors through the intercom and will not buzz them in without identifying their purpose, although they acknowledged that staff sometimes become complacent with known parents (00:59:20).

- **Campus Surveillance Upgrades**: Kat Mitchell confirmed that a significant security upgrade was recently completed with the installation of a new camera, which allows staff to clearly see visitors as they approach the buzzer, resolving the issue where the previous camera only provided a view if the visitor stood in a specific location. Shan Wilkinson suggested that all visitors walking the campus must be required to sign in and sign back out to ensure they are accounted for, to which Kat Mitchell replied that a log will be maintained and used regularly to manage this process (01:00:13).
- **Employee Retention Credit Funding**: Shan Wilkinson requested clarification regarding the meaning of the acronym ERC, prompting Teen Center to explain that it stands for Employee Retention Credit. Teen Center described the funds as one-time government support provided to nonprofits and businesses to help retain employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, intended to offset losses from reduced operations. Teen Center confirmed that the organization recently received the final portion of these funds, which had a deadline to be spent by the previous day (01:01:16).
- **Strategic Allocation of Funding**: Kat Mitchell and Teen Center discussed the administrative challenges of managing and spending a large volume of funds within a single year while adhering to necessary accounting practices. Kat Mitchell emphasized that the organization focused on balancing the need to be resourceful and responsible with identifying the top priority upgrades required for Rockwell (01:02:10). Teen Center noted that the team successfully stretched the budget, effectively turning every $100 into $1,000 by diligently searching for the best deals on necessary items (01:03:08).
- **Meeting Adjournment**: Following the discussion on Employee Retention Credit funds, Teen Center called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was granted, officially concluding the board meeting. Shan Wilkinson and Teen Center briefly discussed future meeting dates, with Teen Center directing them to the school's website to view the schedule (01:03:08).