



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting #7

Date | time December 13, 2021 | 5:30 p.m.

Location Administration Boardroom

Meeting called to order with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance by President Downs

In Attendance

Board of Education: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspach, Andrea Jacobson, Timothy Lewis, Nick Reichenbach

Regrets: Geoff Downs

Student representative: Isabella MacKenzie

Administration: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Lisa Jacobs, Jodi Nester

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Tim Lewis, approving the agenda as presented.

Recognition

High School Marching Band State Championship

The Board of Education recognized the Rockford High School Marching Band for their recent State Championship. Dr. Shibler introduced Band Director Evan Bahm (Director Brian Phillips could not attend) who reviewed the band's success over the past several years. Evan also discussed the process of how it came to be that the Band will be marching at the Rose Bowl in 2022. Board Trustee Jake Himmelspach presented the Drum Majors with a plaque for the band and certificates for each band member.

Girls State Championship

Dr. Shibler introduced Athletic Director Cole Andrews who then introduced the Girls' Diving Head Coach Chad Randall who reported to the Board of Education on the Individual State Championship in Diving and introduced the student-athlete Megan Jolly. Board Vice-President Reichard presented a plaque and certificate of recognition to Megan

Middle School Outstanding Students- November 2021

The Board of Education viewed a [video](#) produced by Beyond the Rock as a way to recognize middle school outstanding students of the month.

East RMS

Alaina Miller and Cameron Cook (6th), Haley Armock and Caleb Steele (7th), Chloe Routson and Cannon Willner (8th)

North RMS

Charlotte Harwood and Brayden Gogola (6th), Gabrielle Schmuker and Chase Fisher (7th), Lauren Werschky and Joshua Le (8th)

Dr. Shibler Recommendation

Vice President Nick Reichenbach recognized Dr. Michael Shibler for his years of service and the tremendous impact he has had on Rockford Public Schools staff, students and the community.

Handwritten signature: LMD TAP ON

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Jake Himmelspach, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting #6
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$9,342,733.54
- Certified Staff Resignations – Chad Jackson (effective November 24, 2021) and Jeff Brems (effective January 17, 2022).
- RESPA Letter of Agreement.

- 2021-2022 Middle School Extra Duty Winter Coaching Recommendations
 - Boys Swim (revised): Ethan leach (ERMS Head Coach)
 - Competitive Cheer: Jennifer Orent (NRMS Head Coach).

Reports

Student Representative

RHS student representative Bella MacKenzie reported to the Board of Education on the exam cram at the RFC, Gratitude week and winter wishes. Winter wishes hats coats gloves and other needs to students. Beyond the Rock submitted their MBAs. The Collage Concert was a great success. RHS Student Council brainstormed reached out to the OK red and designed t-shirts to be sold and all the proceeds will be going to Oxford to help support them. Secret Santa is doing a Secret Santa.

Esports

Dr. Shibler introduced Maggie Thelen who talked about Esports program and their success. The program continues to grow. Coach Story talked about some program details including collaboration, strategies, etc. The program has two competitive teams and one club team. Students talked about what a great experience it's been to be a part of the program. The team has tripled in the amount of players they have. Finals are this week. They hope that more people join the program. Michael Gariepy (check spelling) talked about what Rocket League is and a couple of students spoke about their experience. Dakota Neal explained what Valorant is. The students only had a partial season in the fall for this program. Dakota explained the benefits of the program and how it has helped him as well.

Collaborative Team Reports

The Board of Education received information about events occurring in our schools in the form of monthly collaborative team reports.

Elementary: Larry Watters.....planning for tier 3 students and plan for interventions and celebrate their progress. Co-curricular.....auditorium staff is very helpful. 4 concerts were held at the auditorium and it was also recorded and streamed. Toys for tots....parkside won a \$1,300 drawing for Parkside. Valley View and the community of Rockford Public Schools and how they have supported staff on the recent loss of a staff member.

Secondary: Proud of staff and students for the work they have been doing. Thankful for leadership from MR and KWC for PLC leadership. Secondary buildings are involved in several types of community support (make sure it's on Elementary too). Our families, parents and students the support is giving very fast and efficiently. River Valley is continuing to establish programs to help students get the work done that they need to support their students. HS had five students perform and received superior theatre awards. 20 million dollars given away in scholarships all together out students were offered

VMP

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216,000 dollars in scholarships and grants. Kudos to Mr. Leader. Dr. Shibler, final legacy is a scholarship in your name.

School Safety Programs

Dr. Shibler and Scott Beckman, Director of the district's safety department reported on the start of the security department in 1998. Dr. Shibler introduced Scott Beckman. We have added a SRO who works directly with Scott Beckman. Mr Beckman talked about a training program that is done for all school security and gives them an opportunity to get to know each other. There are protocols in place. Continuing to move forward we have a great relationship with MSP and they are helping train some security personnel. Dr. Shibler talked about security upgrades that have been done to all of the buildings in our district. We follow protocols. We continue to look for ways to improve to do the best job we can to keep our buildings as safe as possible.

Old Business

Spring and Fall Policy Updates (Second Reading)

Dr. Shibler recommended the board accept the policies second reading. Motion by Andrea , support by Kelley motion carried unanimously.

RAMS XI (Second Reading)

Dr. Shibler will recommend that the board accept RAMS XI (Look up old language) Motion by Tim Lewis support by Bobbi Jo Blanton motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Bid Recommendation – New Buses

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented to the Board of Education a recommendation to purchase seven 71-passenger and one 47-passenger buses from Hoekstra at a total cost of \$798,531.00. Dr Shibler recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the school buses. Motion by Bobbi Jo Blanton , Support by Jake Himmelspach Motion carried unanimously.

Bid Recommendation – Track Hurdles

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented to the Board of Education a recommendation to purchase 125 track hurdles for Rockford High School at a cost of \$47,955.00 from STAR. Dr Shibler recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the hurdles. Motion by bobbi Jo Blanton , Support by Andrea Jacobson Motion carried unanimously.

Bid Recommendation – M-STEP Devices

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented to the Board of Education a recommendation to purchase 650 Dell M-STEP testing devices from Arbor Solutions at a cost of \$165,431.50 with funds from the 2019 bond proceeds. Dr Shibler recommended that the Board of Education approve the purchase of the M-STEP devices. Motion by Kelley Freridge, Support by Tim Lewis motion carried unanimously.

Certified Staff Recommendation

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Korie Wilson-Crawford presented the following new staff for approval. Dr. Shibler recommended the Board of Education employ the following certified staff member for the 2021-2022 school year: Motion – Andrea, Support Jake
Roxanna Osburn Social Worker Cannonsburg Elementary

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education. "XX" represents individuals who either did not provide their name or their pronouncement was unintelligible. Vice President Reichenbach emphasized the importance of receiving public feedback and reminded the audience to remain respectful in sharing their comments. At the request of the Board of Education, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford moderated the public comment portion of the meeting.

Brenda Wodarski, XX, Craig Ladyman

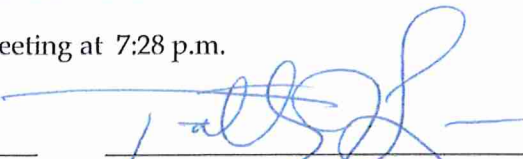
Superintendent's Final Remarks

Dr. Shibler thanked past and current Board of Education trustees for being able to serve the RPS for 32 years. Thanked the outstanding Administrative team. The Assistant Superintendents are the best and our teachers are second to none. Our support staff keeps things running. Thank parents and they have been very supportive when it comes to the education of their children. You have seen tonight what our students can accomplish. The community is second to none. The people are our greatest resource. Our parents are actively involved. Our students have excelled. Our collage concert people said college level. Musicals, drama, bands. 39 athletic programs in Rockford. Drama programs. ESports started two years ago and the kids are excelling. Security, Early College with FSU and GVSU our students are getting HS and College credits. New program starting in the fall with GVSU for teachers. Students can take an early college course and learn what it is like to become a teacher. Over 32 years 500 million dollars in bond and millages. CTLC kids are excelling learning there. It works. Yes, we dealt with COVID. Talked about public health orders and that we must follow it. If we ignore they can close us down. Very supportive of appointment of KWC beginning January 1st, 2022. Continue to live in Rockford and active in the community. Family, girls, grandkids. Dede. Thank you!

Adjournment

Vice President Reichenbach adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.


Recording Secretary


Secretary, Board of Education

