



Date | time Monday –May 8, 2023 | 5:30 p.m.

Location Administration Boardroom

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

In Attendance

Board of Education: Tricia Anderson, Kelley Freridge, Barbara Helms, Jarrod Folsom, Jake Himmelspace, Christie Ramsey, Nick Reichenbach

Student representative: Olivia Bommarito

Administration: Dr. Steve Matthews, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba, Lisa Jacobs, Jodi Nester.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Christie Ramsey to approve the agenda as presented. Support by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition

Dr. Matthews honored Rebecca Kilgore for being chosen as the MSBOA Teacher of the Year. A certificate was presented to Rebecca by Board President Jarrod Folsom.

Certificates were handed out to several Odyssey of the Mind teams for their success this year.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Kelley Freridge with support by Nick Reichenbach. Motion carried unanimously.

- KISD Budgets
- Approval of the minutes from the April 17, 2023 meeting.
- Presentation of bills in the amount of \$10,240,324.84

Reports

Student Representative Report

Olivia Bommarito gave a report to the Board of Education about things that are happening at the secondary level. The Prom was held on May 6 at the Frederick Meijer Gardens and was a great success. The students had a great time. Senior sunset is being planned by the juniors and student council. There will be yard games and food trucks for the Seniors. Relay for life is holding a fundraiser. Olivia gave updates on Spring Sports. Olivia thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as student representative. President Folsom presented Olivia with a book signed by Administration and Board members along with a gift card to Amazon.

Collaborative Team Reports

Elementary - Mindy McGinn (Principal, Lakes Elementary) shared that they have been working on wax museums and other events to enrich learning. The elementary buildings are also doing fundraising for relay for life. Seven new teachers have been hired at the elementary level.

Secondary – Tom Hosford (Principal, Rockford High School) reported on things happening at the secondary level. Band and Choir concerts are happening. The seventh-grade students are attending a white caps game. The RHS Band will be playing the National Anthem the day the students are at the game. Eighth-grade students will be attending Michigan's Adventure. At the High School level there are activities happening including staff appreciation. The spring musical included 8th, 9th and 10th grade students. Dr. Matthews had a small role in the play as well. The E-sports team took second place at a recent competition held at Western Michigan University. Trustee Reichenbach commented on how much the E-sports program has grown.

Committee Reports

Board Trustee Christie Ramsey discussed the Board Operating Procedures policy that they are working on. There will be a first reading tonight. This is something that Rockford hasn't had before but many boards do.

Board Trustee Kelley Freridge discussed the curriculum committee meeting. They were able to see and use the Math Manipulatives and the expanded AP offering program. They also covered the process for new curriculum. Assistant Superintendent, Mike Ramm would be happy to discuss the process with anyone who may have questions. Board Trustee Nick Reichenbach commented on how important it is to see the process.

Summer Learning Report

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Mike Ramm introduced Sharon Wells, LaRinda Fase and Michelle Corey.

Director of Literacy Sharon Wells shared the focus areas for summer learning which include targeted, community, choice and home. She covered each area and how much RPS has used ESSER funds to increase summer learning.

Director of Special Programs, LaRinda Fase talked about the secondary summer learning program. There are several offerings including credit recovery. Students can take two classes during the five-week period. Students can also take required classes for graduation so that they can fit more things into their schedule. Workshops are one to two weeks courses taught by RPS teachers. This program serves approximately 150 students.

District Teacher Consultant for Special Services Michelle Corey shared the Special Education opportunities available to students during the summer. We are also offering tutoring opportunities for the Middle and High School levels. Speech services are also being offered. There will be 30-minute sessions available. ASD and CI programs will also be offered.

Sharon Wells talked about the summer community programs including the Hillview learning program. The Rockford Book Bus is also running this summer and was very successful last year. It's a great opportunity for students.

Board Trustee Reichenbach asked for clarification on the number of staff at the DK/K level.

Retirement Report

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford shared that the number of retirees this year is approximately twenty. Over the next few months we will provide the board with lists of the retirees. Ms. Wilson-Crawford asked if the board had any questions regarding the hiring process. Board trustee Jake Himmelsbach asked if the teacher shortage is making a difference in the number of applicants that we are receiving. Ms. Wilson-Crawford explained that we are getting good numbers of applicants for positions. Board President Folsom asked if we expect the number of retirees to increase. We do expect it to increase slightly. We also expect to see a few resignations as well.

KISD Board Report

Dr. Matthews explained that the Kent ISD election will take place on Monday, June 5th at 6 p.m. One member of our Board of Education will need to be physically present for this meeting to cast the vote for Rockford Public Schools Board of Education. The resolution is being presented at this meeting for review and will be adopted at a special meeting that will be scheduled prior to the election. Board Trustee Reichenbach explained the process further.

OAK Construction Update

A presentation was given by OAK Representatives Jeremy Amshey and Jared Goss updating the progress of the construction projects happening at various locations.

New Business

Certified Staff

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford shared an update on four new Certified Staff Hires. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey.

Roguewood Power Easements

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo explained the need for an easement at Roguewood Elementary due to building expansion. This is required by Consumers Energy. Motion to approve by Nick Reichenbach with support by Jake Himmelsbach. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Policy Update – Board Operating Procedures - 1st Reading

Dr. Matthews explained the need for Board Operating Procedures. This is something that was suggested by the MASB. This policy was reviewed by the policy committee. There is no action needed at this meeting. Board President Folsom talked about the need to visit this document periodically to make any necessary updates and asked the board members to submit feedback to him. Board Trustee Kelley Freridge and Board President Jarrod Folsom thanked Dr. Matthews and Korie Wilson-Crawford for their leadership and help with the process of creating this document. Board Trustee Dr. Helms asked for clarification regarding the readings and approval of policies. Board Trustee Nick Reichenbach asked for clarification on how to submit their suggestions.

Chromebook Purchase

Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Mike Cuneo explained that this purchase of chromebooks is a refresh for broken chromebooks. There are allowances in the bond for that. The purchase would be for 300 replacement chromebooks. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Jake Himmelsbach. Motion passed unanimously.

2023 Graduates

The Board of Education was provided with a list of the 2023 graduates for Rockford High School, River Valley Academy and Adult Education. Board Trustee Nick Reichenbach praised the administrators, board and district for continuing to invest in all Rockford Public Schools programs.

Old Business

Spring Policy Update – 2nd Reading

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford brought the spring policies to the board for approval. Most of the information is editorial. These policies were brought to the last board meeting for a first reading. Motion to approve Christie Ramsey with support by Nick Reichenbach. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education.

Lily Davey Lynelle Buchanan Ali McDuffee Duane Gritter Andrea Jacobson

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews thanked the High School administration and staff for their help making Prom be very successful.

Dr. Matthews addressed a parent concern about a CNN program that is occasionally shown in our Middle School. He watched the show and found it was designed for middle school students. If parents have any concerns they should reach out to their middle school principal.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education