



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes - Regular Meeting

September 11, 2023

Date | time Monday – September 11, 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, Jake Himmelspach, Jarrod Folsom, Christie Ramsey, Nick Reichenbach

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

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.

Student Recognition

Eagle Scout Owen Scott was recognized by the Board of Education and Rockford Public Schools Administration for his outdoor project at Crestwood Elementary. Owen built an outdoor space for learning that is utilized by many classes at Crestwood Elementary.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspach with support by Nick Reichenbach. The motion passed unanimously. Trustee Anderson and Trustee Helms were not present for this vote.

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 14, 2023 meeting
2. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$8,671,288.09
3. Fall Coaches

New Business

1. Certified Staff Recommendations

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Korie Wilson-Crawford presented certified staff hiring recommendations. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with Support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

1. Student Representative

Camille Dahlke reported on current student events happening at RPS. The High School students enjoyed taking advantage of welcome back food trucks and the senior sunrise. She also reported on athletics, theatre, and clubs.

2. Collaborative Team Reports

Valley View Principal Jeremy Karel talked about the great start to the new school year. Belmont Elementary and Meadow Ridge Elementary have new classroom furniture to start the year. Teachers are meeting to discuss interventions and what kids need to succeed.

Rockford High School Principal Tom Hosford also talked about the great start to the new school year. Middle School athletics are up and running. Esports will be starting at the Middle School this year. Secondary staff are looking forward to the work that will be done on the early release days. River Valley Academy has a new Social Worker. They are also starting a zero-hour weight training class, which is already full. There are 24 exchange students from 12 countries attending Rockford High School this school year. Virtual enrollment continues to grow. Rockford High School was named a US News and World Report Best High School.

3. MASB Back to School Legal Conference

Nick Reichenbach shared information he received while attending the MASB Legal Conference. He highlighted two Court Cases regarding Parental Rights and the Office of Civil Rights. He also talked about a current Michigan case.

4. Parks and Rec Report

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented information on the Parks and Recreation Millage Renewal. The renewal would be collected at the same rate taxpayers currently pay and what programs the funds can be utilized for.

5. Construction Update

Jared Goss and Jeremy Amshey from Owen Ames Kimball gave an update on construction projects happening throughout the district and what has been completed over the summer.

6. Grow Your Own (GYO) Update

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson Crawford and Executive Director of Community Services gave an update on the Grow Your Own Program. Staff are very excited about the opportunity this program provides. Based on the amount of interest in the program an application has been submitted for additional grant funding.

7. Committee Reports

Kelley Freridge reported on the HR Committee meeting. The committee discussed Superintendent compensation and requested a recommendation from Korie Wilson-Crawford.

Nick Reichenbach gave a building and site committee report. Tennis courts will be replaced and will have additional courts installed. Work is happening with Governmental agencies regarding the Edgerton Trails water and sewer. They discussed the noise complaints from neighbors near the Rockford High School stadium and how to address the problem.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education.

Brenda Wodarski	Craig Ladyman	Charles Curtis	Andrea Jacobson
Connie Mulders	Duane Gritter		

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews thanked the public speakers for their comments. He discussed transparency and suggested that if anyone has concerns, they should reach out to his office, and he would be more than willing to speak with community members regarding their concerns. He discussed the parks and rec millage and how some funds would be used. Dr. Matthews is pleased with the start of the school year. We are working hard on the free breakfast and lunch program and how we may be able to make improvements.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education