



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

May 11, 2026

Date & time Monday, May 11, 2026 | 6:00 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: Kelley Freridge, Barb Helms, Jarrod Folsom, Jake Himmelspace, Andrea Jacobson, Christie Ramsey

Administration: Dr. Steve Matthews Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Allison Clements, Mike Ramm, Jodi Nester

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Kelley Freridge with support from Jake Himmelspace. Motion carried.

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized Leah for her contributions as Student Representative with a book and small gift.

Leah gave her report to the board and administration at this time. There are many end of the year activities happening at all levels in May. Graduation is on May 18th. Leah has enjoyed her time serving as the Student Representative to the Board of Education.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Kelley Freridge with support from Christie Ramsey. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$ 8,301,778.29
2. Approval of Minutes from the April 20, 2026 Regular Meeting
3. Approval Minutes from the May 1, 2026 Special Meeting
4. Kent ISD Budget

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present – Public Comment

Audience Participation. No action taken.

New Business

1. Board of Education Candidate Interview Selection – There was discussion regarding how many

candidates the Board of Education should interview for the current vacancy due to Tricia Anderson's resignation. There were sixteen applications from community members to fill the position. The board also discussed the length of time they would expect for each interview. They do expect each interview to last approximately 30 minutes. There was a motion to interview five candidates based on the rubric scores by Kelley Freridge with support by Jake Himmelspace. Motion carried. There was a motion by Andrea Jacobson with support by Kelley Freridge to hold the meeting on May 14th at 6PM and to rely on Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford to prepare the candidate packets, questions (from MASB), and facilitate the consensus discussion in the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Parkside ECC Playground Access Bid Review – The access ramp at Parkside needs to be updated in order to be compliant. There were four bidders. The project came in under budget. Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspace with support from Andrea Jacobson. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Bond refunding ratifying resolution – Rockford Public Schools is refunding bonds which will result in significant savings for tax payers. Closing is set for June 2, 2026. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support from Andrea Jacobson. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.
4. Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford brought new hire recommendations to the board for approval. One is 2025-2026 and four to begin with the 2026-2027 school year. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support from Jake Himmelspace. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford brought a special policy regarding debt management. This is at the recommendation of our municipal advisors. She also brought a board operating procedures change. Dr. Helms asked for clarification on the operating procedure brought for a first reading. Dr. Helms asked for clarification on how the Superintendent Remarks is put on the agenda. Dr. Wilson-Crawford explained that the Board President and the Superintendent set the draft agenda for the meetings, and the Board adopts the agenda at the start of each meeting. No action necessary.
6. Skyward ERP Migration – Allison Clements, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations asked for approval for the cost of the skyward migration. Carl Vanderzee from Communications by Design explained the cost associated with the migration. Motion to approve by Barb Helms with support from Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Furniture Purchase – Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction brought a furniture recommendation for approval. The proposal includes River Valley Academy. Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspace with support from Jarrod Folsom. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ramm also brought a recommendation for replacement furniture to be available when needed. This furniture would be stored at the Maintenance department. This would keep consistency and be cost effective for the system. Motion to approve by Andrea Jacobson with support by Jake Himmelspace. Motion carried.

Old Business

1. Spring Policy – 2nd reading – This is the second reading of the spring policy updates. There have not been any questions since the first reading. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support from Andrea Jacobson. Motion carried.

Reports

Collaborative Reports

Jeremy Karel, Principal of Valley View Elementary, gave a report on things that are happening this spring at the elementary level. Field days are taking place. The seniors are doing walkthroughs at elementary schools. Testing is wrapping up. He talked about how fortunate the district is to have such a deep pool of candidates for teaching positions.

Adam Burkholder, Principal of East Rockford Middle School, gave a report on things happening at the Secondary Level. Teachers are planning for next year. He also was very happy with the depth of the candidate pool for the positions open at the middle school level. He spoke about intervention time and how teachers are spending time with students to help them be successful.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Jarrod Folsom discussed the Building and Site meeting.

Policy committee meeting has been covered with new and old business items.

MASB Training updates – No updates.

Site Improvement Methodology – Carl Vanderzee talked about changes happening within the district and proactively working together as teams. When doors are being replaced, they are being replaced with card readers rather than manual locks to move forward with technology and security. Departments are continuing to work together when changes are being made.

Bus Inspection – Sixty seven busses were inspected. We received three red tags. One was a mistake. All identified problems were quickly addressed and we received green tags for all of our busses.

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews reminded the community of the May 14, 2026, meeting to interview candidates. He talked about the rights of privacy for students and staff. Investigations are conducted quickly and thoroughly. The board is not informed of all personnel matters because the board employees the Superintendent. The Superintendent employees staff who take the necessary steps to investigate personnel situations that may arise. Our district continues to attract family and staff. Fifteen of the twenty districts in Kent County have declines in coverage. The use of the sinking fund has changed since the bond did not pass. We are proud of what and who we are and the opportunities we provide our students.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education