



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 14, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOGNITION

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$13,445,107.20
2. Certified Staff Resignations
3. Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2026, Regular meeting
4. Approval of Minutes from September 8, 2026, Special meeting
5. Revised Fall Coaches
6. PASE Representative

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND HEARING OF PEOPLE PRESENT

NEW BUSINESS

1. Certified New Hires
2. Administrator Resignation

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS

1. Student Rep Reports
2. Collaborative Reports
3. Model PLC Recognition
4. Non-Homestead Millage report
5. Transportation Report
6. MASB Delegates
7. Committee & Liaison Reports

SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS

ADJOURNMENT

PAYROLL	4 & 5	2,784,779.44	
	4 & 5	21,070.48	
	4 & 5	17,712.42	
	4 & 5	2,823,562.34	
	\$	312,381.15	
AX-MEDICARE TAX	\$	607,208.42	
	\$	141,684.98	
	\$	1,061,274.55	
			\$ 3,884,836
ANCE	\$	45,142.10	
ON	\$		
N FEES	\$	74,023.37	
FE)	\$	941,037.18	
CE SVCS(L TERM DISABILITY	\$	11,317.44	
OLL	\$	2,912,708.80	\$ 3,984,228
	\$	6,152.40	
GY	\$	153,202.75	
RLY EDF ENERGY) BULK FUE	\$	0.00	\$ 159,355
	\$	64,350.00	
MGMT	\$	44,983.63	
			\$ 109,333
		TOTAL OF ABOVE	\$ 8,137,754
		BALANCE OF TOTAL GENERAL FUND	1,057,051
		SINKING FUND REG CKS	
		SINKING FUND ACH CKS	860,465
		2025 BOND REG CKS	2,435,634
		2022 BOND ACH CKS	763,063
		GENERAL FUND ACH CKS	74,023
		GENERAL FUND CREDIT CARD	117,113
		TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	13,445,107



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Date: September 14, 2026
Subject: 2026-2027 Employee Resignations

Andrew Laarman	Teacher	East Middle School
Jessica Priem	Teacher	Cannonsburg and Belmont Elementary

From: Priem, Jessica <jpriem@rockfordschools.org>

Sent: Wednesday, 12 August 2026 08:28:25

To: Wilson-Crawford, Korie <kwilsoncrawford@rockfordschools.org>; Ramm, Michael <mrmm@rockfordschools.org>; Thelen, Margaret <mthelen@Rockfordschools.org>

Subject: Notice of Resignation

Dear Kori, Mike and Maggie,

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation from my position as a Rockford Teacher, effective immediately.

I have accepted an Elementary STEAM position with Grand Ledge Public Schools. This wasn't a decision made lightly, and it comes with a pay cut, but it's one I'm making without hesitation, because my passion is Elementary STEAM education and curriculum. As a parent myself, my wish for my own children is that they are taught by teachers who are passionate about their subject matter, and I want to hold myself to that same standard.

I'm proud of the STEAM program we were building here in Rockford. I hope that work continues to be given the support it deserves.

I wish the district well going forward.

Sincerely,
Jessica



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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

August 10, 2026

Date | time Monday, August 10, 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, Jarrod Folsom, Lissa Geglio-Weidenfeller, Barb Helms, Jake Himmelspace, Andrea Jacobson, Christie Ramsey

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

Adoption of Agenda

There was a motion to approve the agenda by Kelley Freridge with support from Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized the Girls Lacrosse team for their recent state championship.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Andrea Jacobson with support from Christie Ramsey. The consent agenda contained the following items:

1. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$8,859,343.65
2. Certified Staff Resignations
3. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2026, Special meeting
4. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2026, Regular meeting
5. Fall Coaches

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present – Public Comment

Audience Participation – No action taken

New Business

Outdoor Learning Name – Mike Ramm updated the board on the naming of the Outdoor Learning Program at Edgerton Trails. Extensive input was gathered from both students and staff. The name selected for the program is Rockford Roots.

This was information only. No action necessary.

Old Business

None.

Reports

Facilities Report – Josh Szymanski from Owen, Ames, Kimball gave a facilities update. He presented a summary report covering the condition of the buildings as they sit today and what it will take over the next ten years to keep the facilities functional.

Carl Vander Zee from Communications by Design also updated the board on the condition of technology throughout the district.

MASB Training Update – Lissa Geglio-Weidenfeller talked about the MASB conference she was able to attend and her progress toward becoming a certified board member.

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews talked about the traffic near Valley View Elementary. There will be some changes made at the beginning of the school year.

He also spoke about the non-Homestead millage and the importance of it.

There is ongoing discussion on putting up a fence at Meadow Ridge Elementary and what the best option for that would be. Our construction team is working on it.

Staffing is still being finalized.

The transition to PowerSchool is happening and we appreciate parents getting their students registered as soon as possible.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:16PM

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes – Special Meeting September 8, 2026

Date & time Tuesday, September 8, 2026 | 8:00 a.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, Jarrod Folsom, Lissa Geglio-Weidenfeller, Jake Himmelspace, Andrea Jacobson

Regrets: Dr. Barbara Helms, Christie Ramsey

Administration: Dr. Steve Matthews Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Jodi Nester

Adoption of Agenda

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

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present

Audience Participation. No action taken.

New Business

Trustee Complaint – There was a motion by Lissa Geglio-Weidenfeller with support from Jake Himmelspace to enter closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

The board entered closed session to deliberate the complaint received.

There was a motion by Andrea Jacobson with support by Jake Himmelspace to return to open session. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Kelley Freridge with support from Jake Himmelspace to approve a draft resolution regarding the complaint. The Board passed a motion stating:

1. *The comments and conduct of a single member of this board do not represent the position or opinion of the school board as an entity under the Revised School Code.*
2. *The Rockford community and its members are placed on notice that except for the Board President, who functions as the official spokesperson of the Board under Bylaw 0143.1, or unless specifically authorized by motion of this board, an individual member of the school board has no greater authority than that of an individual community member and that such individual's comments and conduct should not be construed as representing the position or opinion of the school board.*
3. *The school board completely, without reservation, disavows the aforementioned comments and conduct as representing the position or opinion of the school board.*
4. *The school board hereby censures Trustee Dr. Barbara Helms for the conduct described above.*

5. *The school board affirms its commitment to comply with the Revised School Code and all laws protecting students and school staff.*
6. *The Board's actions within this resolution shall be inserted within the minutes of the meeting.*

The motion was passed unanimously by roll-call vote.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education

DRAFT



Memorandum

To: Dr. Steven Matthews, Superintendent
From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Date: September 14, 2026
Subject: REVISED 2026-2027 HIGH SCHOOL EXTRA-DUTY FALL COACHING RECOMMENDATIONS

SPORT	POSITION	NAME
GOLF (GIRLS)	JV (A) Head Coach	Heidi Greenland



Memorandum

To: Dr. Steven Matthews, Superintendent of Schools
From: Mindy Duba, Director of Special Services
Date: September 14, 2026
Subject: PASE Recommendation for 2026-2027

The KISD Parent Advisors for Special Education (PASE) committee provides input related to improvement in special education services within Kent County. PASE members participate in the development and modifications of our intermediate school district's plan, review deviation requests and give input related to monitoring activities. Members are updated with current changes in federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. They are also offered the opportunity to attend in-service trainings related to topics of interest. PASE members assist special education administrators disseminate information to parents in their local school district.

Heather Bright is the parent of a child with a disability who currently receives special education services in Rockford. Heather has served as the PASE representative for Rockford Public Schools since 2023. She has volunteered to continue to serve as a representative for Rockford Public Schools on PASE for another three-year term.

I am requesting that Heather Bright be appointed to PASE as a representative of Rockford Public Schools for the 2026-2027 school year.



Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Date: September 14, 2026
Subject: Certified Staff Recommendation

Ashlee (Graham) Jones

Teacher

Roguewood Elementary

Katherine Weidling

Behavioral Specialist

Special Services



Rockford Public Schools

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Human Resources Department
Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent
350 N. Main Street • Rockford, MI 49341
Phone: 616.863.6554 • Fax: 616.863.6355

Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Date: September 14, 2026
Subject: Administrator Resignation

Cole Andrews

Athletic Director

High School



Rockford Public Schools

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Athletic Department
Cole Andrews, Director of Athletics
candrews@rockfordschools.org
4100 Kroes Street, NE · Rockford, MI 49341
Phone: 616.863.6040 · Fax: 616.866.7128

Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

I am resigning from my position as Director of Athletics, effective Friday, August 14, 2026. I appreciate your prompt acknowledgment of my resignation.

Sincerely,

Cole Andrews
Director of Athletics
Rockford High School



Memorandum

To: Steve Matthews Ph.D., Superintendent
From: Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Date: August 6, 2026
Subject: Model PLC at Work® School Recognition Presentation

Dr. Matthews,

I am pleased to inform you and the Board of Education of a significant academic achievement within Rockford Public Schools. Four of our schools, Crestwood Elementary, East Rockford Middle School, North Rockford Middle School, and Valley View Elementary School have earned national recognition as Model PLC at Work® schools by Solution Tree. These pathfinder schools for our district were the first four to apply and each earned the recognition for their student learning focused characteristics.

Model PLC at Work® is the highest level of DuFour and Eaker Recognition awarded to schools that demonstrate a deep, sustained commitment to the Professional Learning Community process and present clear evidence of improved student outcomes over time. This recognition places our four schools among a select group of only 12 schools in Michigan and approximately 600 across the United States and Canada. We will also have additional schools that qualify as they will be applying in the near future.

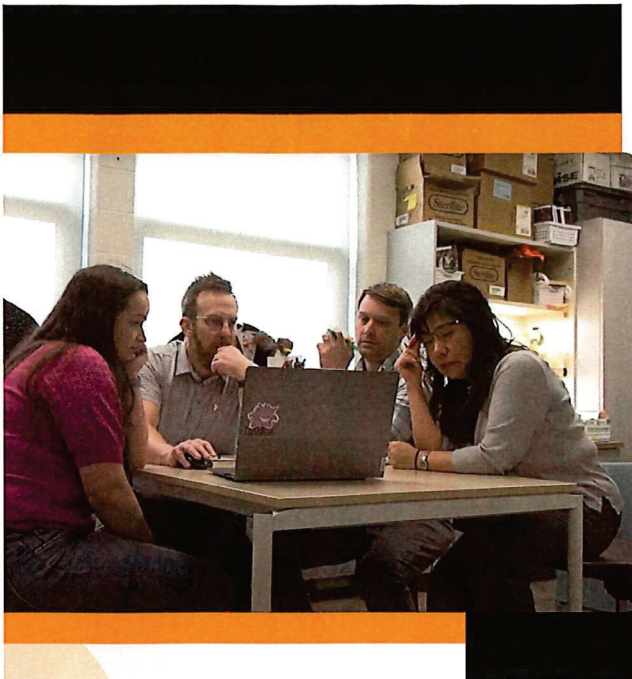
It is important to highlight that a critical system supporting this accomplishment is our district's early release day schedule. This dedicated time provides teacher teams with regular opportunities to analyze student learning data, align instruction, and respond with targeted interventions or extensions. Achieving Model PLC status externally validates our student focused collaborative processes, creates in-district exemplars to inspire continuous improvement, and enhances our district's reputation to attract and retain top educator talent.

At Monday's Board of Education meeting, I will share a presentation formally recognizing these four schools, highlighting their accomplishments and celebrating the dedicated staff, guiding coalitions, and school leaders who made this honor possible.

If you have any questions or require further information prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Ramm



RPS PLCs



Rockford Public Schools

Together, Building a Tradition of Excellence

Core Values

We all live by these core values...

- Student-Centered Action
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Transparency

Collective Commitments

We will take collective responsibility for the success of EVERY student.

We will model the behaviors we expect of our students; including respect, inclusion, positive interactions and lifelong learning.

We will hold ourselves accountable to a collaborative process that develops each student's potential using evidence-based strategies.

We will act with integrity and transparency in our communications and interactions with all stakeholders.

We recognize that productive discourse which includes competing ideas is an essential byproduct of a successful commitment to student learning.

PLCS

3 Big Ideas & 4 PLC Questions



3 Big Ideas

1. Focus on Learning
2. Collaborative Culture
3. Results Orientation

4 PLC Questions

1. What do we expect students to learn?
2. How do we know they have learned it?
3. How do we respond when they do not learn?
4. How do we respond when they have already learned?



2019/20 PLC READINESS Administration

The Three Big Ideas of PLC Readiness

1. What do we want our students to know? 2. How do we know when they've learned it?
3. What are we going to do when they don't? 4. What are we going to do when they already know it?

Culture of Collaboration	Results Orientation	Focus on Learning
Collective Commitments	Data Driven Decision Making	Priority Standards
The Purpose of Being a PLC - 3 Big Ideas	Formative Common Assessments	RPS Instructional Model-GRR
7 Norms of Collaboration	Data Dialogues Protocol and How to Implement	Guaranteed Viable Curriculum
The Collaborative Meeting Template	Goal Setting and Monitoring	Intervention Systems - Academic ?'s 3 & 4
The Collaborative Calendar	Learning by Doing/Growth Mindset/Power	Intervention Systems - SEL (PBIS)
PLC Collaborative Teams Structure	The Inquiry Cycle	
Definition of Lead Learners - <i>What does that look like?</i>		

Key:

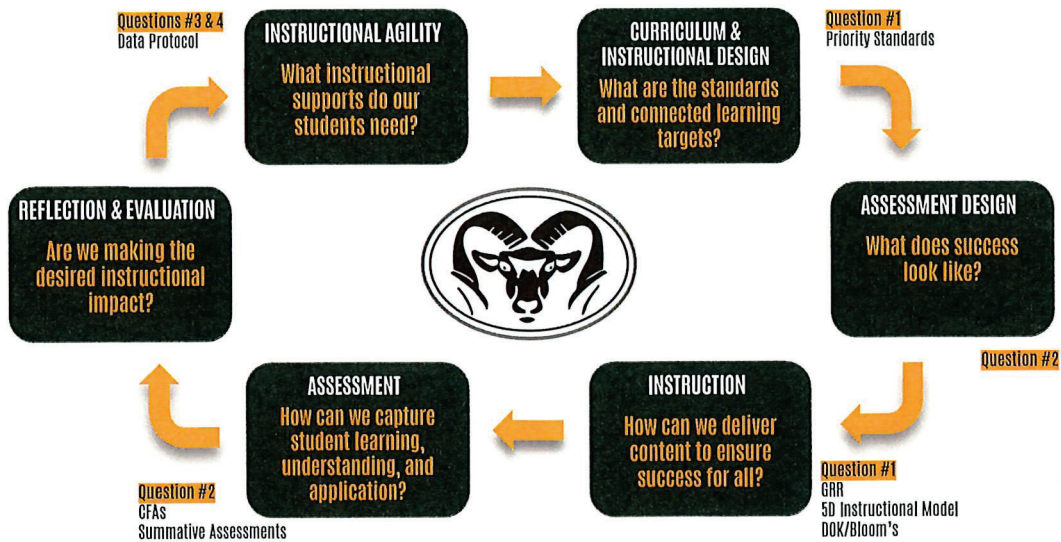
BOLD = First steps for readiness

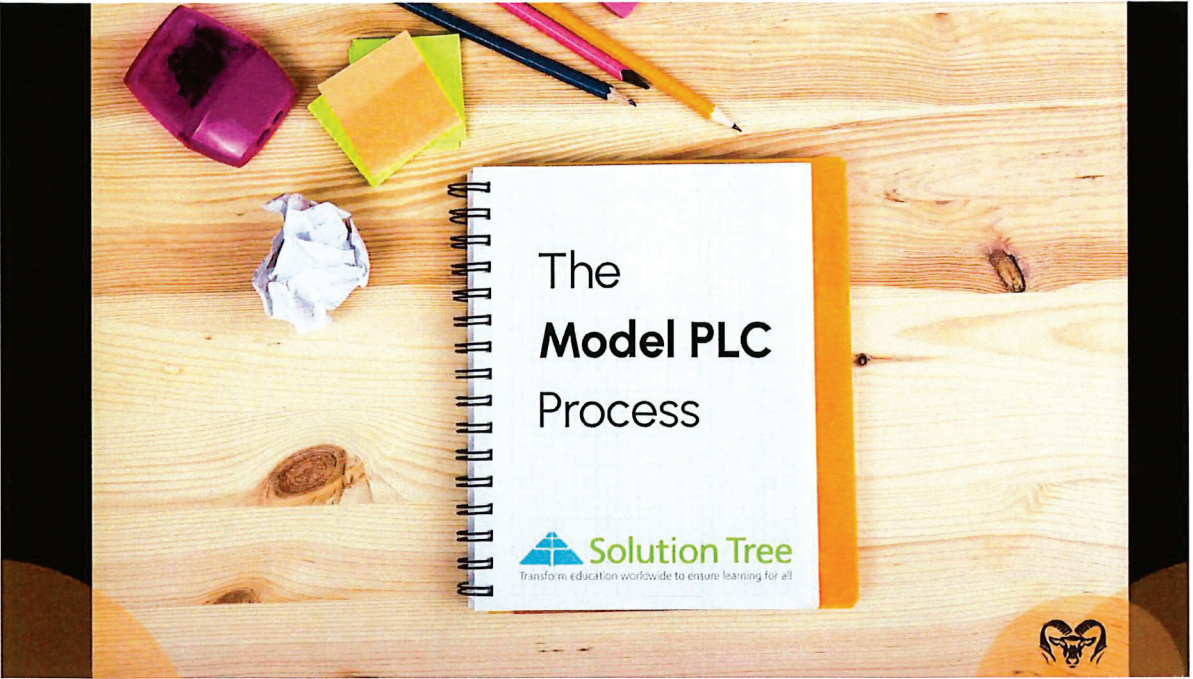
Non-Bold = "North Stars" for future work

Collective Responsibility



RPS Inquiry Cycle



A spiral-bound notebook with an orange cover lies on a light-colored wooden desk. To the left of the notebook are a purple eraser, a yellow sticky note, a crumpled white paper ball, and two pencils (one pink, one yellow). The notebook's cover is white with black text and a logo at the bottom. The background is a wooden surface with a grain pattern.

The Model PLC Process



Criteria

- Provide three years of data showing increased student achievement
- Describe systems, processes, and culture.
- Submit foundational artifacts, tools, and documents.



Approved RPS 2026/2027 Calendar

August 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
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October 2026						
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November 2026						
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29	30					

December 2026						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28	29	30	31			

April 2027						
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May 2027						
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30	31					

June 2027						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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July 2027						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Congratulations on receiving
Model PLC Recognition!

- ★ Crestwood
- ★ Valley View
- ★ East Middle
- ★ North Middle



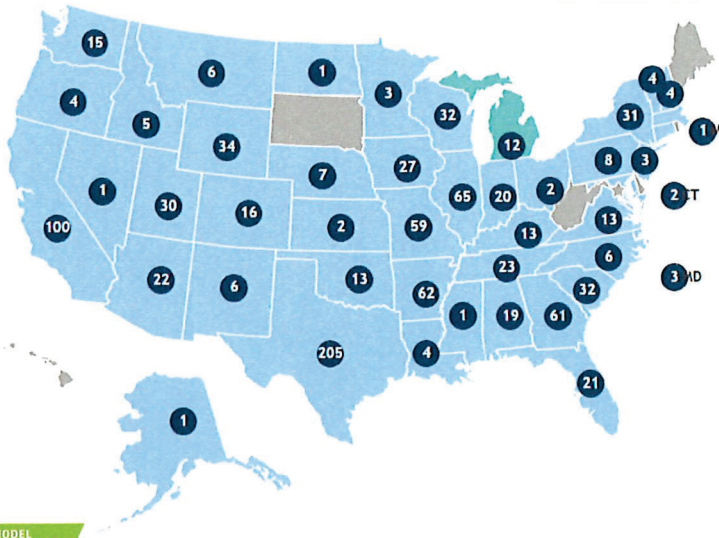
**MODEL
PLC at WORK®
SCHOOL**







999 out of 1029 Worldwide



MODEL
PLC at WORK®
SCHOOL



Four Rockford Public Schools Earn Model PLC at Work® Recognition for Sustained Student Success

Recognition places schools among a select group of only 12 in Michigan and approximately 600 across the U.S. and Canada

ROCKFORD, Mich. — Four Rockford Public Schools have earned Model Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at Work® recognition from Solution Tree, a national designation awarded to schools that demonstrate sustained improvements in student achievement through educator collaboration.

Crestwood Elementary, East Rockford Middle School, North Rockford Middle School, and Valley View Elementary School received the distinction. They are among only 12 schools in Michigan and approximately 600 schools across the United States and Canada to achieve it.

Model PLC at Work® is the highest level of recognition within the PLC process and is awarded to schools that demonstrate at least three years of sustained implementation supported by evidence of improved student outcomes.

"This recognition is a testament to the dedication, talent, and collaborative spirit of our staff across all four schools," said Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Rockford Public Schools. "At its core, Model PLC recognition is about educators working together to help every student learn at high levels. We're incredibly proud to see the systems and practices our staff have built recognized on a national level."

Professional Learning Communities are built on a simple idea: when educators work together, regularly review student progress, and respond quickly when students need additional support, student achievement improves. Schools earning Model PLC at Work® recognition must demonstrate at least three years of sustained implementation and provide clear evidence that student outcomes have improved over time.

To earn the designation, schools submit multiple years of student achievement data and detailed evidence of the practices, systems, and culture that support continuous improvement.

"When educators work together to analyze student learning, share effective practices, and respond to student needs, the results are powerful," said Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. "One key element of the system that supports this collaboration and responsive teaching is our early release day schedule. Teachers use this dedicated time to work in teams, align instruction, and plan how to respond when students need additional support or when they have already demonstrated mastery. This collaborative time is critical to helping us meet the needs of every learner."

The recognition is the latest example of Rockford Public Schools' commitment to academic excellence. The district consistently ranks among the top-performing school systems in Kent County and is recognized as a regional leader in literacy-focused instruction and academic support systems designed to ensure high levels of learning for all students. Rockford also leads Kent County in opportunities for students to earn college credit while still in high school, maintains an 80% college attendance rate among graduates, and has been recognized by the College Board as an Advanced Placement District.

"What makes this recognition especially meaningful is that it reflects a pattern of excellence across our district," said Jarrod Folsom, President of the Rockford Board of Education. "Whether it's student achievement, college readiness, advanced coursework opportunities, or the support systems we provide for learners, this honor affirms the work our staff, students, and families are doing together every day."

Recognized Model PLC schools are featured on AllThingsPLC.info, where educators from around the world can learn about their implementation strategies, structures, and results. For more than 25 years, Solution Tree has provided professional learning resources and services that help educators create schools where all students can succeed.

MASB Delegate Certification

MASB's groups are determined by type and pupil count as defined below, with the number of delegates and alternates allowable determined by group.

Group	Pupil Count	Number of Delegates
1	All ISDs	1
2	0 - 1,400	1
3	1,401 - 2,500	2
4	2,501 - 5,000	3
5	5,001 - 11,000	4
6	11,001 - 40,000	4
7	Over 40,000	4

Your Email

jnester@rockfordschools.org

This is the email in our records and where you will receive confirmations. If you need to change this email, please change in the MASB Member Portal.

Delegate Certification

Select Your District

Please Select 

Alternate Certification

Each group is allowed to certify the same number of delegates and alternates. In the event that a delegate cannot attend the assembly, alternates can replace them. **Please DO NOT select an alternate who you selected above as a delegate.**

Did you want to certify an alternate who wasn't in the above list?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Do any of your delegates or alternates require an accommodation from us?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

RPS Building and Site Committee Minutes

Sept 10, 2026

Meeting Location: Administration Building

Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m.

Attendance: Allison Clements, Joanne Gerhard, Jarrod Folsom, Jake Himmelspace, Kelley Freridge, Jared Gauss, Carl Vanderzee, Chris Meuser, Dan Tryles, Jeff Chick, and Shawn Hayward

Jarrod Folsom called the meeting to order at 7:26 a.m.

Jarrod Folsom called for a moment of silence.

Kelley Freridge motioned to approve the agenda. Jake Himmelspace seconded the motion.

1. **Facility Assessment Recap-** Jared Gauss and Shawn Hayward provided a recap of the presentation the School Board received in August. Each building in the district was evaluated and reviewed by category. Carl Vanderzee presented an overview of the district technology infrastructure needs, detailing the evaluation methodology and criteria used to establish timelines for necessary updates and plan for future needs.
2. **Parkside Fire System-** Shawn Hayward detailed the necessity to replace the fire alarm system to bring the system up to current code. The updated system will include voice notification capabilities for emergency communication. The project will go out for bid in the fall with construction slated for the summer of 2027. The estimated cost of the project is \$137,000 to be paid out of Sinking Fund.
3. **Meadow Ridge Fence Concept-** Allison Clements and Dan Tryles outlined the planning process and discussion on next steps regarding the proposed perimeter fence installation around Meadow Ridge Elementary School playground.
4. **Harv Turf Replacement Concept-** Dan Tryles presented the Harv turf is at the end of useful life and will become a safety concern for those using the field. He detailed how new turf, new infill, and possible safety pad will be replaced in the summer of 2027. The estimate of the project is \$826,532 to be paid out of Sinking Fund. This project would go out to bid in fall with bids being presented to the board in the coming months. The project would take place in the summer of 2027.
5. **RHS Auditorium Lighting Concept-** Dan Tryles and Shawn Hayward presented the need to address the failing lighting system for the high school auditorium. This concept was presented to the Building and Site Committee last school year. This project is estimated to cost \$818,935 to be paid out of Sinking Fund. The project would go out to bid this fall, and bids would be presented to the school board in the coming months. The project would commence in the summer of 2027.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.