



Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools
Together Building a Tradition of Excellence

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

September 14, 2026

Date & time Monday, September 14, 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, Allison Clements, Jodi Nester, Mike Ramm

Regrets: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford

Adoption of Agenda

There was a motion by Jarrod Folsom with support from Andrea Jacobson to amend the agenda to include a new business item for the advertising and sale of t-shirts with proceeds benefiting Anni's army. Motion passed unanimously. There was a motion by Christie Ramsey to approve the amended agenda with support from Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition

There were no recognition items on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Kelley Freridge with support from Jake Himmelspace. The consent agenda contained the following items:

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 & Hearing of People Present – Public Comment

Audience Participation – No action taken

New Business

1. Anni's Army – There has been a request for the Meier family to work with building principals for the sale of t-shirts prior to an upcoming game with proceeds benefiting Pediatric Cancer Awareness. Policy 9700 requires the Board of Education to approve this request. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Certified New Hires – Dr. Matthews presented two staff recommendations for board approval. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support from Lissa Geglio-Weidenfeller. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Administrator Resignation – Dr. Matthews presented an Administrator resignation to the board for approval. Motion to approve by Andrea Jacobson with support from Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None.

Reports

Student Rep Report – There was a report from the RHS Student Council President. He talked to the board about orientation. The Senior Sunrise recently took place with many seniors participating. The play, Marian, or the true tale of Robin Hood has been cast. The homecoming theme is the Greatest Show with a carnival theme.

Collaborative Reports

Elementary – Jeremy Karel, Principal, Valley View Elementary talked about how the beginning of the school year and the RAMS (Respectful, Accountable, Motivated and Safe) model. The entire Elementary cohort using this model. He also thanked the Transportation and Maintenance department for their help in making sure there was a solid start to the school year. PTO fundraisers are up and running. Picture day is coming.

Secondary – Adam Burkholder, Principal of East Rockford Middle School talked about how they also use a RAMS model, but their acronym is a little different and is solution based. He also praised the Transportation department. Staff has done an amazing job working with our new information system, PowerSchool.

PLC Recognition – Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum gave a presentation on Model PLC. Crestwood Elementary, Valley View Elementary, East Rockford Middle School and North Rockford Middle School have all received Model PLC Recognition. These buildings are one of 12 schools who have received Model PLC status. Members of the board praised each of the schools and the employees who worked hard to help achieve this honor.

Dr. Matthews gave a Non-Homestead Millage report – Dr. Matthews gave details on the Non-Homestead Millage report and explained that this is not about building buildings, but rather is the funding for regular ongoing general fund needs in our district. The proposal will maintain the districts ability to collect the legal maximum of 18 mills. The millage generates approximately 9.5 million dollars annually and it represents approximately 8% of the districts operating budget. Non-Homestead would apply for businesses, rental properties, commercial

and industrial properties, second homes, vacation homes and non-principle residences. Homeowners do not pay this tax on their principal residence.

Transportation Report – Matt Puett, Director of Transportation, talked about the start of the year in transportation. He has addressed some recent concerns brought to him. He thanked the IT department for helping him get all student information in PowerSchool. He has answered many emails and has asked that if anyone has any questions, please email him at mpuett@rockfordschools.org. We still have a shortage of bus drivers across the state. He has systems in place to help when we are short bus drivers. He has watched footage on the buses to confirm that we do not have students sitting in the aisles or on the floor. Bus capacity is 72 students which is 3 per seat. We try to keep our elementary bus routes to 60 students and our secondary routes to 50 students. He has made necessary adjustments to routes in order to keep the bus loads manageable. RPS does need bus drivers. He explained the process in order to be eligible to drive a bus.

MASB Delegates – The board discussed who may be attending the fall MASB conference. Jodi Nester will certify Lissa Geglio-Weidenfeller, Andrea Jacobson and Christie Ramsey with the MASB as delegates for Rockford Public Schools. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support from Jake Himmelspace. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee and Liaison Reports – President Folsom talked about the building and site meeting. They spent a lot of time covering the facilities report overview. He also talked about a perimeter fence at Meadow Ridge Elementary. They are investigating options. The Parkside fire system must be upgraded by Summer of 2027.

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews talked about the importance of student safety and independence. The district assigns additional staff when necessary.

The Boat House property is not owned by Rockford Public Schools. The urgency that was mentioned during public comment has not been communicated to the district, but there will be follow-up with the athletic department.

We will be having community information sessions for the public to learn about the millage proposal.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:40PM

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education