



# Rockford Public Schools

Quality Community – Quality Schools  
*Together Building a Tradition of Excellence*

## ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 11, 2025 - 5:30 PM

### Agenda

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Certified Resignation
2. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$10,240,845.02
3. Fall Coaches
4. Donation – \$2,022.02 Hockey Uniforms
5. Donation - \$1,300 Track Timing Device
6. Donation - \$8,778.00 – Practice Dummies
7. Donation - \$2,000 Football Donation
8. Donation - \$1,000 Track Donation

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. New Hire – Administrator
2. Bond Resolution
3. MASB Delegates

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### REPORTS

None

#### RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND HEARING OF PEOPLE PRESENT

#### SUPERINTENDENT REMARKS

#### ADJOURNMENT



## Memorandum

To: Board of Education  
From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Date: August 11, 2025  
Subject: 2025-2026 Employee Resignations

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|                 |         |                  |            |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|------------|
| Kimberly Krampe | Teacher | Parkside         | 07/21/2025 |
| Amy Morgan      | Teacher | Crestwood        | 08/04/2025 |
| Kaitlin VanWyk  | Teacher | Meadow Ridge/SPS | 08/05/2025 |

# BOARD REPORT ON DISBURSEMENTS

DATE: 7/7/2025

8/4/2025

## PAYROLL

|                          |       |              |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------|
| GENERAL FUND NET PAYROLL | 2 & 3 | 2,413,241.51 |
| FOOD SERVICE             | 2 & 3 | 8,878.72     |
| ATHLETIC FUND            | 2 & 3 | 14,674.70    |
| TOTAL ALL FUNDS          | 2 & 3 | 2,436,794.93 |

## ALL FUNDS:

|                                  |    |            |
|----------------------------------|----|------------|
| FEDERAL TAX                      | \$ | 277,955.93 |
| SOCIAL SECURITY TAX-MEDICARE TAX | \$ | 520,943.00 |
| STATE TAX                        | \$ | 120,854.13 |
| TOTAL                            | \$ | 919,753.06 |

\$ 3,356,547.99

|                                            |    |              |
|--------------------------------------------|----|--------------|
| BLUE CROSS INSURANCE                       | \$ | 37,361.83    |
| BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD (DENTAL) ADMIN FEES | \$ | 72,108.75    |
| MESSA (VSP/MED/ LIFE)                      | \$ | 814,195.91   |
| NATIONAL INSURANCE SVCS(L TERM DISABILITY  | \$ | 11,835.35    |
| RETIREMENT PAYROLL                         | \$ | 1,996,511.17 |

\$ 2,932,013.01

## UTILITIES:

|                                          |    |            |
|------------------------------------------|----|------------|
| DTE ENERGY                               |    | 3,544.66   |
| CONSUMERS ENERGY                         | \$ | 153,723.12 |
| BP ENERGY (FORMERLY EDF ENERGY) BULK FUE | \$ | 5,410.44   |

\$ 162,678.22

|                         |  |            |
|-------------------------|--|------------|
| MICHIGAN STATE-GYO      |  | 331,042.00 |
| KENT ISD TRANSPORTATION |  | 180,375.47 |

\$ 511,417.47

|                               |    |               |
|-------------------------------|----|---------------|
| TOTAL OF ABOVE                | \$ | 6,962,656.69  |
| BALANCE OF TOTAL GENERAL FUND |    | 520,591.65    |
| SINKING FUND REG CKS          |    | 293,176.80    |
| SINKING FUND ACH CKS          |    | 0.00          |
| SINKING FUND CREDIT CARD      |    | 0.00          |
| 2019 BOND ACH CKS             |    | 80,947.23     |
| 2023 BOND REG CKS             |    | 609,111.86    |
| 2023 BOND ACH CKS             |    | 1,443,884.39  |
| 2023 BOND CREDIT CARD         |    | 31,725.51     |
| GENERAL FUND ACH CKS          |    |               |
| GENERAL FUND CREDIT CARD      |    | 298,750.89    |
| TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS           |    | 10,240,845.02 |



# 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

To: Dr. Steven Matthews, Superintendent

From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Date: August 11, 2025

Subject: 2025-2026 HIGH SCHOOL EXTRA-DUTY FALL COACHING RECOMMENDATIONS

| SPORT         | POSITION                   | NAME                                                                 |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CHEERLEADING  | Head Coach                 | MeLisa Milanowski                                                    |
|               | JV Coach                   | Hillary VanDam                                                       |
|               | Freshman Coach             | Kelsey Curtis                                                        |
|               |                            |                                                                      |
| CROSS COUNTRY | Boys Head Coach            | Andrew Martin                                                        |
|               | Girls Head Coach           | Ben Watson                                                           |
|               | Boys/Girls Assistant Coach | Kailie Burk                                                          |
|               |                            |                                                                      |
| FIELD HOCKEY  | Head Coach                 | Mark Neumen                                                          |
|               |                            |                                                                      |
| FOOTBALL      | Head Coach                 | Brent Cummings                                                       |
|               | Varsity Assistant Coaches  | Sean O'Brien<br>Jason VanderLaan<br>Randy VanderVeen<br>Rick Wilburn |
|               | JV Coach                   | Max Crimp                                                            |
|               | JV Assistant Coaches       | Mike Cowan                                                           |
|               | Freshman Coach             | Steve Fusee                                                          |
|               | Freshman Assistant Coach   | Brian Richardson                                                     |
|               |                            |                                                                      |
| GOLF (GIRLS)  | Head Coach                 | TBD                                                                  |
|               | JV Coach (A)               | TBD                                                                  |
|               | JV Coach (B)               | William Crane                                                        |
|               |                            |                                                                      |
| RUGBY (GIRLS) | Head Coach                 | POSTED                                                               |
|               |                            |                                                                      |
|               |                            |                                                                      |
|               |                            |                                                                      |

|                                |                 |                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>SOCCER (BOYS)</b>           | Head Coach      | Gregg Williams   |
|                                | JV Coach        | Erik Pancy       |
|                                | Freshman Coach  | Jason Hill       |
|                                |                 |                  |
| <b>SWIMMING/DIVING (GIRLS)</b> | Head Coach      | Samantha Velting |
|                                | Assistant Coach | Ethan Leach      |
|                                | Diving Coach    | Josh Vickery     |
|                                |                 |                  |
| <b>TENNIS (BOYS)</b>           | Head Coach      | Tom Huizing      |
|                                | JV Coach        | Hope Clancy      |
|                                |                 |                  |
| <b>VOLLEYBALL</b>              | Head Coach      | Kelly Delacher   |
|                                | JV Coach        | Megan Lebbie     |
|                                | Freshman Coach  | Sara Majerle     |
|                                |                 |                  |
| <b>WATER POLO (BOYS)</b>       | Head Coach      | Craig Peterman   |
|                                | Assistant Coach | Grace Boeve      |
|                                | JV Coach        | Jerrad Reickard  |



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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

To: Dr. Steven Matthews, Superintendent

From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Date: August 11, 2025

Subject: 2025-2026 MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA DUTY FALL COACHING RECOMMENDATIONS

| SPORT                   | SCHOOL       | POSITION                              | NAME                |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| CHEERLEADING (SIDELINE) | East Middle  | Head Coach                            | Terrill Vanspronsen |
|                         |              | Assistant Coach                       | Charley Cappelletty |
|                         |              |                                       |                     |
|                         | North Middle | Head Coach                            | Kendall Sterk       |
|                         |              | Assistant Coach                       | Kelsea Peck         |
|                         |              |                                       |                     |
| CROSS-COUNTRY (CO-ED)   | East Middle  | Head Coach                            | Shayne Dove         |
|                         |              | Assistant Coach                       | Erin Barbeau        |
|                         |              |                                       |                     |
|                         | North Middle | Head Coach                            | Emily Weinmann      |
|                         |              | Assistant Coach                       | Jennifer Nyeholt    |
|                         |              |                                       |                     |
| FOOTBALL                | East Middle  | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Coach      | James Herrington    |
|                         |              | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Thomas Kowalski     |
|                         |              | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Paul Marker         |
|                         |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Coach      | Don Packard         |
|                         |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Anthony Bix         |
|                         |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Murphy Hodder       |
|                         | North Middle | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Coach      | Mike Rivers         |
|                         |              | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Brian Barr          |
|                         |              | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Kraig Obenauf       |
|                         |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Coach      | Aaron Karsies       |
|                         |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Tim Miller          |
|                         |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Coach | Jacques Green       |

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|                      |              |                                      |                 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>VOLLEYBALL</b>    | East Middle  | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (A) Head Coach | April Feldman   |
|                      |              | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (B) Head Coach | Hannah Davis    |
|                      |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade (A) Head Coach | Chris Lyon      |
|                      |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade (B) Head Coach | Jodi Ramos      |
|                      |              |                                      |                 |
|                      | North Middle | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (A) Head Coach | Jill Brouwer    |
|                      |              | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade (B) Head Coach | Shelbey Farr    |
|                      |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade (A) Head Coach | Hailey Delacher |
|                      |              | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade (B) Head Coach | Megan McCall    |
|                      |              |                                      |                 |
| <b>TENNIS (BOYS)</b> | East Middle  | Head Coach                           | Amy Banfield    |
|                      | North Middle | Head Coach                           | Taran Tyler     |



Rockford Public Schools

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# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Meeting Minutes – Special Meeting

August 5, 2025

*Date & time* Monday-August 5, 2025 | 5:35 p.m.

*Location* Administration Boardroom

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

### In Attendance

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

Administration: Dr. Steve Matthews, Jodi Nester.

### Adoption of Agenda

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Motion to approve agenda by Andrea Jacobson with support by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.

### Board Workshop

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1. Representatives from the MASB led a workshop on Good Governance.

### Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present – Public Comment

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None

### Adjournment

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President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Secretary, Board of Education



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

### July 14, 2025

*Date & time* Monday-July 14, 2025 | 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

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

Regrets: Andrea Jacobson

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

#### Adoption of Agenda

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Request by Trustee Helms to move Consent Item 13 to New Business. Appointment of Sex Education Advisory Co-Chairs will be New Business Items Number 7.

Motion to approve modified agenda by Kelley Freridge with support by Barb Helms. Motions passed unanimously.

#### Recognition

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1. Lissa Weidenfeller gave a presentation about North Rockford Middle School's Principal's Leadership Council and presented certificates to those students who were selected.

#### Mid Year Superintendent Evaluation

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1. Dr. Matthews elected to have his progress report in closed session. Motion to enter closed session by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. The Board entered closed session at 5:37 PM. The Board entered open session at 6:26 PM.

#### Budget Hearing

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The Board of Education voted on the following consent agenda items:

1. Certified Resignation
2. \$12,268 Rockford Booster Donation to Weight Room
3. \$2,000 Rockford Booster donation to cover ½ of Girls Track Uniforms
4. \$5,000 Michigan Sports Radio Athletic Donation
5. \$1,000 Fidelity Charitable donation to Boys Basketball
6. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$16,402,386.72

7. Banking Approvals
8. Fidelity Bond
9. Appointment of Legal Counsel for the 2025-2026 School Year
10. Appointment of School Auditors for the 2024-2025 School Year Audit
11. 2025-2026 Continuity of Learning Plan
12. Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2025, Meeting

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

## New Business

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Audience Participation. No action taken

1. Bond Concept – No Action. Dr. Matthews gave a presentation on a zero mill increase Bond Concept.
2. Administrator Resignation - Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford talked to the Board of Education regarding Lissa Weidenfeller's retirement. The Board of Education accepted her resignation with regret. Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Barb Helms. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Administrator Recommendation - Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford presented six Administrator Resignations to the Board of Education for Approval. Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Certified Staff Recommendation – Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford presented four certified staff recommendations. All of the positions are replacements. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Tricia Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Summer Tax Resolution – Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations presented the Summer Tax Levy for approval. This would be for the 2026 summer taxes. Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspace with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.
6. Steam Robots – Dr. Matthews spoke about the Steam program and experiences that students have. The board is being asked to approve the purchase of robots. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Sex Ed Advisory Co-Chairs – Dr. Matthews brought a recommendation for Sex Education Advisory Co-Chairs. This is a requirement by the State of Michigan. Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspace with support by Tricia Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

## Old Business

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None.

## Reports

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Spanish Immersion Report – Lissa Weidenfeller led a presentation about the Spanish Immersion program and also gave a detailed report on the trip that the group recently took. There were 44 travelers. Several students and parents also talked to the board about the experience they had on the trip.

## Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present – Public Comment

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None

### Superintendent Remarks

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Dr. Matthews talked about lack of a budget from the state which makes it challenging to plan. We are moving forward with changes that will help out District move forward.

### Adjournment

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President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Secretary, Board of Education



# 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: August 11, 2025  
Subject: Administrator Recommendations for 2025-2026

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Darcy Seelye

Assistant Principal

High School



**Rockford Public Schools**

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**Office of the Superintendent**

**Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent**

350 N. Main Street Rockford, MI 49341 Phone:  
616.863.6554 Fax: 616.863.6355

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## Memorandum

To: Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

From: Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent

Date: August 11, 2025

Subject: Bond concept

Over the past two years our district has been engaged in a process of strategic planning. It began during the 2023-2024 school with our RAMS XII update. RAMS, the Rockford Action Model for Success, has been a staple in the Rockford Public Schools for over 30 years. In the 2023-2024 school year we surveyed our staff and community, looked at our district data – both academic and financial, and updated our strategic plan.

Over 3000 parents, community members, students, and staff participated in this strategic planning process. One of the pillars that was identified as critical to our district's long-term success was organizational effectiveness. Contained within this pillar was the strategic action step of facility enhancement.

RAMS XII identifies five pillars that support the work of our district. Those pillars are:

- Academic Excellence
- Wellness and Preparedness
- Social Responsibility and Community Engagement
- Collaborative Culture
- Organizational Effectiveness

That strategic plan – RAMS XII – was presented to the board in June 2024. At the August 2024 board meeting RAMS XII was formally approved.

After the approval of RAMS XII, a comprehensive facilities review was undertaken by GMB architects and OAK construction management. GMB and OAK visited all of our facilities and spoke with our building and departmental leaders to identify needs and potential options for our buildings and sites.

During the 2024-2025 school year all parts of our district worked to ensure that progress was made on each of these pillars.

Additionally, a citizen committee of seventeen people was created to examine the current facility needs and to identify possible future opportunities

- The committee met five times over three months
- The facilities report was reviewed
- New opportunities were examined

Parent meetings were held to review the ideas generated by the citizen committee

- Interschool Advisory Council (ISAC)
- School parent organizations

We have gathered the insights from these conversations and believe that we have a path forward to improve our facilities and enhance the opportunities that we provide our students, staff, parents, and community.

We reviewed this proposal with the board in July. Tonight, we come to the board to ask for approval. With approval this question could be put before the voters in November.



# ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL 2025

VOTE BY  
NOV. 4

**Looking to the future of Rockford Public Schools, our community will vote on a bond proposal on the November 4, 2025, election ballot.** This proposal would authorize the district to borrow \$230 million for district-wide improvements, with an estimated **zero mill increase** over the 2025 debt millage. The bond proposal furthers RAMS XII, our strategic plan, with pillars focused on: Building for the Future and Advancing Excellence.

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

**Providing safe and functional spaces that support enhance educational programs**

- **Add air conditioning** – all remaining schools
- **Improve safety and security** – electronic door locks for all classrooms
- **Enhance entry circulation and safety** – improve students experience and strengthen security at Rockford HS and East Rockford MS
- **Gym or cafeteria additions** – all remaining elementary schools would have separate gym and cafeteria spaces
- **Update aging infrastructure** – mechanical, electrical, plumbing, roofs, and outdated systems
- **Enhance outdoor facilities to improve community experience** – restrooms, seating, entry/exit
- **Update technology infrastructure**
- **Playground equipment upgrades** – all remaining schools
- **Replace aging buses** – maintain the replacement cycle to keep the fleet modern and safe

## ADVANCING EXCELLENCE

**Creating learning environments that enhance innovation and opportunity**

- **Performing Arts Center renovation** – New seats, stage, walls, and interior improvements
- **Construction of the Ram Center** – indoor turf fieldhouse for athletics, fine arts, and community recreation. Classroom spaces for digital media, sports marketing, and business programming
- **Career exploration classrooms at Rockford HS** – Expanding hands-on learning through Robotics, Skilled Trades, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), and Health Sciences
- **Enhance student experience** – Renovating student-centered collaboration spaces
- **Early childhood renovations** – Updating spaces to enhance programs for our youngest learners and enhance safety
- **Update educational technology**

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**



## LEARN MORE INFORMATION

### RAMS XII Strategic Plan

- **Rooted in community conversations** – involving hundreds of stakeholders, including students
- **Prioritizing student readiness** – the bond proposal would further strategic pillars and priorities: Academic Excellence, Wellness and Preparedness, Social Responsibility and Community Engagement, Collaborative Culture, Organizational Effectiveness

### Community Committee

- **Gathering community input** – a wide cross-section of community members formed a Community Input Committee with District staff. The Committee met five times to evaluate opportunities across the district, provide feedback, and make a recommendation to the Board of Education regarding facility improvements

### Ongoing Stakeholder Conversations

- **Validating input and alignment** – continual conversations to ensure a variety of ideas and voices were included in creating the proposal

### Voting Information

- **Polls are open** – Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- **Vote absentee** – ballots available as early as September 25
- **Find more voting information** – at [michigan.gov/vote](https://michigan.gov/vote)

### Bond Proposal Information

- **For more details** – visit the District website at [rockfordschools.org](https://rockfordschools.org)
- **If you have additional questions** – contact Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent, at (616) 863-6320 or [info@rockfordschools.org](mailto:info@rockfordschools.org)
- This informational material is paid for by Rockford Public Schools, 350 N. Main St., Rockford, MI 49341



SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO

VOTE BY  
NOV. 4



ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Rockford Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Two Hundred Thirty Million Dollars (\$230,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

equipping, re-equipping, furnishing and refurnishing school buildings and facilities; remodeling, erecting and acquiring school buildings, facilities and additions to school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and acquiring, preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields, play fields, playgrounds, structures, facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is .73 mill (\$0.73 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0.00 mills net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.59 mills (\$2.59 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Continuing to build the future

Proposed bond request for November 2025



# How have we planned for the present and future of the Rockford Public Schools?

- Rockford Action Model for Success
  - RAMS
    - Over 30 years of strategic planning
- RAMS XII was completed over the course of the 2023-24 school year
  - Over 3000 parents, students, community members, and staff participated in identifying priorities for the district
    - New vision and mission
    - 5 pillars
      - Academic Excellence
      - Wellness and preparedness
      - Social responsibility and community engagement
      - Collaborative culture
      - Organizational effectiveness



# RAMS XII

## Pillar Five: Organizational effectiveness

### Strategic action step 5c: Facility enhancement

- **5.C.1 Planning for the Future**
  - Gather stakeholder input to identify current strengths and anticipated future needs.
  - Prioritize current and future district needs for school bond consideration.
- **5.C.2 Modernizing Infrastructure**
  - Enhance student learning experiences through facility renovation and construction.
  - Ensure the district facilities meet the changing needs of the community and student population.
  - Provide student opportunities in modern, comfortable spaces across all district learning environments.
  - Leverage district technology infrastructure to enhance organizational effectiveness and transparency.
  - Maintain and upgrade district facilities to maximize student learning, prioritized by identified district needs.
- **5.C.3 Facility Access**
  - Enhance district scheduling procedures to maximize the use of facility use outside of the school day.
  - Ensure district facilities and programs are accessible to all in our school community.
  - Maintain rigorous security measures to prioritize student safety in all district facilities and events.



# Rockford Public Schools

- Facilities and fields
  - Early childhood facilities
    - Parkside
    - Administration Building
  - Elementary buildings
    - 8 facilities
  - Middle Schools
    - East and North
  - High Schools
    - 3 facilities
      - Freshman Center, Rockford High School, River Valley Academy
  - Support facilities
    - Transportation
    - Maintenance
  - Fields
    - Middle and high schools fields across the district



# Steps taken since the development of RAMS XII

- Comprehensive facility review
  - GMB - architect
  - OAK - construction management
- This review included walking each building and site in the district
- Talking with administrators about building and program needs
- Creating a comprehensive spreadsheet and attaching cost to possible improvements



# Steps taken since the development of RAMS XII

- Community committee
  - 22 community members
  - 2 consultants
    - Architect - GMB
    - Construction management - OAK
- Engaged in a process of thinking through and thinking about possible options
  - Interactive process that included prioritizing options
- Agreed upon a recommendation to bring to the Board of Education



# Steps taken since the development of RAMS XII

- Board presentation in July
  - Highlighted possible options for moving forward



# 2025 Bond Proposal Highlights

- Building for the future
  - Providing safe and functional spaces that support enhance educational programs
- Advancing excellence
  - Creating learning environments that enhance innovation and opportunity



# 2025 Bond Proposal Highlights

## Building For The Future

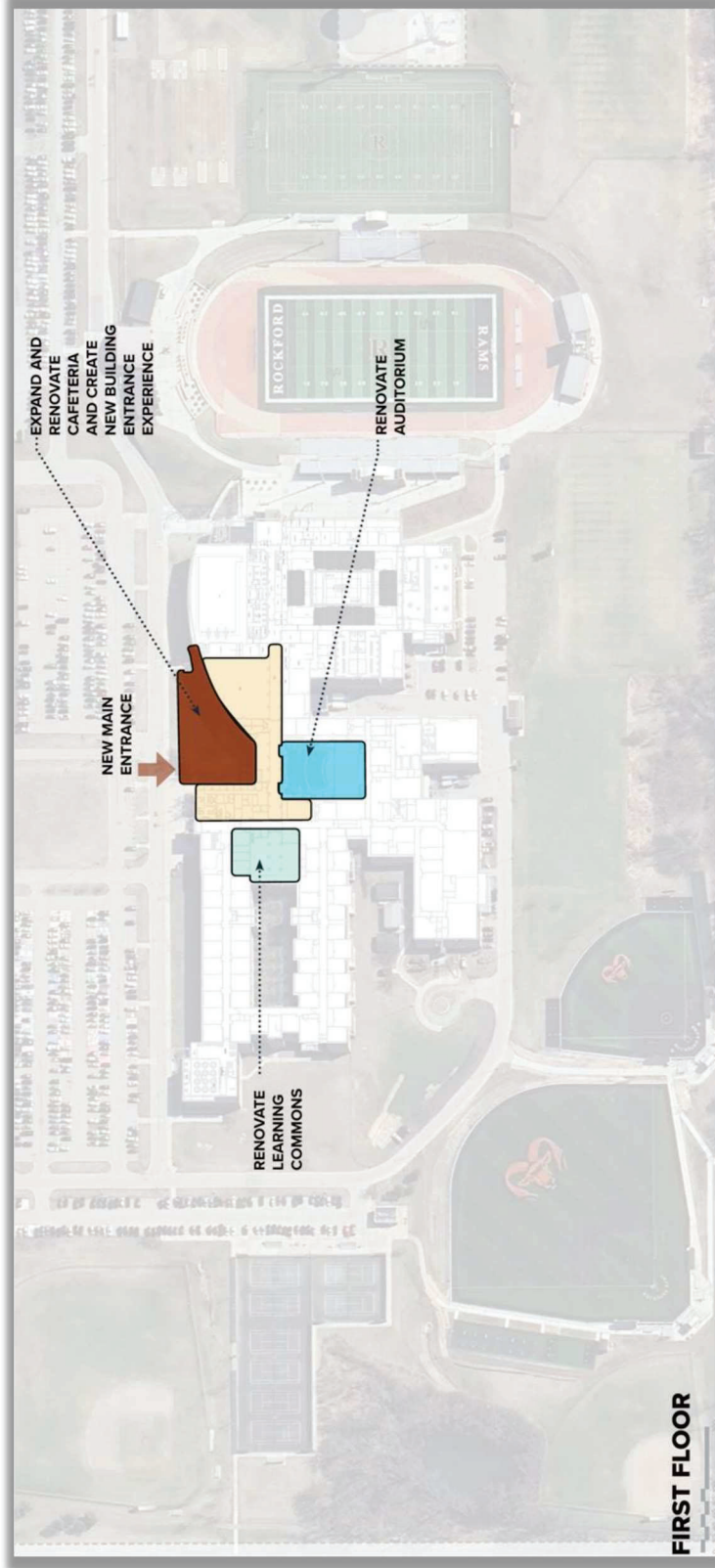
- Add air conditioning – all remaining schools
- Improve safety and security – electronic door locks for all classrooms
- Enhance entry circulation and safety – improve students experience and strengthen security at Rockford HS and East Rockford MS
- Gym or cafeteria additions – all remaining elementary schools would have separate gym and cafeteria spaces
- Update aging infrastructure – mechanical, electrical, plumbing, roofs, and outdated systems
- Enhance outdoor facilities to improve community experience – restrooms, seating, entry/exit
- Update technology infrastructure
- Playground equipment upgrades – all remaining schools
- Replace aging buses – maintain the replacement cycle to keep the fleet modern and safe

## Advancing Excellence

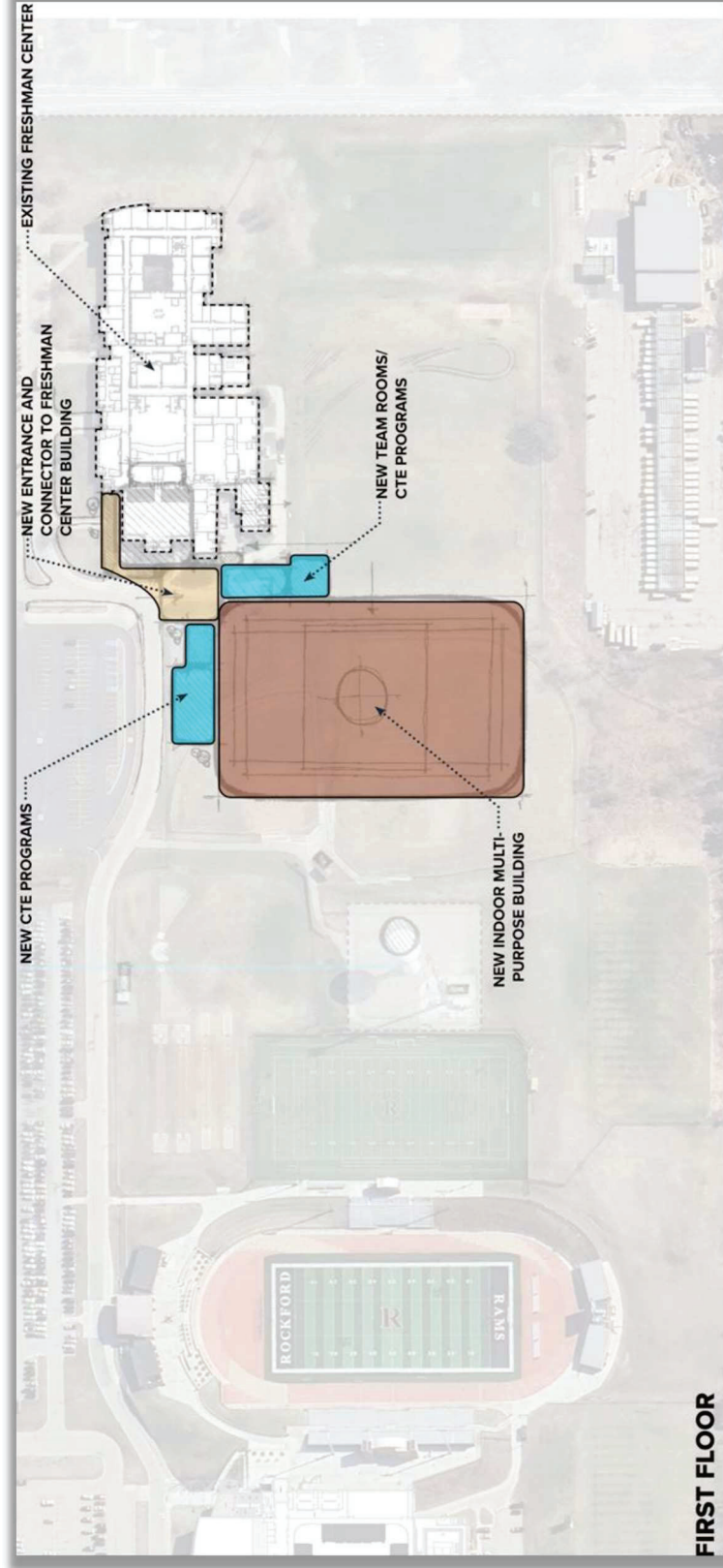
- Performing Arts Center renovation – New seats, stage, walls, and interior improvements
- Construction of the Ram Center – indoor turf fieldhouse for athletics, fine arts, and community recreation. Classroom spaces for digital media, sports marketing, and business programming
- Career exploration classrooms at Rockford HS
  - Expanding hands-on learning through Robotics, Skilled Trades, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), and Health Sciences
- Enhance student experience – Renovating student-centered collaboration spaces
  -
- Early childhood renovations – Updating spaces to enhance programs for our youngest learners and enhance safety
- Update educational technology



# 2025 Bond Proposal Highlights



# 2025 Bond Proposal Highlights



# Bond language

## ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Rockford Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Two Hundred Thirty Million Dollars (\$230,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

equipping, re-equipping, furnishing and refurbishing school buildings and facilities; remodeling, erecting and acquiring school buildings, facilities and additions to school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and acquiring, preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields, play fields, playgrounds, structures, facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is .73 mill (\$.73 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0.00 mills net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.59 mills (\$2.59 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

# How does a bond fit into school finances?

- All districts receive a per-pupil allocation from the state
  - 80% of our per-pupil allocation is spent on staff salaries and benefits
- Our Rockford school community has also supported a sinking fund
  - It was approved for .5 mills (half a mill)
    - With Headlee rollback it is now levied at .4662 (less than half a mill)
  - The sinking fund brings in between 1 and 1.5 million dollars a year to support facility repair
    - For example, last year the elevator at East Rockford Middle School needed repair
      - We used the sinking fund for this expensive repair which protects the general fund
        - Sinking funds cannot pay for salary and benefits of staff
- The Rockford Public Schools has historically supported bond projects for major capital expenses, technology, and buses
  - Bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.



# Why are there no architectural plans?

- Architectural plans cost money
- Before we expend money on architectural plans we want to see if the community would support these concepts



# What must happen for this to be on the November ballot?

- Board must approve the ballot language
- Language must be received by Kent County elections Office by August 12
- Multiple community conversations will take place to inform the community of this proposal



# Questions?





## Memorandum

To: Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Allison Clements, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations  
Date: August 11, 2025  
Subject: Bond Proposal Resolution

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In keeping with Rams XII 5.C.1 Planning for the Future, Rockford Public Schools will bring a bond proposal to the community for the November 2025 election.

It is the recommendation that the attached resolution be presented to the Board of Education for consideration on Monday, August 11, 2025.

ATC/jg

Attachment

Rockford Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan (the “District”)

A regular meeting of the board of education of the District (the “Board”) was held in the Administration Building, within the boundaries of the District, on the 11th day of August, 2025, at 5:30 o’clock in the p.m. (the “Meeting”).

The Meeting was called to order by \_\_\_\_\_, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Member \_\_\_\_\_:

**WHEREAS:**

1. In the opinion of this Board it is necessary and expedient to ask voters whether to approve a bond project consisting of equipping, re-equipping, furnishing and refurnishing school buildings and facilities; remodeling, erecting and acquiring school buildings, facilities and additions to school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and acquiring, preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields, play fields, playgrounds, structures, facilities and sites.

2. This Board estimates the necessary cost of the project to be Two Hundred Thirty-Three Million Three Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen Dollars (\$233,323,214).

3. It will be necessary for the District to borrow the sum of Two Hundred Thirty Million Dollars (\$230,000,000) and issue the bonds of the District therefor, the remaining funds to be derived from the investment of the bond proceeds.

4. This Board intends to submit a proposition at a special election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

5. On or before 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, the Board shall certify any ballot proposition to be submitted to the voters at such election to the election coordinator or coordinators designated to conduct elections within the District (the “Election Coordinator”).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. A special election of the school electors of the District be called and held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.

2. The proposition to be voted on at the special election shall be stated on the ballots in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit A.

3. The Election Coordinator is requested to:

- a. Utilize The Grand Rapids Press, a newspaper published or of general circulation within the District, for publication of notices in accordance with the election law requirements.
- b. Utilize ballot proposition summary information, as prepared by legal counsel, in the forms of the notices of last day of registration and election in substantially the form as set forth in Exhibit B attached hereto.
- c. Provide a proof copy of the ballot to the District and its legal counsel in sufficient time to allow the ballot to be proofread prior to printing.

4. This Board estimates the period of usefulness of the improvements for which bonds of the District in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty Million Dollars (\$230,000,000) are to be issued to be not less than thirty (30) years.

5. The Secretary of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to file a copy of this resolution with the Election Coordinator and with any Election Clerk or clerks designated to conduct elections within the District by 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

6. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

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Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Rockford Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at the Meeting, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the Meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

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Secretary, Board of Education

IFK/baf

## EXHIBIT A

### ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Rockford Public Schools, Kent County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Two Hundred Thirty Million Dollars (\$230,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

equipping, re-equipping, furnishing and refurnishing school buildings and facilities; remodeling, erecting and acquiring school buildings, facilities and additions to school buildings and facilities; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and acquiring, preparing, developing, improving and equipping athletic fields, play fields, playgrounds, structures, facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is .73 mill (\$0.73 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0.00 mills net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.59 mills (\$2.59 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

**EXHIBIT B**

**SUMMARY OF BALLOT PROPOSITION TO BE INSERTED IN THE  
NOTICES OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTION:**

**ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL  
FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF  
NOT TO EXCEED \$230,000,000**

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Rockford Public Schools, 350 North Main Street, Rockford, Michigan 49341, telephone: (616) 863-6320.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.**

MASB's 2025 Delegate Assembly will begin Thursday, October 23 at 7 p.m. at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme. Delegates selected by boards of education across the state will decide MASB's positions on a wide variety of issues affecting education.

Below is a link to use to certify the official voting delegates and alternates who will represent your board of education. All delegates and alternates must be school board members. Only delegates and alternates named by your board may offer motions and vote on issues. However, all school board members may speak on the issues and participate in the debate. Your 2025-2026 MASB dues must be paid in order for a district to participate in the Delegate Assembly.

All delegates must be certified and submitted by Thursday, October 2. A notification message is also being sent to your board president and superintendent. Please ensure that this topic is added to your next board meeting agenda and then complete the form at the link below.

# 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 where you will receive confirmation of the delegates and alternates you submit.

## Delegate Certification

Select Your District or ISD

Rockford Public Schools ▼

Your District is in Group 5, which is allowed to certify four delegates. For each section below, please reselect your district and the board members you are certifying.

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your first delegate.

Please select ▼

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your second delegate.

Please select ▼

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your third delegate.

Please select ▼

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your fourth delegate.

Please select ▼

## Alternate Certification

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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.**

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your first alternate.

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your second alternate.

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your third alternate.

Reselect your district in the first box, and then select your fourth alternate.

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