



# Rockford Public Schools

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

## ROCKFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 8, 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 \$10,150,581.10
3. Revised Fall Coaches
4. \$1,200 Football Donation
5. \$2,000 Boys Basketball Donation
6. \$2,000 Soccer Donation
7. Approval of August 11, 2025, Minutes

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Emergency Operations Plan
2. Parkside Early Childhood Library

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### REPORTS

1. Student Representative Report
2. School News Network – Riley Kelley
3. Bond Update
4. Collaborative Team Reports
5. Orchestra Report

#### 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: September 8, 2025  
Subject: 2025-2026 Employee Resignations

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Megan Carter	Psychologist	Freshman Center/Special Services	08/11/2025
Christen Lemmon	Teacher	High School	08/14/2025
Tessa Heeringa	Teacher	North Middle/Special Services	08/14/2025
Erin Russo	Social Worker	Edgerton Trails/Special Services	08/19/2025
Elizabeth Brower	CI Teacher	North Middle/Special Services	08/14/2025

# BOARD REPORT ON DISBURSEMENTS

DATE: 8/4/2025

9/2/2025

## PAYROLL

GENERAL FUND NET PAYROLL	4 & 5	2,713,261.43
FOOD SERVICE	4 & 5	21,534.03
ATHLETIC FUND	4 & 5	15,695.30
TOTAL ALL FUNDS	4 & 5	2,750,490.76

## ALL FUNDS:

FEDERAL TAX	\$	308,274.45
SOCIAL SECURITY TAX-MEDICARE TAX	\$	588,812.09
STATE TAX	\$	137,153.31
TOTAL	\$	1,034,239.85

\$ 3,784,730.61

BLUE CROSS INSURANCE	\$	39,006.93
NVA/NATIONAL VISION	\$	0.00
BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD (DENTAL) ADMIN FEES	\$	0.00
MESSA (VSP/MED/ LIFE)	\$	0.00
NATIONAL INSURANCE SVCS(L TERM DISABILITY	\$	0.00
RETIREMENT PAYROLL	\$	2,081,830.06

\$ 2,120,836.99

## UTILITIES:

DTE ENERGY		4,635.47
CONSUMERS ENERGY	\$	145,126.52
BP ENERGY (FORMERLY EDF ENERGY) BULK FUE	\$	2,019.71

\$ 151,781.70

COREWELL HEALTH		95,000.00
CLASSIC PROPERTY MANANGEMENT		44,198.75

\$ 139,198.75

TOTAL OF ABOVE	\$	6,196,548.05
BALANCE OF TOTAL GENERAL FUND		639,823.41
SINKING FUND REG CKS		149,706.00
SINKING FUND ACH CKS		0.00
SINKING FUND CREDIT CARD		0.00
2023 BOND REG CKS		2,763,882.52
2023 BOND ACH CKS		0.00
2023 BOND CREDIT CARD		42,171.94
GENERAL FUND ACH CKS		0.00
GENERAL FUND CREDIT CARD		358,449.18
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		10,150,581.10



## Memorandum

To: Dr. Steven Matthews, Superintendent  
From: Dr. Korie Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources  
Date: September 8, 2025  
Subject: REVISED 2025-2026 HIGH SCHOOL EXTRA-DUTY FALL COACHING RECOMMENDATIONS

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SPORT	POSITION	NAME
GOLF (GIRLS)	Varsity Head Coach	Christopher Behrendt
	JV (A) Head Coach	Thomas Kelly
TENNIS JV (B)	Head Coach	Tamara Cnossen

# BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

### August 11, 2025

*Date & time* Monday, August 11, 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: Jarrod Folsom, Barbara Helms, Jake Himmelspace, Kelley Freridge, Andrea Jacobson, Christie Ramsey

Regrets: Tricia Anderson

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

#### Adoption of Agenda

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Motion to approve agenda by Andrea Jacobson with support by Christie Ramsey. Barb Helms proposed a change to the agenda to put public comment before the Bond Proposal in New Business. There was no support for her motion. Motion to approve agenda as presented.

passed unanimously.

#### Recognition

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None

#### Consent Agenda

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Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspace with support by Christie Ramsey. The motion passed unanimously.

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 - \$1,200.00 - Track Timing Device
6. Donation - \$8,778.00 - Practice Dummies
7. Donation - \$2,000.00 – Football Donation
8. Donation - \$1,000.00 – Track Donation

#### New Business

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1. New Hire Administrator – Dr. Korie Wilson Crawford presented a new hire to Board of Education. Darcy Seelye has been hired as an Assistant Principal at Rockford High School. Motion to approve by Barb Helms with support from Kelley Freridge.
2. Bond Resolution – Dr. Matthews gave presented a Bond Proposal to the Board of Education

for approval. If approved, this would be on the November, 2025 ballot. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support from Christie Ramsey. Roll call vote was taken. Yay votes – Christie Ramsey, Jarrod Folsom, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspace and Andrea Jacobson. Nay vote by Barb Helms.

3. MASB Delegates – The Board discussed and decided that the following members would be delegates – Tricia Anderson, Jarrod Folsom, Christie Ramsey, Kelley Freridge, Andrea Jacobson and Jake Himmelspace.

## Reports

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1. Collaborative Reports - None.
2. Committee Reports – None.

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

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Audience Participation. No action taken.

## Superintendent Remarks

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Dr. Matthews gave a recap of the 2024-2025 school year.

## Adjournment

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President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

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Recording Secretary

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Secretary, Board of Education

# Safety and Security Compliance 25-26 School Year

Emergency Operations Plans  
Standard Response Terminology Training  
Behavioral Threat Assessment Management and Safe Storage  
September 8, 2025



## Emergency Operations Plans

- School districts are required to submit notification to the Michigan Department of Education that their Emergency Operations Plans have been reviewed and meet state requirements by January of even numbered years.
- In January 2025, our district began the transition to the new MSP-OSS template for emergency operations plans for the current school year.
- Additionally, on January 22, 2025, Governor Whitmer signed into law a requirement for schools to establish Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) teams in schools, creating a permanent School Safety and Mental Health Commission, requiring standardized safety training, and ensuring timely sharing of tips from the OK2SAY system with law enforcement.



## Emergency Operations Plans

- The MSP-OSS template was completed by district staff by the end of the 24-25 school year.
- The documents, as required, were reviewed by:
  - Security
  - Fire chiefs and law enforcement officials whose jurisdictions are responsible for specific buildings.
  - The Kent County Emergency Manager's office.
  - District administrators.
  - Superintendent and School Board President.
  - Signatures as required. (Completed)
  - Confirmation of completion submitted to MDE by January 2026.

# Standard Emergency Response Terminology

- **Response terms:** The new standardized system uses five core terms for emergency situations:
  - **Hold:** Keeping students and staff within a room or designated area.
  - **Secure:** Locking the perimeter of the building.
  - **Lockdown:** Securing individual rooms and areas within the building.
  - **Evacuate:** Exiting the building and moving to a safe location.
  - **Shelter:** Taking protective cover for specific threats, such as severe weather or hazardous materials.
  - District need to be in compliance by October 2026.



# Standard Emergency Response Terminology

District wide “I Love You Guys” foundation training. You’ll begin seeing posters and information guides around school buildings.

HOLD



“Remain in your room or area.”

SECURE



“Get inside. Lock outside doors.”

LOCKDOWN



“Locks, lights, out of sight.”

## Standard Emergency Response Terminology

- EVACUATE



“Prepare to evacuate to another area.”

- SHELTER



“Prepare to shelter or move.”

- District wide training for all RPS staff completed August 20, 2025.
- You can find all the information and free materials at <https://iloveguys.org>



## Behavioral Threat Assessment Management

- Training is conducted by Special Services for involved district staff.
- Teams must be established by October 1, 2026.
- RPS is already compliant under the new law and has a robust system in place.



# Safe Gun Storage Law

School districts must provide information to families  
families annually by October 1. The flyer providing  
information to all families was developed by the  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.



**What is the safe storage law in Michigan?**  
Michigan passed a firearm safe storage law that went into effect on Feb. 13, 2024.

**SUMMARY OF THE LAW (MCL 28.429)**

- The law imposes safe storage requirements on a person who knows, or reasonably should know, that a minor is, or is likely to be, present on the premises.
- A person is liable for a criminal offense if they violate the law by knowingly or recklessly providing a handgun or other firearm to a minor.
- A person is liable for a criminal offense if a minor who gets unconsented access to a firearm, a firearm for a friend.
- When a minor gains proper controlled access to a firearm with parental permission, no penalties will be imposed if the firearm is used during the minor's employment, training, or target practice instruction in the safe use of a firearm.
- A person is liable for a criminal offense if they violate the law by knowingly or recklessly providing a handgun or other firearm to a child out of reach from your parents or legal guardian.
- Access to guns through home visits, MCHHS local offices, and some local health departments.

**IMPORTANCE AND BENEFITS OF SAFE STORAGE TO HELP KEEP CHILDREN SAFE**

Left unsecured, a firearm is a constitutional right. This right can be lost if a firearm is not stored properly. This can lead to accidental firearm deaths, theft, and suicide, including suicides of children and young adults. Safe storage can help keep guns out of reach from your parents or legal guardian and reduce the risk of accidental firearm deaths, theft, and suicide, including suicides of children and young adults. Safe storage reduces the risk of access to guns in homes, the overall suicide rate drops.



**Accidental firearm deaths among children**  
17 years and younger must own a handgun.

- With guns that are loaded and unlocked.
- When stored in a home or vehicle.
- When left to someone else.



**In these situations, the**  
closed and registered are  
accidental firearm death is a  
result of a lack of the child.



**Closed and registered are**  
of guns used in these fatal  
unintentional shootings.

**FIREARM SAFE STORAGE OPTIONS**

There are ample measures everyone can take to store firearms safely and reduce the risk of unintentional firearm injury or death.

- 1 Gun safe
- 2 Trigger lock
- 3 Cable lock

For more information on safe storage options, visit the Michigan safe storage page at <https://www.michigan.gov/safe-storage>.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [Domestic Violence](#)
- [University of Michigan Family Guide to Firearm Home Safety](#)
- [National Suicide Prevention Helpline \(Call or text 988\)](#)

For more information and a full list of other resources, visit the Michigan safe storage page at <https://www.michigan.gov/safe-storage>.

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## Memorandum

To: Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent  
From: Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction  
Date: September 2, 2025  
Subject: Parkside Early Childhood Library Costs

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Dr. Matthews:

I am writing to recommend the approval of purchasing library books for the Parkside Early Childhood Center. Our proposed expenses encompass essential materials to outfit the library with a variety of age appropriate books and resources.

The requested budget for outfitting the Parkside Early Childhood Center with library books will not exceed \$41,000. This amount is based on the standard of approximately 18 books per child enrolled in the building. The funding for the library books will be allocated from 35j, a state funded literacy grant that Rockford was awarded two years ago. The purchases represent materials and resources consistent with the other elementaries in the district.

Should the RPS Board of Education approve this recommendation, Mindy McGinn, Director of Library Services, and our district library media specialists will coordinate the ordering and delivery of the materials.

Thank you for your attention to this recommendation. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Mike Ramm



**Rockford Public Schools**

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

**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: September 8, 2025

Subject: Bond update

At the August 11, 2025, board meeting, a proposal for the November 4, 2025 ballot was approved. This proposal asks our community to approve keeping our millage rate at 7 mills. If approved, this would generate \$230 million dollars for projects throughout the district.

The projects are divided into two pillars.

The first pillar is building for the future – providing safe and functional spaces that support learning. The projects in this pillar include:

- Add air conditioning
  - Six of our 8 elementary buildings do not have air conditioning
- Improve safety and security through installing electronic door locks
- Enhance entry and circulation at Rockford High School and East Rockford Middle School
- Add gyms/cafeterias to elementary buildings that do not have separate spaces
  - Four buildings each have either a gym or a cafeteria, but not both.
- Address aging infrastructure through mechanical, electrical, plumbing, roofs, and other system upgrades
- Enhance outdoor facilities by adding restrooms, improving seating, and addressing entry/exit points
- Update technology
- Update playground equipment
- Replace buses

The second pillar is advancing excellence – creating dynamic learning environments that support student success, innovation, and opportunity. Projects in this pillar include:

- Performing arts center renovation
- Construction of the Ram Center an indoor turf facility that will also include classrooms for digital media, sports marketing, and business programming

- Expanding career exploration classrooms at Rockford High School
- Creating collaborative learning spaces
- Updating and expanding early childhood spaces
- Updating educational technology

This proposal began with our RAMS XII strategic planning process and utilized a community committee to generate ideas and provide feedback.

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.

Tonight we bring a reminder to our community of this important proposal.





# Bond Proposal

Election Day: November 4, 2025





# Bond Proposal Overview

- Zero mill increase over the current, 2025 debt millage rate
  - The tax rate for taxpayers will remain at its current level - 7 mills for school construction, technology, buses
- Providing \$230 million for district-wide improvements to our 14 school buildings & sites
- Proposal Pillars:
  - Building for the Future
  - Advancing Excellence



**ZERO MILL  
INCREASE**

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

*Providing safe and functional spaces that support learning*

- **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 that have a combined gym and cafeteria
- **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 dynamic learning environments that support student success, innovation, and opportunity*

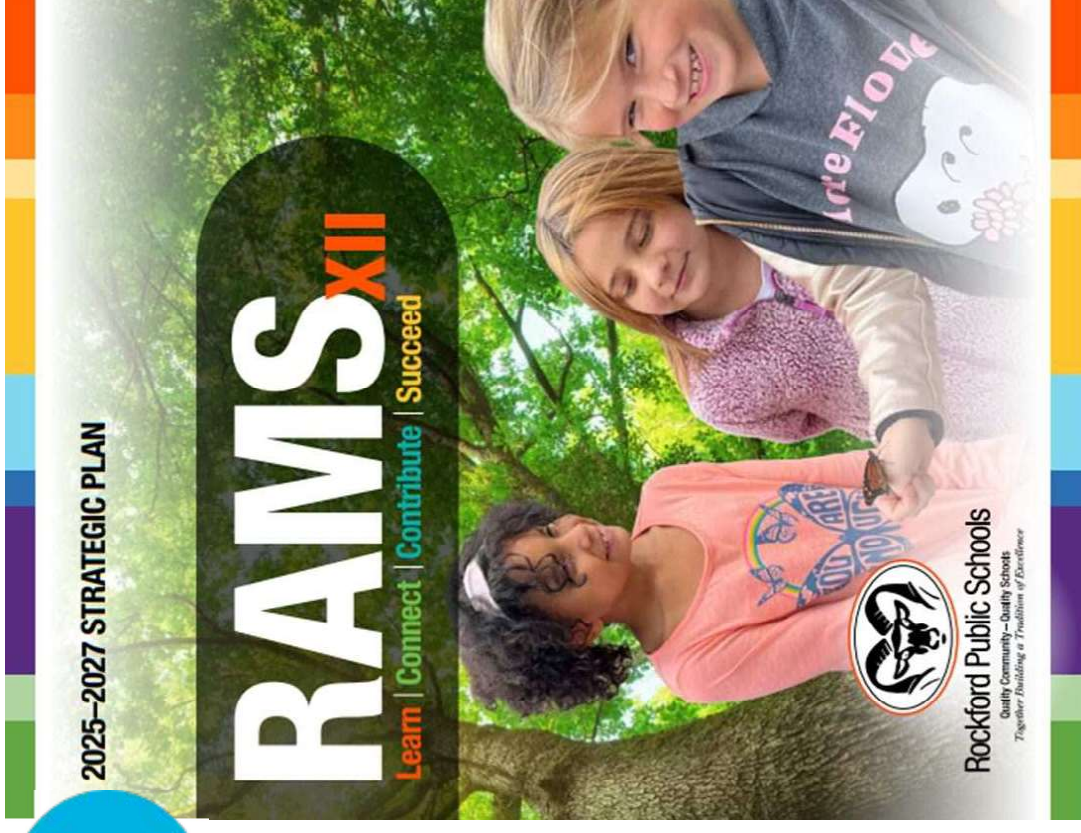
- **Performing Arts Center renovation** – New seats, stage, walls, and interior improvements
- **Construction of the Ram Center** – indoor turf fieldhouse for athletics, fine arts, and community rec. Classrooms for digital media, sports marketing, and business programming
- **Career exploration classrooms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





# IMPACT ON TAXPAYERS

- Zero mill increase
  - Tax rate stays the same
  - 7 mills total
    - One mill equals \$1 per every \$1000 of taxable value
    - Taxable value can rise at the rate of inflation of 5% - whichever is less
- As the value of a house increases the amount you pay will increase



**Example A**

	Assessed value	Change	Taxable Value	Change	State Ed. Tax: 6 mills Paid in the summer	Bond: 7 mills/3.5 each tax bill
Summer 2025	\$ 257,000.00	8%	\$ 132,769.00	3%	\$ 796.61	\$ 464.69
Winter 2024	\$ 235,800.00		\$ 128,777.00		NA	\$ 450.71
Summer 2024	\$ 235,800.00	12%	\$ 128,777.00	4.7%	\$ 772.66	\$ 450.71
Winter 2023	\$ 207,500.00		\$ 122,645.00		NA	\$ 429.25
Summer 2023	\$ 207,500.00	15.2%	\$ 122,645.00	4.7%	\$ 735.87	\$ 429.25
Winter 2022	\$ 175,900.00		\$ 116,805.00		NA	\$ 408.81

Difference between 2025 and 2024 tax bill will be \$27.96.

Difference between 2024 tax bill and 2023 tax bill was \$42.92.



Example B	Assessed value	Change	Taxable Value	Change	State Ed. Tax: 6 mills Paid in the summer	Bond: 7 mills/3.5 each tax bill
Summer 2025	\$ 152,800.00	8%	\$ 77,467.00	3%	\$ 464.80	\$ 271.13
Winter 2024	\$ 139,900.00		\$ 75,138.00		NA	\$ 262.98
Summer 2024	\$ 139,900.00	12.7%	\$ 75,138.00	4.7%	\$ 450.82	\$ 262.98
Winter 2023	\$ 122,100.00		\$ 71,560.00		NA	\$ 250.46
Summer 2023	\$ 122,100.00	18.6%	\$ 71,560.00	4.7%	\$ 429.36	\$ 250.46
Winter 2022	\$ 99,300.00		\$ 68,153.00		NA	\$ 238.53

Difference between 2024 and 2025 tax bill will be \$16.30  
 Difference between 2023 tax bill and 2024 tax bill was \$25.04.

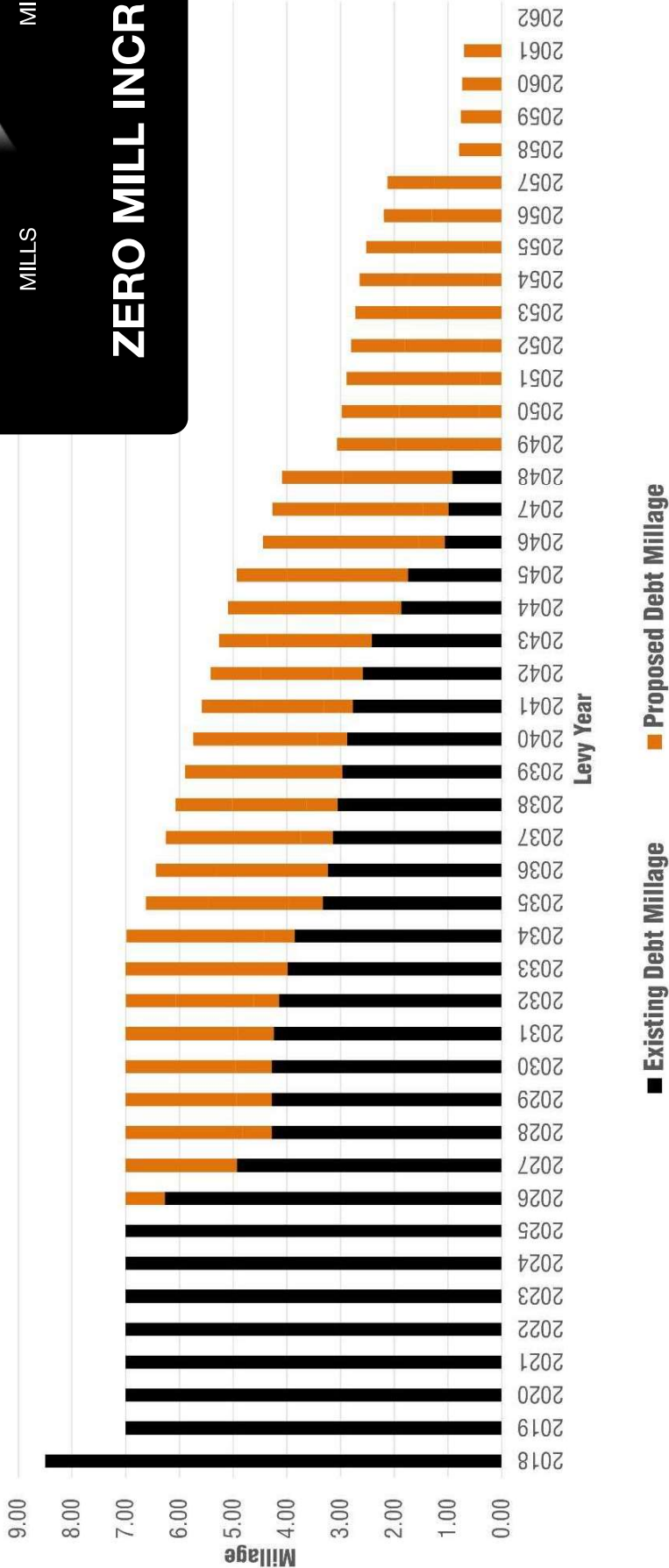
Example C	Assessed value	Change	Taxable Value	Change	State Ed. Tax: 6 mills Paid in the summer	Bond: 7 mills/3.5 each tax bill
Summer 2025	\$ 470,100.00	3.2%	\$ 358,538.00	3%	\$ 2,151.22	\$ 1,254.88
Winter 2024	\$ 454,800.00		\$ 347,758.00		NA	\$ 1,217.15
Summer 2024	\$ 454,800.00	8.8%	\$ 347,758.00	4.7%	\$ 2,086.54	\$ 1,217.15
Winter 2023	\$ 414,500.00		\$ 331,199.00		NA	\$ 1,159.19
Summer 2023	\$ 414,500.00	3.6%	\$ 331,199.00	4.7%	\$ 1,987.19	\$ 1,159.19
Winter 2022	\$ 399,500.00		\$ 315,428.00		NA	\$ 1,103.99

Difference between 2025 and  
2024 tax bill will be \$75.46.

Difference between 2024 tax bill  
and 2023 tax bill was \$115.92.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Rockford Public Schools - Debt Millage Chart



**Levy Impact**

**CURRENT** 7.0 **EXPECTED** 7.0 **MILLS**

**ZERO MILL INCREASE**

# Bond Ballot Language

## ZERO MILL INCREASE

### 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 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?

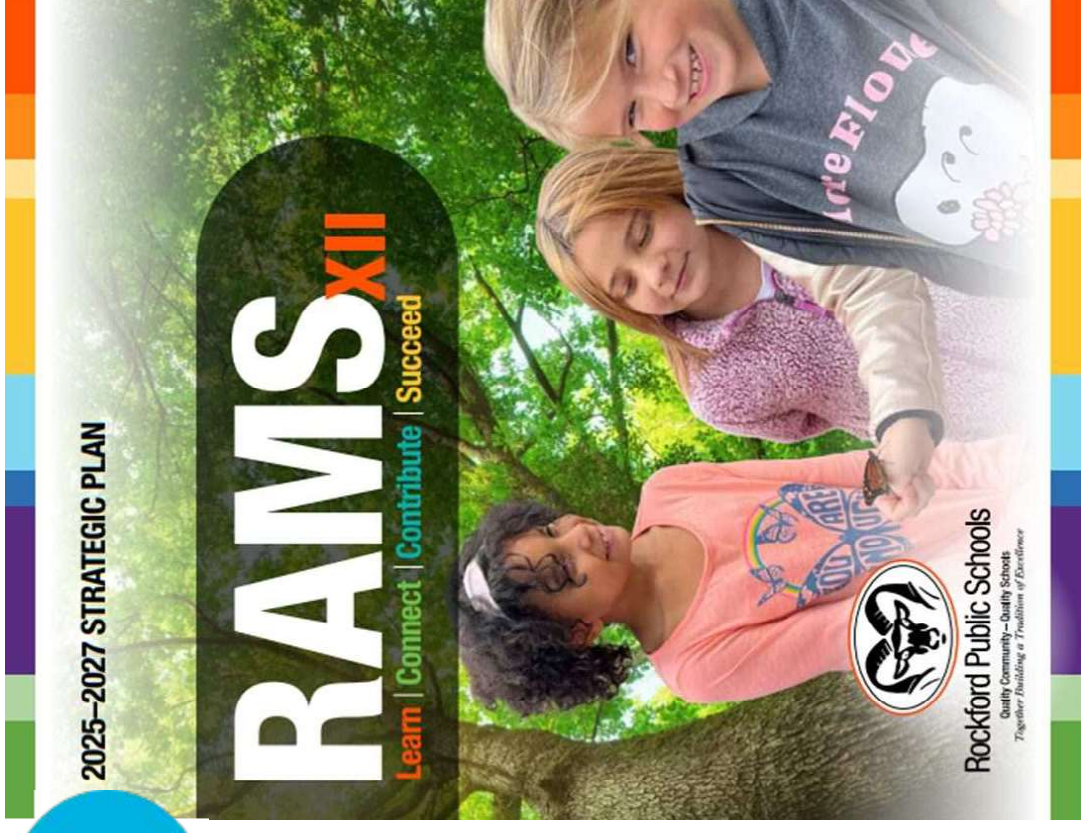
The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is .73 mill (\$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.)

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Wasn't elementary air conditioning already part of the 2019 bond?
  - No.
  - The 2019 bond identified "mechanical" upgrades
    - Those upgrades have been and are being completed
      - High school boiler
      - Valley View boiler



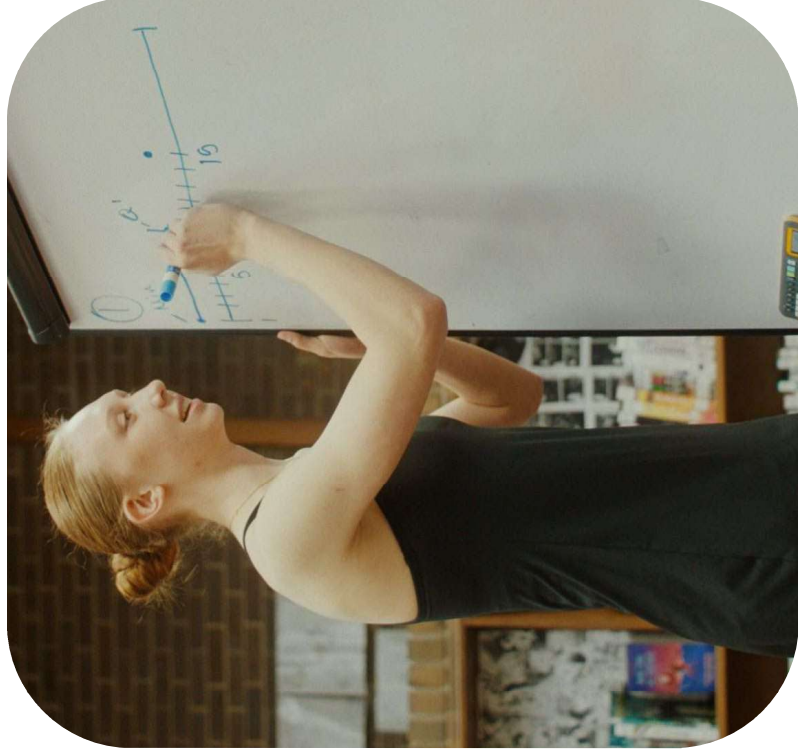


## NEXT STEPS

- **Board approved the ballot language: August 11**
- **Ballot proposal will be on November ballot**
- **Bond information materials have begun to circulate**
  - PTO meetings/Staff meetings/Community events/Rotary/Lions club/Chamber of Commerce
- **Public information campaign through election day**
- **Absentee voter ballots available by September 25**
- **Election Day is November 4, 2025**

**VOTE BY  
NOV. 4**





## LEARN MORE INFORMATION

### 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)
- Additional questions? Contact Dr. Steve Matthews, Superintendent