



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Rockford Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Steve Matthews Receives Top “Effective” Rating in Annual Performance Review

[Rockford, MI, December 10, 2024] — The Board of Education is pleased to announce that Superintendent Dr. Steve Matthews has received an "Effective" rating in his annual performance review, the highest possible rating under the revised evaluation scale. This rating reflects his strong leadership and steadfast commitment to the success of Rockford Public Schools.

The evaluation process, conducted using the state-approved MASB evaluation tool, measures the superintendent’s performance across critical areas, including Student Growth, Governance & Board Relations, Community Relations, Staff Relations, Business & Finance, and Instructional Leadership. Dr. Matthews' rating highlights his success in guiding the district through another year of growth and achievement.

Board President Jarrod Folsom stated, “Dr. Matthews continues to provide outstanding leadership, keeping our students at the forefront of every decision. His 'Effective' rating underscores his dedication to ensuring high academic achievement, fostering staff collaboration, and maintaining transparency and trust within our community. Our community has every reason to take great pride in RPS and the dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators who make it an exemplary school district.”

Under Dr. Matthews' leadership, Rockford Public Schools has achieved significant milestones this year. Highlights include:

1. Top-ten state ranking in overall proficiency based on the 2023-24 NWEA assessment results
2. Successful opening of Edgerton Trails Elementary and the associated boundary adjustments
3. Expansion of STEAM, literacy and outdoor learning programming
4. Positive trends in student growth and success across co-curricular programs
5. Continued success of the district’s Grow Your Own program

These initiatives, combined with the development and implementation of the **RAMS XII Strategic Plan**, which emphasizes the core framework of **Learn, Connect, Contribute**, and **Succeed**, have set a clear path for continuous improvement, ensuring students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

The Rockford Board of Education congratulates Dr. Matthews and his team and remains committed to supporting the district’s continuous improvement and educational excellence.

For more information, visit [www.rockfordschools.org](http://www.rockfordschools.org).

Jarrod Folsom

President, RPS Board of Education