



*Date | time* Monday – April 13, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.

*Location* Administration Team Room/Remote

*Meeting called to order with a moment of silence by* President Lewis

MEETING ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC

This meeting will be held using remote technology in compliance with Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-15 due to COVID-19. In order to preserve the public’s right to attend or address the Board of Education, anyone wishing to do so may join the meeting in one of the following three ways:

Zoom video participation:

No later than 5:30 the day of the meeting, please contact the Superintendent’s Executive Assistant at [mclark@rockfordschools.org](mailto:mclark@rockfordschools.org) for meeting URL, ID, and password

Zoom audio participation:

No later than 5:30 the day of the meeting, please contact the Superintendent’s Executive Assistant at [mclark@rockfordschools.org](mailto:mclark@rockfordschools.org) for meeting dial-in number, ID, and password

In person (social distancing of at least six feet required):

Appear at the Administration Office located at 350 N. Main Street in Rockford (enter through Main Street lobby) on the date and time of the posted meeting.

Questions or need technical assistance?

Please contact Director of Technology Bob Stull at [rstull@rockfordschools.org](mailto:rstull@rockfordschools.org)

In Attendance

Board of Education (remotely): Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoffrey L. Downs, Laura L. Featherston, Lisa M. Kreager, Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach.

Board of Education (onsite): Timothy J. Lewis.

Administration (onsite): Dr. Michael Shabler, Mike Ramm, Michael Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Sharon Wells.

Administration (remotely): Marlene Clark, Mindy Duba, Lisa Jacobs.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Laura Featherston, supported by Geoff Downs, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Call of the Audience

None.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Miles Postema, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, approving the following consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- Board of Education Minutes. March 23, 2020 Closed Session and Regular Meeting #10.

- Payment of bills in the amount of \$6,048,621.53.
- Certified Staff Recommendation. Paige Schultz (effective end of 2019-20 school year)

---

## Reports

---

### Online Instructional Initiative

Dr. Shibler reported on his participation in a remote conference with Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey today. The group discussed the party divide relative to mandatory business closings due to COVID-19 and its impact on the economy.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm reported on RAMS Connect, the second phase of the district's online learning program to be used for the remainder of this school year. This is planned to launch on Wednesday, April 15 and is a work in progress with regular updates and improvements to be made. Developing and launching an online program such as this would normally take 12 months and would require pilots; recent circumstances have necessitated this be done in a matter of weeks.

On March 18, 2020, Governor Whitmer issued an executive order closing schools through April 13. In response, Rockford Public Schools developed Engage and Explore, an online enrichment opportunity for students. When the Governor announced school would be cancelled for the remainder of this school year, RAMS Connect, a more robust educational experience, was developed.

RAMS Connect intends to provide the following:

1. instruction directly from classroom teacher using consistent content standards
2. assistance for families with connectivity limitations
3. social-emotional support for students
4. support to students with special needs

Director of Literacy Sharon Wells provided a virtual tour of the RAMS Connect webpage and resources. While this program cannot replicate face-to-face instruction, it will provide flexibility and support to maximize student learning. Teachers will post their office hours in Schoology to provide active availability for instructional support during the day. Executive Director of Special Services Mindy Duba reported on contingency learning plans customized for special needs students.

Secondary student progress will be reported as pass/incomplete; elementary student progress reporting is to be determined. Current seniors are expected to complete the assigned work, and those who are in good standing and on track to graduate will graduate this spring. The Board supports releasing seniors from requirements on May 15.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo reported that the district has not incurred any significant expenditures to date as a result of the circumstances.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford reported she is meeting weekly with REA/RESPA leadership, resulting in a Letter of Understanding and a Letter of Solidarity.

---

## New Business

---

### K-5 1:1 Device Replacements Recommendation (2019 Bond Issue)

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo summarized for the Board of Education the need to purchase K-5 replacement technology devices. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Lisa Kreager, supported by Laura Featherston, approving the bids from various vendors in the total amount of \$1,315,519.16 as presented. Devices are expected to arrive by the end of May. Motion carried unanimously.

---

## Adjournment

---

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Geoff L. Downs, Secretary  
Rockford Public Schools Board of Education*

**Minutes approved at April 27, 2020 meeting**