



Date | time Monday – April 27, 2020 | 6:30 p.m.

Location

This meeting was held using remote technology in compliance with Governor Whitmer’s Executive Directive 2020-15. In order to preserve the public’s right to attend or address the Board of Education, anyone wishing to do so was notified of the following opportunities via the district website:

1. Request remote inclusion in the meeting by emailing the Superintendent’s Executive Assistant at mclark@rockfordschools.org, and/or
2. 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. Social distancing of at least six feet required.

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

In Attendance

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

Administration: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Michael Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Tom Hosford, Lisa Jacobs, Dan Zang, Marlene Clark.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Call of the Audience

None.

Correspondence

Secretary Downs reported on a donation from Meijer to RPS for the district’s meal assistance program .

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Laura Featherston, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of April 13, 2020 work session
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$2,483,910.25
- Certified staff resignations. Rachel Jordan and Lanaia Walker (both effective the end of the 2019-20 school year)

Reports

RAMS Connect Progress Report

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm led a report to the Board of Education on the district's Continuity of Learning Plan, RAMS Connect. We are in our eighth week of engaging students remotely.

RAMS Connect provides a modality for teachers to connect directly with their students and deliver consistent instruction. Participation is occurring in core courses at a rate of about 90% at the secondary levels, with slightly lower participation in elective opportunities. Student work will be "graded" as either proficient or incomplete. Continuity of Learning Plans have been developed to provide individualized support for students with special needs. In addition to providing academic support, the District is also offering social-emotional support. Communication tools include Mr. Ramm's weekly staff newsletter "RAMS' Connection" and Dr. Shibler will send a short weekly video message to families and staff.

Freshman Center Principal Tom Hosford reported on how the Student Connectivity Committee is identifying and supporting families experiencing connectivity issues. Paper packets are sent on Tuesdays and Fridays to families who are either unable to connect remotely or who request these materials.

RHS Principal Dan Zang reported on last Friday's cap and gown distribution at Rockford High School, which exercised social distancing and celebrated students in a parade-like format. Jostens facilitated the distribution of the caps and gowns while Rockford staff lined the route to acknowledge our seniors. Beyond the Rock will distribute a video highlighting the event. High school administration will explore ways to hold alternative year-end events for students. A Facebook page led by a community member is circulating to "adopt a senior," facilitating congratulatory notes and gifts.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo reported we are currently serving approximately 3,500 meals weekly, for which free-and-reduced funding is provided.

2019-20 Teacher Evaluations

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie-Wilson-Crawford updated the Board of Education on 2019-20 school year teacher evaluations. Executive Order 2020-35 waives the requirement for assessments or other performance evaluations of teachers and district administrators during the 2019-2020 school year.

Rockford will proceed as follows:

- End-of-year summative conversations for all probationary staff and any staff member on an Individualized Development Plan (IDP) will occur not later than June 5th.
- Tenured staff who are not on an IDP will not have a summative year-end evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year.

Ms. Wilson-Crawford reported that a biennial evaluation model may be explored for the future.

Central Administration Support Staff Hours

Beginning in March with the Governor's Executive Order to close schools, the central administration staff has been working full time through a combination of working remotely and/or at the office. Given the most recent E.O. from the Governor, there will be a gradual phase-in work schedule to begin Monday,

May 18 on a staggered schedule allowing for more time at the office. This may change if the Governor extends the Stay-Home-Stay-Safe order. Building administrators and their support staff will be advised when they can return to their buildings.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Staff Appreciation Resolution

Dr. Shibler presented a resolution to the Board of Education establishing the week of May 4, 2020 as Staff Appreciation Week and Monday, May 4, 2020 as Staff Appreciation Day. Due to the closure of schools during the COVID-19 outbreak, Dr. Shibler will develop an alternate plan to recognize staff. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, adopting the resolution as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried unanimously.

Other

Dr. Shibler reported that RAMS XI surveys were sent out today to staff, families, and students. As of 5 p.m. today, we had received 862 parent responses, 229 staff, and 206 students (juniors and seniors).

Trustee Reichenbach reported on potential budget shortfalls as reported by the MASB lobbyist. Dr. Shibler will lobby for the State to make K-12 public education a budget priority.

Adjournment

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff L. Downs, Secretary

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at May 11, 2020 meeting