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*Date | time* Monday – September 13, 2021 | 5:30 p.m.

*Location* Administration Boardroom

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

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### In Attendance

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Board of Education: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoff Downs, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspach, Andrea Jacobson, Timothy Lewis (through and including closed session), Nick Reichenbach.

Student representative: Isabella MacKenzie

Administration: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba, Lisa Jacobs, Marlene Clark.

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### Adoption of Agenda

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Motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Nick Reichenbach, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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### Reports

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Student Representative

RHS student representative Bella MacKenzie reported to the Board of Education on several school year kick-off activities including spirit days, senior sunrise/sunset, and athletics.

Reports were continued following the Consent Agenda.

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### Closed Session

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Motion was made by Timothy Lewis, supported by Jake Himmelspach, to convene in closed session at 5:36 p.m. pursuant to the Open Meetings Act Section 8(h) to consider a written legal opinion from the Board of Education's attorney dated September 13, 2021, which is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act Section 13(1)(g) as an attorney-client privileged communication. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried unanimously. The Board of Education moved to the Administrative Team Room for the closed session.

The Board of Education reconvened in open session at 7:01 p.m. in the Boardroom. Regrets were noted for Timothy Lewis for the remainder of the meeting.

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### Recognition

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None.

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### Consent Agenda

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Motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Andrea Jacobson, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of August 23, 2021 study session and Regular Meeting #3
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$5,147,080.25

- **Certified Staff Resignations.** Accept resignations of Genna Shapiro (effective end of day July 16, 2021), Christina Turner (effective end of day September 30, 2021)

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## Reports (Cont'd)

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### Preliminary Student Enrollment Report

Assistant Superintendents Mike Cuneo (Finance) and Mike Ramm (Instruction) reported preliminary enrollment data to the Board of Education. As of today, enrollment is up by 103 students as compared to last year at this time, which is an increase of about 50 students over projections. The official count will be calculated as part of the October 6 fall count day report, which generates 90% of state funding for the school year.

### Collaborative Team Reports

The Board of Education received information about events occurring in our schools in the form of monthly collaborative team reports.

Elementary: Lakes Elementary Principal Mindy McGinn reported on a successful start to the school year. Principal McGinn commended the Administration and Board of Education for recognizing the value in offering a developmental-kindergarten program. Schools are wrapping up NWEA benchmark testing and those results will be used by Collaborative Action Teams to address academic needs.

Secondary: Rockford High School Principal Tom Hosford reported the secondary schools have also enjoyed a successful start of the school year. Students in grades 6-9 are undergoing fall NWEA testing to establish baseline data, and over 400 students in grades 9-12 have signed up to take the PSAT-9, PSAT/NMSQT, and/or SAT tests. River Valley Academy is partnering with Arbor Circle to support mental health needs of students. Rockford High School welcomes a new therapy dog, Gunner, to their staff starting this Thursday thanks to support from the Rockford Education Foundation.

Rockford Virtual: Principal Dr. Kelley Amshey reported the virtual program enrollment is at approximately 150 students, with the majority enrolled in grades 7-12. This compares to about 1,000 students last school year. Virtual students continue to receive support by designated RPS staff. An additional requirement this year is that the District develop an Educational Development Plan (EDP) for each virtual student to qualify for a seat time waiver.

Board President Downs commended staff for their efforts to keep students in face-to-face instruction despite the spike in the virus due to the Delta variant and the last-minute public health order mandating masks in pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Board Vice President Reichenbach reported he will continue to lobby legislators to remove seat time waiver requirements for families wishing to enroll their children in virtual education programs.

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## Old Business

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None.

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## New Business

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### Emergency Operations Plan Recommendation

Director of Security Scott Beckman reported to the Board of Education on the district's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which requires biennial approval by the Board of Education. Upon

recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Jake Himmelspach, approving the district's EOP as presented. Motion carried unanimously. The approved EOP will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Education.

#### Superintendent Search Timeline and Interim Superintendent Recommendation

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford presented to the Board of Education a proposed timeline for their search to replace retiring superintendent Dr. Mike Shibler. The Board Human Resources Committee has held preliminary meetings with two potential search firms and will issue a request for proposals in October 2021. The position will be posted in January 2022, following which the Board of Education will gather input from various stakeholder groups with the intent to identify the successful candidate in April 2022 to begin a July 2022 contract.

Because Dr. Shibler's retirement is effective at the end of the 2021 calendar year, it will be necessary to appoint an interim superintendent until such time as the Board of Education contracts with Dr. Shibler's replacement. Therefore, upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Andrea Jacobson, appointing Korie Wilson-Crawford as the district's interim superintendent effective January 1, 2022 until a replacement superintendent is hired. Dr. Shibler and several board trustees expressed their confidence in Ms. Wilson-Crawford's leadership to assume this role. Motion carried unanimously.

#### MASB Certification of Delegates

Board Vice President/MASB Liaison Nick Reichenbach reported the Michigan Association of School Boards will hold their annual Delegate Assembly on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. The following trustees will serve as voting delegates: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Kelley Freridge Timothy Lewis, and Nick Reichenbach. Geoff Downs, Jake Himmelspach, and Andrea Jacobson will be certified as alternates. The Superintendent's Executive Assistant will certify the delegates and alternates on behalf of the Board of Education.

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#### Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present

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The following individuals addressed the Board of Education. "XX" represents individuals who either did not provide their name or their pronouncement was unintelligible. President Downs emphasized the importance of receiving public feedback and reminded the audience to remain respectful in sharing their comments.

Laura Kane, XXX, Ryan Kelley, Brenda, XXX.

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#### Adjournment

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President Downs adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Timothy J. Lewis, Secretary*

*Rockford Public Schools Board of Education*

**Minutes approved at October 11, 2021 meeting**