



Date | time Monday – March 11, 2024 | 5:30 p.m.

Location Administration Boardroom

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance by President Folsom

In Attendance

Board of Education: Tricia Anderson, Barbara Helms, Jake Himmelspach, Jarrod Folsom, Kelley Freridge, Christie Ramsey, Nick Reichenbach

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

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda by Christie Ramsey with support by Nick Reichenbach. The motion passed unanimously.

Recognition

A video was played honoring the Middle School Students of the Month.

A video was played and the Beyond the Rock students were congratulated on their recent award.

Consent Agenda

Motion to approve by Nick Reichenbach with support by Kelley Freridge. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2024 meeting
2. Presentation of bills in the amount of \$13,405,478.45
3. MILAF – Approval of Allison Clements
4. Spring Coaches
5. Prevailing Wage Revision

New Business

1. District Calendar Approval

Dr. Matthews, Dr. Wilson-Crawford, and Mr. Ramm presented the tentative calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. They discussed how the calendar was created and what factors were considered when finalizing the dates.

2. Schools of Choice Resolution

Dr. Matthews presented the schools of choice resolutions for the 2024-2025 school year for approval. By roll call vote after a motion by Jake Himmelspach with support by Christie Ramsey, the Board of Education approved opting out of section 105 in order to participate in an intermediate school district-wide schools of choice program in accordance with Section 105 for the 2024-2025 school year. A motion was made by Christie Ramsey with support by Kelley Freridge to accept applications for current 105C students and their siblings. Passed unanimously by roll call vote. Nick Reichenbach made a

motion with support by Jake Himmelspach to opt into the Collaborative Schools of Choice program offered by the Kent Intermediate School District for the 2024-2025 school year.

3. Belmont Elementary Principal Recommendation

Dr. Matthews and Dr. Wilson-Crawford made a recommendation for Rachel DeKuiper to be named Principal of Belmont Elementary, replacing Shannon Ouellette, who has been named Principal at Edgerton Trails Elementary. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Barb Helms. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Administrator Retirement

Larry Watters, Principal of Parkside Elementary, announced that he will be retiring at the end of the school year. We thank Larry for the many years he has given the students and staff of Rockford Public Schools. Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Jake Himmelspach. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Furniture Purchasing

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm discussed the need for new Teacher furniture in some classrooms. This would also allow us to improve technology at the same time. This will be an ongoing bid/budget item on a rolling schedule with most work occurring during the summer. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Tricia Anderson. Trustee Reichenbach abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Curriculum Resource Recommendation

Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, gave a brief overview of the process of choosing curriculum. He introduced North Rockford Middle School Principal, Lissa Weidenfeller, who gave a presentation to the board regarding new Social Studies recommended curriculum for Middle School.

Dr. Kelley Amshey, Rockford Freshman Center Principal, gave a presentation on new curriculum for 9th grade ELA in preparation for AP Seminar course offered in 10th grade. This curriculum is offered to Rockford Public Schools at no charge.

Motion to approve Middle School Social Studies Curriculum by Kelley Freridge with support by Jake Himmelspach. The motion passed with approval by six board members. Trustee Helms abstained from voting.

Motion to approve Curriculum by Christie Ramsey with support by Kelley Freridge. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Emergency Elevator Repair at East Rockford Middle School Resolution

Executive Director of Business and Operations explained that the Elevator at North Rockford Middle School needs to be repaired. Due to the urgent need, the part has been purchased and a resolution is being brought to the board to pay for the part. Motion to approve by Jake Himmelspach with support by Nick Reichenbach. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Old Business

None

Reports

1. Student Representative

Student Representative, Camille Dahlke presented to the board on things happening at the High School. The play Mamma Mia was very successful. The Art Department held a spring art show in the fine arts lobby March 18 - 27. The Sax section of the Jazz band was recently recognized at the Annual Western Invitational. Athletics is very busy with several athletes/teams having great success at State Events.

2. Committee Reports

Trustee Anderson and Mike Ramm mentioned that the details of a DK—5 curriculum will be brought to the board in a meeting this Spring.

Dr. Wilson-Crawford, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, indicated that bargaining has started with Rockford Public Schools union groups.

3. Collaborative Team Reports

Parkside Principal, Larry Watters, talked about March being reading month. He also talked about testing that the students have recently completed. There has been a lot of discussion among parents and staff regarding the new boundary lines. Cannonsburg Elementary is next to receive new furniture. JA Biztown will be taking place in April.

North Rockford Middle School Principal, Lissa Weidenfeller, talked about things happening at the secondary levels. The third trimester is off to a great start. She talked about the success of the Orchestra. There are approximately 400 students who participate in Orchestra. The secondary level also just completed NWA testing and are having great success with Math and Reading. Spring Sports are beginning soon along with several clubs offered at both Middle Schools. The Freshman Center and Rockford High School are working on their class B section curriculum. The staff have participated in teacher led breakout sessions which they have found very helpful.

4. Construction Update

Jared Goff from Owens Ames Kimball gave an update on the constructions happening in the district. He gave updates on Edgerton Trails, Roguewood Elementary, North Rockford Middle School and the Transportation building. There is also construction happening on the baseball and softball fields.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education.

Brenda Wodarski

Chris Crandle

Charlie Curtis

Duane Gritter

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews discussed the law suit that was filed late last year. We will not discuss the lawsuit due to privacy issues.

Another lawsuit was filed against the district regarding pornographic books in Libraries. The court dismissed this lawsuit.

March is reading month. Dr. Matthews thanked all of the media staff for their hard work. They go above and beyond to help our students.

Dr. Matthews also talked about how Christianity is part of the Social Studies Curriculum.

The fine arts department was praised for the work, and several students were commended for the award-winning performances.

Adjournment

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

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education