



#### Location

In compliance with Governor Whitmer’s Executive Orders 2020-129 and 2020-160, this meeting was held in person at 350 N. Main Street, Rockford, MI and remotely. In order to preserve the public’s right to attend or address the Board of Education, access was provided as follows:

#### TO OBSERVE THE MEETING VIA LIVESTREAM:

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/beyondtherock/live>

#### TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

No later than 3:30 the day of the meeting, please contact the Superintendent’s Executive Assistant at [mclark@rockfordschools.org](mailto:mclark@rockfordschools.org) to request access and register to speak.

Questions or need technical assistance?

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

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

#### In Attendance

##### In person:

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

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibley, Jason Springer (BTR videographer). To limit the room to no more than 10 people, the following central office administrators rotated in based on their respective reports: Mike Ramm, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mike Cuneo.

##### Remotely:

Marlene Clark, Lisa Jacobs, Mindy Duba. The following central office administrators participated remotely from their offices except when called into the meeting room for their respective reports: Mike Ramm, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mike Cuneo.

#### Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Nick Reichenbach, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Correspondence

President Postema reported the Board of Education received many emails from parents, staff, and community members over the past several days regarding the district’s return to school plan, but thanked all who shared their comments and concerns.

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## Call of the Audience

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The following people addressed the Board of Education regarding re-entry to the school year:

Liz Crittenden, 7480 Las Palmas Drive, Rockford  
Tina Worrall, 4647 Shank Street, Rockford  
Rachel Denherder, 9040 Young Avenue, Rockford  
Jackie Yam, 5014 Glen Oaks Dr, Rockford  
Brenda Nichols, 5722 Beyhill Drive, Belmont  
Jessica Wilson, 725 10 Mile Road, Comstock Park  
James Thomas, 8250 Havemeier Way, Rockford  
Bryan Porter, 10055 Nugent Avenue, Rockford (also spoke on The 1619 Project)  
Jayme Vosovic, 3761 Alden Nash Avenue, Lowell  
Amanda Gerhardt, 2211 Clear Water Ct NE, Rockford  
Stephanie Rossman, 303 Lewis Street, Rockford  
Gricelda Estrada, 55 Gibraltar Dr, Rockford  
Allison Holden, 7008 S. Cannon Place Dr, Rockford  
Sarah Powell, 5179 Jordan Street, Allendale

President Postema thanked all for their comments and concerns and thanked the Administration and District for their quick response when the virus first appeared last year and for their work in developing the Return to Learn Program.

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## Consent Agenda

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Motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Lisa Kreager, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of July 29, 2020 Special and Closed Sessions; July 29, 2020 Study Session; July 13, 2020 Study Session; Regular Meeting #1
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$5,620,427.97
- Certified Staff Resignations. Accept resignations of Erek Kooyman, Kathleen Reid, Megan Treiber effective immediately.
- Certified Staff Leave of Absence. Claire Goodman (2020-21 school year).
- High School 2020-21 Extra-Duty Varsity Coaching Recommendation.  
Girls Soccer: Stuart Quackenbush (Head Coach)
- 2020-21 Middle School Extra-Duty Fall Coaching Recommendations.  
Sideline Cheerleading: Cheryl Bonner (ERMS Head Coach), Bobbie Demorest (NRMS Head Coach), Haley Braun (ERMS/NRMS Assistant Coach)  
Co-Ed Cross Country: David Hodgkinson (ERMS Head Coach), Joe Kessel (ERMS Assistant Coach), Emily Weinmann (NRMS Head Coach), Jennifer Nyeholt (NRMS Assistant Coach)  
78ers Football: James Herrington (ERMS Head Coach), Thomas Kowalski (ERMS Assistant Coach), Michael Ahern (NRMS Head Coach), Jason VanderWall (NRMS Assistant Coach)  
Volleyball ERMS: Keri Ellis (8<sup>th</sup> Grade A Head Coach), Jodi Ramos (8<sup>th</sup> Grade B Head Coach), Christine Lyon (7<sup>th</sup> Grade A Head Coach), Linda Spencer (7<sup>th</sup> Grade B Head Coach)  
Volleyball NRMS: Sue Oaks (8<sup>th</sup> Grade A Head Coach), Melissa Schmidt (8<sup>th</sup> Grade B Head Coach), Julie Gitchell (7<sup>th</sup> Grade A Head Coach), Michelle Ferguson (7<sup>th</sup> Grade B Head Coach)

- **2020-21 High School Extra-Duty Fall Coaching Recommendations.**  
Sideline Cheerleading: Kasandra Clark (Head Coach), Torri Mills (JV Coach), Danielle Stulp (Freshman Coach)  
Cross Country: Andrew Martin (Boys Head Coach), Ben Watson (Girls Head Coach), Josh Miller (Boys Assistant Coach), Jane Van Nierkerk (Girls Assistant Coach)  
Football: Brent Cummings (Head Coach); Brian Richardson, Kyle Short, Randy VanderVeen, Rick Wilburn (Varsity Assistant Coaches); Max Crimp (JV Coach); Mike Cowin (JV Assistant Coach); Tim Saur (Freshman Coach); Steve Fusee (Freshman Assistant Coach)  
Girls Golf: Scott Kruisenga (Head Coach), Bob Wells (JV Coach)  
Boys Soccer: Stuart Quackenbush (Head Coach), Joe Veal (JV Coach)  
Girls Swimming/Diving: Sara Tow (Head Coach), John Hams (Assistant Coach), Chad Randall (Diving Coach)  
Boys Tennis: Tom Huizing (Head Coach), Hope Keating (JV Coach)  
Volleyball: Kelly Delacher (Head Coach), Christa Manyen (JV Coach), Jill Brouwer (Freshman Coach)  
Boys Water Polo: Craig Peterman (Head Coach), Jerrad Reickard (JV Coach), Mason Westedt (Assistant Coach)

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## Reports

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### State Aid Report

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo updated the Board of Education on the current funding outlook for public schools in Michigan. Districts received a \$175 per-student reduction in state aid in the 2019-20 school year and will receive an additional \$350 per student for the 2020-21 school year through the federal CARES Act. Much of those funds will be used to purchase PPE and cover other expenses related to the pandemic.

Dr. Shibler and Mr. Cuneo are working with our state legislators to help them understand the challenges created by the COVID pandemic and how they can support districts. We will have a better idea about state funding for 2020-21 following the State Revenue Estimating Conference on August 24 and when the State releases their budget by the end of September.

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## Old Business

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### Spring Policy Updates (Second Reading)

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Tim Lewis, supported by Geoff Downs, adopting the spring policy updates as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy Number	Description
po2210	Curriculum Development
po2412	Homebound Instruction Program
po2414	Reproductive Health and Family Planning
po3362.01	Threatening Behavior Toward Professional Staff Members
po4162	Controlled Substance and Alcohol Policy for Commercial Vehicle (CMV) Drivers
po5200	Attendance
po6107	Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and to Use Electronic Signatures
po8210	School Calendar
po8400	School Safety Information
po8462	Student Abuse and Neglect
po8600	Transportation
ag2412	Homebound Instruction Program
ag4162B	Handling of Test Results, Records Retention, and Confidentiality
ag5460.01	Graduation Requirements Career and Technical Education (CTE)

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## New Business

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### RPS Return to Learn Plan (RPS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan)

Following more than two months of extensive planning by RPS administrators and teachers, the RPS re-entry plan for the 2020-21 school year has been finalized. Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm presented to the Board of Education the Rockford Return to Learn Plan along with a summary of our plan to accompany the detailed document. Mr. Ramm is holding a Rockford Virtual livestream tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Parents enrolling students in face-to-face instruction will receive information over the coming days regarding details about the start of school, including device pick-ups.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Lisa Kreager, supported by Geoff Downs, to approve the re-entry plan as presented, offering parents two options (face-to-face instruction or Rockford Virtual), and that teachers deliver instruction remotely to students enrolled in face-to-face instruction via livestream from their classrooms from August 24 through September 11, as presented. Trustee Reichenbach acknowledged that the district is going above and beyond what is recommended through the Governor's MI Safe Schools Roadmap. President Postema commended Dr. Shibler and his administration for meeting this challenge. Motion carried unanimously. Both documents will be sent to all staff and families and posted on the district website tomorrow.

### Certified Staff Recommendations

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Tim Lewis, to employ the following certified staff for the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Following approval, the new employees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity.

Sarah Barnett	Resource Room	Rockford Freshman Center
Tori Fowler	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Parkside Elementary
Lisa Gernand	Social Worker	Special Services (Parkside Elementary)
Michal Huizenga	Math	Rockford High School
Amanda Makarewicz	Math/Science	North Rockford Middle
Marie Olsen	Social Studies/ELA	East Rockford Middle
Hannah Sedlock	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Lakes Elementary
Julie Shortle	Kindergarten	Valley View Elementary
Andrea Wandel	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Valley View Elementary
Mindy Wilcox	Speech and Language Pathologist	Special Services (Belmont/Meadow Ridge Elementary)

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## Adjournment

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President Postema adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nick Reichenbach*

*Rockford Public Schools Board of Education*

**Minutes approved at August 24, 2020 meeting**