



Date | time Monday – September 14, 2020 | 6:30 p.m.

Location Administration Office (by invitation only)

Remote for all others

As permitted by Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders 2020-129 and 2020-160 and to allow for safe distancing, physical attendance is by invitation only. In order to preserve the public's right to address the Board of Education or observe the meeting, remote access options described below were posted.

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 to request access and register to speak.

Questions or need technical assistance?

Please contact Director of Technology Bob Stull at rstull@rockfordschools.org

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

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.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shabler, Mike Cuneo, Mike Ramm, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Lisa Jacobs, Mindy Duba, Bob Stull, Marlene Clark, Jason Springer (BTR videographer).

Adoption of Agenda

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

Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence from Dimitra Colovos and Brinda Dewey.

Call of the Audience

None.

Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of Regular Meeting #3
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$6,765,306.81

Certified Staff Resignations. Accept resignations of Emily Miller (effective September 12, 2020); Lisa Runyon (effective September 16, 2020)

- **2020-21 Revised Middle School Extra-Duty Fall Coaching Recommendation.**
Co-Ed Cross Country (East RMS): Erin Cole, Assistant Coach
Volleyball (North RMS): Susan Witte, 7th Grade B Head Coach

Reports

Return to Learn Plan Update

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm reported the first day instructional day with students in the schools went very well including transportation, instruction, and established protocols in the buildings thanks to the efforts of staff, students, and parents.

As part of the Rockford Virtual limited late enrollment opportunity, Executive Director of Community Services Lisa Jacobs reported 95 new students enrolled for a total of over 960 students supported by 26 teachers at this time. In the interest of providing choice to families, they will be given about a three-week lead to switch between in-person and virtual instruction prior to each the second and third trimesters. This will allow time for staffing adjustments and student onboarding. Mrs. Jacobs also reported on back-to-school videos produced by Beyond the Rock, which provide social-emotional support and information about school/transportation protocols to help reduce levels of anxiety surrounding the return to the schools.

Executive Director of Special Services Mindy Duba reported special services staff are working alongside virtual teachers to provide support to students with special needs. In addition, special services staff are ensuring all students in need of special services, homeless, or ESL services are receiving them.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford commended Lisa Jacobs and her staff for providing on-site care for 166 children of staff members during the remote learning period. Ms. Wilson-Crawford described the process for mandatory staff daily self-screenings before reporting to work. The remote teaching and learning model was, by all accounts, very successful; however, the district will survey teachers for feedback so improvements can be made if we must return to remote instruction.

Mr. Ramm reviewed grades K-8 benchmark goals for Reading/ELA and Math. Progress from fall to spring will be monitored as measured by NWEA and reported in compliance with state mandates. The Board of Education is required to adopt the District's Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan by October 1; this will be presented for consideration at the September 28 meeting. In addition, the Board is required to reconfirm the district's ELP every 30 days which will document any changes made to our delivery of instruction, public comment, and two-way interaction rates. These will be presented at the second Board meeting monthly.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo reported an app has been offered to parents as a suggested tool for daily health screenings of their students. Between now and December 31, 2020, students are provided free lunch. The district is also in the process of facilitating breakfast for students.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Laptops Purchase (Proof of Concept)

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo reported to the Board of Education about the need to purchase specialized laptop computers for RHS' Graphics I and II courses to be used during remote learning. Two carts of 32 computers each at a total cost of \$95,000-125,000 are needed. While these are primarily needed for remote learning, they can also be used in other areas of the district. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Lisa Kreager, supported by Geoff Downs, supporting the purchase of the laptops as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Bids will be solicited and a recommendation to approve the purchase will be presented at a future meeting, which will include whether to purchase these using CARES or bond funds. CARES funds must be used by December 31, 2020.

Administrative Positions

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford reviewed with the Board of Education the following staff recommendations:

1. **Rockford Virtual School Principal.** Due to a significant increase in enrollments at Rockford Virtual, it is necessary to assign a principal to that school, which is now the second largest school in the district. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Laura Featherston, supported by Tim Lewis, to employ Dr. Kelly Amshey as Principal of the Rockford Virtual School for the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Dr. Amshey thanked the Administration and Board of Education for this opportunity.
2. **Rockford Freshman Center Interim Assistant Principal.** Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, to employ Staci Szuch as Interim Assistant Principal for the Rockford Freshman Center for the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Certified Staff Recommendations

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Tim Lewis, supported by Laura Featherston, 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.

Katherine Jaglowski
Sean O'Brien

Art
Social Studies

Crestwood Elementary
River Valley Academy

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at September 28, 2020 meeting