



*Date | time* Monday – September 28, 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](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

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

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Cuneo, Mike Ramm, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Lisa Jacobs, Mindy Duba, Cole Andrews, Vic Villarreal, Marlene Clark, Jason Springer (BTR videographer).

### Adoption of Agenda

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

### Call of the Audience

President Postema called upon Joel Jefferis, who had registered to speak to the Board of Education. Mr. Jefferis did not enter the meeting.

### Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence from Dianne Remtema.

### Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of September 14, 2020 study and closed sessions; Regular Meeting #4
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$2,335,067.66

**Certified Staff Resignations.** Accept resignation of Janalee Grischke (effective October 8, 2020)

- **Teacher Probationary Status Recommendation.**

Second-year status of two-year probationary term: Donita Coughlin, Taylor Funk, Lucas Galganski, Travis Harrall, Christopher Schoder

Second-year status of five-year probationary term: Elyse Anderson, Katelyn Barton, Lynsey Bettig, Jeffrey Brems, Alexandra Briggs, Jill Carnes, Mary Cory, Madison Doenges, Stepfanee Dubay, Deborah Edwards, Sharon Farquhar, Amber Gerrits, Allan (Rob) Halla II, Kristin Hanzek, Ryan Kean, Chad Koch, Jaclyn Lewis, Rachael Macklin, Danielle McCormick, Grace Miller, Lauren Raap, Allison Sanders, Kasey Sauder, Heather Sheahan, Alyssa Slamp, Amy Tenney, Amanda Urquhart, Gabrielle VandenBerg, Cayla Varty, Krysta Woycehoski

Third-year status of five-year probationary term: Kristine Albert, Evan Bahm, Sharla Bazen, Carley Bryant, Michael Cameron, Shannon Dickinson, Danielle Fulton-Reed, Jamie Goering, Hope Keating, Tamara Kranzo, Kathrine Lanczki, Jessica Merk, Brooke Meyer, Anne Monterusso, Jeffrey Post, Allyson Ray, Ashley Remtema, Claire Riddering, Katherine Rowe, Michelle Sweigart, Caleb Westveer, Jamie Wiley, Marissa Wilkinson, Jonah Zimmerman

Fourth-year status of five-year probationary term: Dawn Bailey, Andrea Baird, Lauren Billings, Melissa Burkholder, Bryan Bylski, Monica Conrad, Maxwell Crimp, Jill Gumbs, Jaclyn Jackson, Ester Joyce, Sarah Klein, Rachell Lutz, Caitlin Marlowe, Nicole Meisling, Katie Riddering, Kallie Robinson, Alyssa Scheidel, Robinn Van Fleet, Kaitlin VanWyk, Matthew Vermeer, Carly Weiler

Fifth-year status of five-year probationary term: Katrina Burger, Stephanie Campbell, Mackenzie Clements, Kyle Clough, Kara Dixon, Amy Gardner, Lauren Gleghorn, Allison Holden, Allison Kolean, Thomas Kowalski, Jennifer Lutz, Bethany McClure, Emily Napieralski, Sarah Powell, Kelly Rusnell, Danielle Swider, Jonathan Taylor, Kelsey Telzerow, Whitney Thering, Jane Van Niekerk, Emily Weinmann, Melissa Young

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## Reports

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### Student Representative

RHS senior and student representative to the Board of Education Guin Waite was unable to access the meeting due to technical difficulties.

### Athletic Department Update

Director of Athletics Cole Andrews reported to the Board of Education on the challenges COVID-19 has created for conducting athletic activities. The MHSAA has and will continue to provide guidance to school districts for facilitating safe competitions for student-athletes, including mitigation and response protocols. Guidelines and procedures are regularly updated at [www.rockfordrams.org](http://www.rockfordrams.org).

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## Old Business

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None.

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## New Business

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### Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Recommendation

On August 20, 2020, Governor Whitmer signed Public Act 149 into law. PA 149 requires that Michigan school districts establish an Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan no later than October 1, 2020, in order to receive state aid for the 2020-21 school year. It is further required that the Board of Education reconfirm

the district's Extended CLP every 30 days and, as part of that process, approve changes to the Plan, solicit public comment, and report two-way interaction rates between pupils and teachers. Dr. Shibler will present a reconfirmation recommendation to the Board of Education monthly. The Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan is in addition to the district's COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan and must provide new assurances and sections on establishment of educational goals, delivery of instruction, grading, and equitable access.

In addition to presenting the 2020-21 Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm, along with central office administrators, provided to the Board of Education an overview of the past several weeks.

Mr. Ramm reported that delivery of instruction is being closely monitored and adjusted as necessary. Decisions are made using feedback from teachers relative to in-person, virtual, and remote learning due to quarantine, to ensure the district is providing consistent educational opportunities to all students.

Executive Director of Special Services Mindy Duba reported on a universal screener the district is administering to all DK-12<sup>th</sup> grade students in a survey format to monitor social-emotional wellbeing and launch immediate support when needs are identified.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford reported on the work of the district's COVID Response Action Team to track and manage current cases and quarantines in our schools. The district has two dashboards available on our website: 1) a district dashboard that reports active cases and quarantines, and 2) a Kent ISD dashboard which includes cumulative data provided by the Kent County Health Department. Ms. Wilson-Crawford commended district nurse Kelly Theaker for her management and oversight of the vast amount of work that results from monitoring staff and students for symptoms that may be COVID-related or due to other ailments, including allergies. The delay in receiving results of COVID tests has created challenges relative to keeping students out of school under quarantine unnecessarily while they await test results that are taking up to a week to receive. District administration is meeting with the Kent County Health Department tomorrow to discuss how to resolve this issue as well as a local laboratory later this week that offers expedited test results.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo reported that as part of our mitigation strategies, student meals are being taken in classrooms. The USDA has extended free meals to all students through December 31, and information can be found on the food service menus. Mr. Cuneo also reported on the expanded cleaning of facilities during and outside of the school day and the impact of the bus driver shortage on routes. Families impacted by suspended routes will be notified as soon as the need to suspend the route is known. The district will continue to ensure families have the devices and internet access necessary for their students to receive instruction. Mr. Cuneo commended all of our staff, including child care, food service, maintenance, technology, and transportation for their efforts in stepping up to the many challenges presented over the past months.

Board Secretary Reichenbach thanked Dr. Shibler and the Administration for maintaining patience relative to budgeting and not reacting quickly so that district programs were preserved.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made Timothy Lewis, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, approving the Rockford Public Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan as presented. In compliance with PA 149, no later than October 1, 2020, the Extended CLP will be submitted to the Kent Intermediate School District for their approval and transmission to the State Superintendent and State Treasurer, and posted on the RPS website via the district's transparency reporting link. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Certified Staff Recommendations

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Geoffrey Downs, to employ the following certified staff for the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Following approval, Ms. Myler expressed her gratitude for the opportunity; Ms. Dafoe was unable to attend due to technical difficulties.

Emily Dafoe  
Arianna Myler

Long-term art substitute  
School psychologist

Belmont/Parkside Elementaries  
Belmont Elementary/North Rockford Middle

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#### Adjournment

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President Postema adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nick Reichenbach*

*Rockford Public Schools Board of Education*

**Minutes approved at October 12, 2020 meeting**