



Date | time Monday – October 26, 2020 | 6:30 p.m.

Location Administration Office (by invitation only)

Remote for all others

As permitted by [MDHHS Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253](#) relative to gathering limitations and to allow for safe distancing, physical attendance was 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 provided in compliance with Senate Bill 1108 and Rockford Public Schools Board of Education Bylaw 0167.3.

TO OBSERVE THE MEETING VIA LIVESTREAM:

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

TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Two-way communication):

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.

TO CONTACT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING:

<http://www.rockfordschools.org/email-the-board-of-education/>

ACCESSIBILITY:

Upon request to the Superintendent, the district shall make reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities to be able to participate in this meeting. Please call 616.863.6557 or email mclark@rockfordschools.org.

Technical assistance at zoom@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 (entered during the Public Hearing for the School Breakfast Program), Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach.

Points of order: President Postema stated there are no board trustees participating remotely this evening. President Postema requested that due to face coverings, trustees vote by show of hands in addition to verbal acknowledgement.

Student representative: Guin Waite.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibley, Mike Cuneo, Mike Ramm, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Lisa Jacobs, Mindy Duba, Shannon Ouellette, Sharon Wells, Teya Cotter, John Henry, Scott Beckman, Marlene Clark, Jason Springer (BTR videographer), Stephen Provost (technology support).

Adoption of Agenda

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

Public Hearing – School Breakfast Program

By State law, school districts are required to hold a hearing annually to discern interest from the public for a school breakfast program. Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo facilitated this year's hearing. Due to last year's free-and-reduced rate at Meadow Ridge Elementary, Mr. Cuneo reported that

the district is required to provide breakfast at that school. There being no public comment regarding expansion of the school breakfast program. Mr. Cuneo declared the hearing closed. Motion was made by Lisa Kreager, supported by Geoff Downs, to continue the program as currently offered. Motion carried unanimously.

Call of the Audience

Renee Russo (8100 Herrington Avenue, Belmont) appealed to the Board of Education to maintain in-person instruction with minimal to no restrictions.

Deb Havens addressed the Board of Education regarding her candidacy for the Kent County Commission.

Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence from Lynnelle Buchanan.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Geoff Downs, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of Regular Meeting #6
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$3,167,752.46
- Extra-Duty Assignments.

Rockford High School and Freshman Center

Club Sports Coordinator: Vic Villarreal. Student Council Advisors: Chris Carey (RFC), Lisa Avram (RHS). Interact Coordinator: Kelly Gardner. Band Directors: Evan Bahm, Brian Phillips. Choir Director: Mandy Scott. Orchestra Director: Erin DeYoung. Musical Director: Mandy Scott. Yearbook Advisor (included with class): John Feeley. Drama Club: Deb Edwards. Dramatics Advisor: Tom VanBragt (RFC). Dramatics (per play): Gayla Fox (fall). Dessert Cabaret Director/Coordinator: Mandy Scott (spring outdoors). Variety Show Director: Terry Hibdon. Debate: Paul Marker. Head Counseling/Master Scheduler: Rachel Kreuze, Holly Normington. Robotics: John Feeley. National Honor Society Co-Advisors: Terry Hibdon, Eric Pilko. Telecommunications/TV Studio Director: Kris DeYoung. Choir Teacher: Renee VandeWege (RFC).

Department Heads 10-12 (Academic Excellence Team Members)

English/LA (13 teachers): Steve Story. Math (11 teachers): Tina Shutich. Science (11 teachers): Rick Folcik. Social Studies (10 teachers): Tom Huizing. Foreign Language 10-12 (6 teachers): Susan Clements. Special Education 9-12 (6 teachers): Michelle Corey. Elective group #1-Art, Music (9 teachers): Brian Phillips. Elective group #2-Business, Communication, Life Management and Tech Ed (12 teachers): Stephanie Campbell. Counselor (4 counselors): Rachel Kreuze.

Department Heads Freshman Center (Academic Excellence Team Members)

English/LA (6 teachers): Tom VanBragt. Math (6 teachers): Kevin Brown. Science (5 teachers): Chuck Cargill. Social Studies (7 teachers): Brad Keeler. World Language 9 (7 teachers): Michael Garbaty. Health/PE (10 teachers): Stephanie Linsley. Counseling (2 counselors): Holly Normington.

East Rockford Middle School

Student Council Advisor: Chris Lyon. National Junior Honor Society: Erin Cole. Winter and spring plays: Taylor Funk. Yearbook: Erin Lyons. 6th Grade Camp Director: Rob Pratt. Orchestra Director: Amy Tinney. Band Director: Rebecca Kilgore.

Department Heads (Academic Excellence Team Members)

English/LA (10 teachers): Kelly Darling. Math (10 teachers): Sandy Knottnerus. Science (10 teachers): Amy Banfield. Social Studies (10 teachers): Tiffany Sjoerdsma. Special Education 6-8 (4 teachers): Rob Pratt. Elective group-all other electives (14 teachers): Rebecca Kilgore-Longtin.

North Rockford Middle School

Student Council Advisor: Sue Oaks, Becky Lewis. National Junior Honor Society: Angie Ohlman. Yearbook: Evie Campbell. Primary Canine Handler: Angie Ohlman. Orchestra Director: Alison Holden. Band Director: Cullen McCarthy.

Department Heads (Academic Excellence Team Members)

English/LA (12 teachers): Lori Lang. Math (13 teachers): Andrea Zomberg. Science (11 teachers): Jennifer Nyeholt. Social Studies (11 teachers): Julie Gitchell. Special Education (12 teachers): Tina Hankins. Elective group-all other electives (14 teachers): Melissa Schmidt.

Belmont Elementary

Student Council: Jennifer Donovan, Lauren Billings, Katherine Humphreys. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Beth Walla. Lead Teacher: Matt Banta, Jamie Bair.

Cannonsburg Elementary

Student Council: Lauren Arnett. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Lauren Arnett. Lead Teacher: Rachel Devereaux.

Crestwood Elementary

Student Council: Judy Grifhorst. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Carl Baird. Lead Teacher: Nanette Hersberger.

Lakes Elementary

Student Council: Mike Cameron, Jeff Post. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Sara Brown, Marty Mackenzie. Lead Teacher: Jeff Post.

Meadow Ridge Elementary

Student Council: Katrina Burger, Katie Riddering. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Katie Riddering, Todd Frazier. Lead Teacher: Cristina Tendero-Scott, Todd Frazier.

Parkside Elementary

Student Council: Kristin Dunham, Tim Farrell. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Mary Lockard. Lead Teacher: Mary Lockard.

Roguewood Elementary

Student Council: Rachel Macklin, Mark Schlaudt. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Tracy Hayataka. Lead Teacher: Eric Nephew. Lead Teacher SI: Alejandro Ramos.

Valley View Elementary

Student Council: Melissa Young, Amy Gardner. Safety Patrol Coordinator: Mindy Watson. Lead Teacher: Kim Giem, Megan McCall.

Academic Excellence Team Members

Elementary AET Members: Carly Weiler (DK), Nicole See (K), Jane Van Niekerk (1st), Jill Gumbs (2nd), Kendra Austin (3rd), Jen Patzer (4th), Tara Dzirbowicz (5th)

- **Revised High School Fall Coaching Recommendation.**

Girls' Swimming/Diving: Sloan Tymrak (Assistant Coach)

- **Winter I Middle School Coaching Recommendation.**

Boys' Basketball (East RMS): Ryan DeKuiper (8th Grade A Head Coach), Tracy Ouellette (8th Grade B Head Coach), Jeff Bryant (7th Grade A Head Coach), Tom Moore (7th Grade B Head Coach)

Boys' Basketball (North RMS): Mike Long (8th Grade A Head Coach), Kyle Short (8th Grade B Head Coach), Dan Derksen Bryant (7th Grade A Head Coach), Steve Majerle (7th Grade B Head Coach)

Competitive Cheerleading: Cheryl Bonner (7th/8th Grades East RMS Head Coach), Bobbie Demorest (7th/8th Grades North RMS Head Coach), Haley Braun (7th/8th Grades East RMS/North RMS Assistant Coach)

Girls' Swimming & Diving: Kevin Brown, Jerrad Reickard (East RMS/North RMS Head Co-Coaches), Douglas Karsen (Diving Coach)

Reports

Student Representative

Student representative Guin Waite reported to the Board of Education on several initiatives, including Winter Wishes and daily Halloween-related activities sponsored by the Student Council this week, including drive-through trick-or treating at the high school on Thursday, October 29 from 5-7PM. Guin reported that senior students very much appreciated attending last week's football game. Guin stated today's re-entry to school after the two-week remote learning period was very positive and students and staff appreciated returning to the building.

Old Business

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan Reconfirmation Hearing

In compliance with Public Act 149, the Board of Education approved the Rockford Public Schools Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan in September. The Act requires that the Board of Education reconfirm the district's Extended CLP every 30 days, therefore, Superintendent Shibler will present this for Board consideration on a monthly basis.

As part of the reconfirmation process, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm reported to the Board of Education on the district's delivery of instruction options under the Plan, whether or not the district is offering higher levels of in-person instruction for special populations, and weekly attendance rates which include logged interaction time between teachers and students. Mr. Ramm reported on trimester transfers between F2F and Rockford Virtual and stated that two-way mental health screening will be completed in two weeks.

President Postema welcomed comments from the public regarding the instructional delivery method. Because Ms. Russo's comments listed under the Call of the Audience pertained to this matter, they will be included in the Reconfirmation Meeting Summary.

The Board of Education commended the district for providing flexibility for families and for exceeding state requirements relative to delivery of instruction. Dr. Shibler stated the district is acting upon the advice of legal counsel to follow operational directives issued by the MDHHS.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Shibler, motion was made by Lisa Kreager, supported by Laura Featherston, approving the October 2020 Reconfirmation Plan. Motion carried unanimously. All approved Reconfirmation Meeting Summaries will be made available on the district website [transparency reporting page](#) under the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan section.

New Business

Resolution Regarding the Open Meetings Act

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford reviewed with the Board of Education a resolution relative to the Open Meetings Act and virtual meetings. The Open Meetings Act was recently amended to grant greater latitude with respect to electronic participation by members of the Board of Education and the public in certain circumstances, and the resolution outlines the Board's desires to utilize electronic participation in compliance with the law. Upon recommendation of Superintendent Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Lisa Kreager, adopting the Resolution Regarding the Open Meetings Act as presented. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried unanimously.

Certified Staff Recommendation

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Shibler, motion was made by Geoff Downs, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, to employ the following certified staff for the 2020-21 school year as presented.

Megan Hojnacki	Speech & Language Pathologist	Lakes/East Rockford Middle Schools
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Motion carried unanimously. Following approval, Ms. Hojnacki thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to serve the district and community.

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at November 9, 2020 meeting