



Date | time Monday – November 9, 2020 | 6:39 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 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 are 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 (via Zoom), Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach.

President Postema announced that Timothy Lewis is participating in the meeting remotely from the City of Clarion, Clarion County, Pennsylvania.

Student representative: Guin Waite.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo (via Zoom), Korie Wilson-Crawford, Lisa Jacobs, Mindy Duba, Shannon Ouellette, Sharon Wells, Jennifer Thompson, Dr. Kelly Amshey, Scott Beckman, Marlene Clark, Jason Springer (BTR videographer), Ricky Clark (Zoom manager).

Guest: Carl VanderZee, Communications by Design (via Zoom)

Adoption of Agenda

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

Call of the Audience

Amanda Gerhardt (2211 Clear Water Court NE, Rockford) thanked Laura Featherston and Lisa Kreager for their service on the Board and congratulated Geoff Downs, Nick Reichenbach, Jake Himmelspach, and Kelley Freridge for their successful elections. Ms. Gerhardt addressed the Board of Education regarding the rate of COVID in the community relative to remote versus in-person instruction.

Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence from Mary Best and Eric Nephew.

Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of Regular Meeting #7
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$4,340,743.36
- **Summer Tax Resolution.** To collect one-half of school appropriated taxes in the summer.
- **High School Winter Coaching Recommendation.**
 - Boys' Basketball: Kyle Clough (Head Coach), Jay Peterson (JV Coach), Montgomery Evans (Freshman Coach)
 - Girls' Basketball: Bradley Wilson (Head Coach), Marc Whitford (JV Coach), Sarah Barnett (Freshman Coach)
 - Boys' and Girls' Bowling: Paul Bellgraph (Head Coach)
 - Competitive Cheerleading: MeLisa Milanowski (Head Coach)
 - Gymnastics: Michelle Ankney (Head Coach)
 - Hockey: Christopher Pobur (Head Coach), Trevor Shields (Assistant Coach)
 - Skiing: Jeffrey Haeberle (Assistant Coach)
 - Boys' Swimming/Diving: Kevin Brown (Head Coach), Jerrad Reickard (Assistant Coach), Douglas Karsen (Diving Coach)
 - Wrestling: Brian Richardson (Head Coach), Caleb Westveer (Assistant Coach), Nicholas Guerra and Jeffrey Swendrowski (Assistant Co-Coaches)

Reports

Student Representative

Student representative Guin Waite reported to the Board of Education on the success of the recent Halloween spirit week, the Winter Wishes initiative, and recognition of Veterans Day by honoring RHS staff who have served in the armed services.

Collaborative Team Reports

The Board of Education will receive information about events occurring in our schools in the form of monthly collaborative team reports.

Elementary: Belmont Elementary Principal Shannon Ouellette reported on upcoming remote parent/teacher conferences, Response to Intervention, working through the substitute teacher shortage, the value of the COVID response staff in the schools, staff performance evaluations, Hand2Hand to provide meals for families in need, efforts to have school photos in February and March, Halloween activities, and weekly elementary principal meetings to provide consistency at the schools.

Secondary: River Valley Academy Principal Jennifer Thompson thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Shibler and his cabinet for supporting the schools. Ms. Thompson reported on the resilience of students through the first trimester given the challenges of the pandemic, professional development on the use of instructional technology, NWEA testing, mitigation strategies as music programs have moved indoors, co-curricular and athletic activities, and the transition of students between virtual and face-to-face instruction.

Rockford Virtual: Principal Dr. Kelley Amshey reported on Rockford Virtual's Halloween party at Rams Stadium which was very well received, progress reports, Response to Intervention, and student transitions between virtual and face-to-face instruction for the second trimester.

Board trustee Kreager thanked RPS staff for their perseverance and recognized their extra efforts for the students.

November 3 Election Results

Dr. Shibler thanked the six trustees who ran for the four Board of Education trustee seats, and reported the successful candidates are Geoff Downs, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspace, and Nick Reichenbach. The trustee terms will run from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024.

Developing Healthy Kids

Executive Director of Community Services Lisa Jacobs reported to the Board of Education on the November 19 Developing Healthy Kids event, "Handling Stress & Anxiety During COVID-19." The event includes a panel of mental health experts who will address questions submitted in advance on how to navigate the emotional stress of the pandemic. The event will be livestreamed and has been shared with surrounding school districts.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Laptop Purchase Recommendation (CARES Act Funds)

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo reviewed with the Board of Education bids received for the purchase of 60 specialty laptops for the RHS Graphic Design Course. This was previously discussed at the September 14, 2020 Board of Education meeting. Upon recommendation of Superintendent Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, approving the purchase of the laptops for a total amount not to exceed \$108,000 from various vendors as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Cuneo clarified that this purchase will be funded using CARES Act funds, not bond funds as initially reported. Carl VanderZee (CBD) stated he anticipates securing the 60 laptops within the next two weeks.

Collective Bargaining Strategies (Closed Session)

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Shibler, motion was made by Laura Featherston, supported by Lisa Kreager, to enter closed session at 7:19 p.m. under Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act for the

purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategies. Motion carried unanimously. The Board returned to open session at 8:15 p.m.

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at November 23, 2020 meeting