



Date | time Monday – January 11, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.

Location via Zoom

As required by MDHHS Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253, this meeting was held remotely for all participants. In order to preserve the public's right to observe the meeting or address the Board of Education, 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

Attendance

Board of Education: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoffrey L. Downs, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspach, Timothy J. Lewis, Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach. President Postema welcomed Kelley Freridge and Jake Himmelspach to their first official regular meeting.

Student representative: Guin Waite.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Lisa Jacobs, Mindy Duba, Dr. Kelly Amshey, Blake Bowman, Tom Hosford, Sharon Wells, Scott Beckman, Shawn Hayward, Marlene Clark, Jason Springer (BTR videographer).

Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Timothy Lewis, supported by Geoff Downs, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition

Middle School Outstanding Students – December 2020

Because in-person recognitions are not possible at this time, a video produced by Beyond the Rock was provided as a way to recognize the following middle school outstanding students of the month:

East RMS

Charlotte Shillington & Julian Scott (6th), Aubriana Lovell & Alexander Delarosa (7th), Sophia Galang & Aiden Humphrey (8th)

North RMS

Emily Klaasen & Bryce Miller (6th), Isabelle Suidinski & Levi Vande Wege (7th), Maya Clark & Colin Okonoski (8th)

Call of the Audience

None.

Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence from Becky Lewis.

Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of December 14, 2020 study and closed sessions and Regular Meeting #10
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$7,822,079.04
- Middle School Winter II Coaching Recommendations.
Girls' Basketball (East RMS): Jeff Bryant (8th Grade A Head Coach), David Lee (8th Grade B Head Coach), Ryan DeKuiper (7th Grade A Head Coach), Tracy Ouellette (7th Grade B Head Coach).
Girls' Basketball (North RMS): Mike Long (8th Grade A Head Coach), Steve Majerle (8th Grade B Head Coach), Dan Derksen (7th Grade A Head Coach), Jarad Smith (7th Grade B Head Coach).
Boys' Swimming & Diving (East and North RMS): Kevin Brown (Head Coach), Ben Schuchardt (Assistant Coach), Doug Karsen (Diving Coach).
Wrestling (East RMS): Joseph Carrel (Head Coach), Lonnie Armstrong (Assistant Coach).
Wrestling (North RMS): Troy Anderson (Head Coach), David Warrelman (Assistant Coach).
- Certified Staff Resignation. Kelsey Telzerow effective January 15, 2021.

Reports

Student Representative

Student representative Guin Waite reported to the Board of Education on the success of the recent 12 days of supporting local businesses and the Star for a Day activity scheduled for January 25. Guin congratulated the varsity football team for winning the regional championship.

Student Social-Emotional Screening Tool

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm and Executive Director of Special Services Mindy Duba reported to the Board of Education on the district's screening initiative to assess and identify social-emotional needs of students due to the effects of the pandemic. Supports were put into place as early as March 2020, and the ongoing nature of the pandemic has continued to result in an overall negative impact on students' mental health.

Ms. Duba reviewed RPS student results for anxiety, depression, self-harm, and abuse/neglect as compared to clinically-diagnosed national averages. Staff will continue to monitor students and provide support as indicated. The ongoing initiative is a team effort coordinated by special services staff in

conjunction with school administrators and teaching staff. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's school social worker or principal with any concerns about their child's well-being.

Collaborative Team Reports

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

Elementary: Meadow Ridge Elementary Principal Blake Bowman reported staff and students are excited to be back in the schools and mitigation strategies are working well. Art and library have resumed, which allows classroom teachers planning time. Mr. Bowman expressed appreciation to the Human Resources Department for their support in providing substitute teachers when needed. The schools are discussing how Valentine's activities will be held in a consistent way. As part of the NWEA process, ScotPad will be used to assist students with COVID gaps, particularly in the area of math.

Secondary: Rockford Freshman Center Principal Tom Hosford reported on a seamless transition to the hybrid model and commended students and staff for adapting well. This model provides an additional layer of mitigation to minimize close contacts and quarantines. At this time, secondary students are scheduled to return to full-time in-person instruction on Monday, January 18, however, Dr. Shibler will use Rockford community data before finalizing that decision. NWEA assessment data will be used to identify learning gaps so interventions and supports can be provided where needed, including the offering of a robust summer school program. Parent-teacher conferences will be held in the coming weeks. Mr. Hosford recognized the efforts of middle and high school athletic staff to provide much-needed physical activities for students.

Rockford Virtual: Principal Dr. Kelley Amshey reported Rockford Virtual is now recognizing secondary students, which has been well received by staff and parents. Current staffing sits at 29 for the program. Virtual parent-teacher conferences will take place over the coming weeks. Rockford Virtual is preparing for NWEA testing and making plans to prepare for the third trimester, which will include staff and parent surveys to collect input for improvement.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Declaration of Commitment

In support of Rockford Public Schools By-Law 0144.2, the Board of Education declared their individual and collective commitment in their service as board of education trustees.

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at January 25, 2021 meeting