



*Date | time* Monday – February 8, 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](mailto: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](mailto:mclark@rockfordschools.org).

Technical assistance at [zoom@rockfordschools.org](mailto:zoom@rockfordschools.org)

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

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## Attendance

Board of Education: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoffrey L. Downs, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspach, Timothy J. Lewis (left following Reports), Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach.

Student representative: Guin Waite.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba, Nicole Peterson, Al Reickard, Scott Beckman, Marlene Clark, Jason Springer (BTR videographer).

Guest: Jeremy Amshey (OAK)

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## Adoption of Agenda

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

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## Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present

Laura Kane (6929 Rex Drive, Rockford) addressed the Board of Education requesting provision of a hybrid learning model.

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## Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence from Linda Rothenthaler, Kathy Slagel, and Juli and Steve Ramsay.

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## Consent Agenda

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Motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Jake Himmelspach, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of January 25, 2021 study session and Regular Meeting #12
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$3,826,979.33

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## Reports

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### Student Representative

Student representative Guin Waite reported to the Board of Education that students are excited to be back in person. Guin also reported on student council activities celebrating the return to school, peer listener appreciation activities, a Leo Club community drive for the North Kent Service Center, the return of winter sports, and plans to grant Winter Wishes in the coming weeks.

### Collaborative Team Reports

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

Elementary: Crestwood Elementary Principal Nicole Peterson reported the return to in-person learning for elementary students has gone well. Ms. Peterson also reported on completion of NWEA testing and how the data will be used to identify needed interventions, upcoming parent-teacher conferences, staff progress meetings, upcoming book fairs as part of March is Reading Month, adjustments to this year's Battle of the Books format, and upcoming Valentine's celebrations.

Dr. Shibler will provide a recommendation to the Board of Education this spring for a tuition-free summer school program to remediate learning loss due to COVID, particularly in the area of mathematics for elementary learners.

Secondary: North Rockford Middle School Assistant Principal Al Reickard reported on a successful return to in-person learning for secondary students. The NWEA testing window closed today and parent-teacher conferences wrapped up last week. Staff are preparing students to transition to the third trimester with some students navigating between in-person and virtual learning. Orientations are taking place for students entering 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades next year and 2021-22 class scheduling is underway. Winter II middle school athletics are also underway. River Valley Academy is partnering with local agencies to support students' mental health needs as well as to provide college/career readiness resources.

Rockford Virtual: Principal Dr. Kelley Amshey provided a special report as outlined below.

### Rockford Virtual Update

Rockford Virtual Principal Dr. Kelly Amshey reported to the Board of Education that Rockford Virtual is currently serving approximately 400 elementary, 200 middle school and 300 high school students, supported by 30 teachers and three paraprofessionals. In addition to providing a quality educational program, Dr. Amshey and her team have focused on developing a culture and identity to provide a sense of inclusivity and belonging for students. Those efforts have resulted in non-academic activities, student

recognition, and a student leadership team. Since the school's inception, processes have been developed to review curriculum and refine delivery of instruction, conduct parent-teacher conferences and NWEA testing, and provide effective and consistent communication with students and families. Feedback from staff, student, and parent surveys is used for continuous improvement and has resulted in expanded opportunities including AP and elective course offerings. Having a physical office space at RHS has been instrumental to the success of the program.

Planning for the 2021-22 school year is underway, and it is Dr. Shibley's intention to continue Rockford Virtual at least through next school year and possibly beyond, to be determined based on need.

#### Status Report on Carlson-Munger Stadium Renovation

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo, along with Chief Operating Officer Jeremy Amshey (Owen-Ames-Kimball) updated the Board of Education on renovations taking place at the Carlson-Munger Stadium, including the new concourse entry and plaza, sculpture, press boxes, concession stands, storage, and locker rooms/classroom space. The facility is host to several activities including lacrosse, track, band, and football. The renovations are funded through the 2019 bond issue.

[Timothy Lewis left the meeting.]

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#### Old Business

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None.

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#### New Business

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#### 2020-21 Schools of Choice Resolutions

Marlene Clark, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Schools of Choice Coordinator, summarized the Schools of Choice resolutions for the 2021-22 school year.

1. **Opt out of Section 105.** Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibley, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Kelley Freridge, to opt out of Section 105, the state program within the ISD for the 2021-22 school year. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Opt into KISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program.** Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibley, motion was made by Geoff Downs, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, to opt into the KISD Collaborative Schools of Choice Program, for residents within KISD boundaries, for the 2021-22 school year. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Opt into Section 105c.** Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibley, motion was made by Jake Himmelsbach, supported by Kelley Freridge, to opt into Section 105c, the state program with contiguous intermediate school districts for the 2021-22 school year, to accept siblings of current 105c students. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried unanimously.

#### MASB Region 3 Board Election

Motion was made by Board of Education Secretary/MASB Legislative Liaison Nick Reichenbach, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, to cast a ballot for Jill Fennessy from Tri-County Area Schools to represent Region 3 for a two-year term on the MASB Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously.

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## Adjournment

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nick Reichenbach*

*Rockford Public Schools Board of Education*

**Minutes approved at February 22, 2021 meeting**