



*Date | time* Monday – March 22, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.

*Location* Administration Boardroom

*Physical attendance by invitation only\**

\*In compliance with MDHHS Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253, board of education meetings are defined as non-residential gatherings, and such gatherings at indoor non-residential venues are restricted to no more than 25 persons (Sec. 2(a)(2)).

In adherence to this restriction, physical attendance at this meeting is by invitation only. To preserve the public's right to observe the meeting or address the Board of Education, remote access options are provided below and are in compliance with Public Act 254 of 2020 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 via Zoom.

**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).

*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 Himmelspace, Timothy J. Lewis, Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach.

Student representative: Guin Waite.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba (remote), Lisa Jacobs, Matt Puett, Kyle Forman, Kris Wert, Ron Peterson, Sharon Wells, Maggie Thelen, Marlene Clark, Scott Beckman, 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.

### Recognition

Middle School Outstanding Students

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**

Savannah Richards & Sean Bostwick (6<sup>th</sup>), Grace Crelly & Dylan Gross (7<sup>th</sup>), Lanee Lewkowski & Ethan Helmholdt (8<sup>th</sup>)

**North RMS**

Alia Ponne & Qwintin Gordon (6<sup>th</sup>), Elise Clark & Brayden Daniels (7<sup>th</sup>), Jocelyn Russell & Asa Walker (8<sup>th</sup>)

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**Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present**

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None.

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**Correspondence**

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None.

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**Consent Agenda**

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

- Minutes of March 8, 2021 study session and Regular Meeting #15
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$3,547,717.94
  - 2020-21 Middle School Revised Extra-Duty Spring Coaching Appointments.
    - Girls Tennis: Jami Dondit (North RMS Head Coach)
    - Track (East RMS): Jodi Ramos (Head Girls Coach), Erin Cole (Assistant Coach)
  - 2020-21 High School Revised Extra-Duty Spring Coaching Appointments.
    - Boys and Girls Crew: Grant Hoffman (Girls Head Coach)
    - Girls Soccer: Lauren Fahlen (JV Coach)
    - Track: Sean O'Brien (Girls Head Coach), David Hodgkinson (Girls Assistant Coach)
  - Leave of Absence Request.
    - Erica Golembiewski (second year leave, 2021-22 school year)

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**Reports**

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**Student Representative**

Student representative Guin Waite shared with the Board of Education her reflections on being a senior at Rockford High School. Guin reported on recent St. Patrick's Day activities which included a scavenger hunt and decorating the school, inspirational and informational bulletin boards throughout the school, an upcoming spirit day, and several athletic successes. President Postema commended Guin for her positivity and leadership during a difficult school year.

**Early College Opportunities**

Executive Director of Community Services Lisa Jacobs reported to the Board of Education on the district's early college opportunities through partnerships with Ferris State University and Grand Valley State University, including a new cloud computing and cybersecurity certification through FSU starting in the 2021-22 school year which will prepare students to either enter the workforce or further their education.

RHS students also have opportunities to earn college credit from several area colleges and universities through articulated classes taken at RHS.

Mrs. Jacobs thanked the Rockford Education Foundation for their financial support to make many of these options available to students, and Dr. Shibler commended FSU President Dr. Eisler for both initiating and facilitating the RPS/FSU partnership.

Dr. Shibler is scheduled to meet with Central Michigan University regarding a potential partnership in the career field of teaching.

#### Annual School Bus Inspections

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo, along with Director of Transportation Matt Puett, reported to the Board of Education on the recent inspection of the district's school bus fleet, which is conducted annually through the Michigan State Police School Bus Inspection Program.

Through the outstanding efforts of Mr. Puett and his staff, including mechanics Kyle Forman, Ron Peterson, and Kris Wert, our inspection resulted in zero red flags and only one yellow flag, which was remedied immediately. To give perspective, findings that can result in a red flag include everything from a serious mechanical issue to a pair of boots left on the bus or a burned out light. It was due to the team's over-and-above efforts that our 68 buses received an excellent report. In addition to their standard duties, Mr. Puett, Mr. Forman, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Wert have also served as substitute bus drivers throughout the year due to a driver shortage.

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#### Old Business

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##### 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 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. Details of that plan can be found on the document presented to the Board of Education which is posted on the district website as referenced below.

President Postema noted that no members of the public registered to address the Board of Education regarding the district's learning plan.

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Shibler, motion was made by Jake Himmelspace, supported by Nick Reichenbach, approving the March 2021 Reconfirmation Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Approved Reconfirmation Meeting Summaries are posted on the district website [transparency reporting page](#) under the Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan section.

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## New Business

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### Bid Recommendation – Middle School Student and Staff Devices

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented bids received for middle school student and staff devices. The Board reviewed this in an earlier study session.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Kelley Freridge, to award the bid to Presidio in the total amount of \$1,019,500 as presented. A timeline for fulfillment of the order this summer was part of the bid specifications. The purchase will be funded through the 2019 bond issue. Motion carried unanimously.

### 2021-22 School Year Calendar

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford presented the proposed 2021-22 school year calendar which was recently finalized between the District and the Rockford Education Association. The Board of Education reviewed this in an earlier study session. The calendar provides a consistent schedule for students, embedded professional development for staff, and follows the Kent ISD common schedule for breaks.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Geoff Downs, supported by Jake Himmelspace, approving the 2021-22 school year calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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## Adjournment

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President Postema adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Nick Reichenbach*

*Rockford Public Schools Board of Education*

**Minutes approved at April 12, 2021 meeting**