



Date | time Monday – April 26, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.

Location Administration Boardroom

Per MDHHS Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 dated March 19, 2021, public meetings under the Open Meetings Act are no longer subject to the general gathering limits in Sections 2(a) and 2(b) of the order. The amending order states that more than 25 people may gather together in an indoor venue for a board meeting as long as the meeting is designed to encourage and maintain six feet of social distancing between groups and face coverings are required. Members of the public may both attend meetings and participate in public comment in person to the extent permitted under the Open Meetings Act and in compliance with the amending order.

Overall attendance at any public meeting must not exceed 50% of the total occupancy limits established by the fire marshal. The fire marshal has established that the total occupancy limit of the RPS Boardroom is 113. Based on the total occupancy limit and factoring in the layout of the room to accommodate social distancing, no more than 25 people will be permitted in the meeting room. Attendees should avoid intermingling with people outside of their group and each group must remain six feet apart. All applicable masking and distancing requirements must be followed by everyone at all times. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting in person should notify the Superintendent's Office by 3:30PM the day of the meeting to ensure capacity will allow for admission.

The Rockford Public Schools Board of Education also provides remote access options as outlined below to observe and/or participate in public comment 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 to either ensure capacity will allow for physical admission or to request remote access to address the Board of Education.

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.

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, Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach.

Regrets: Timothy J. Lewis.

Rockford Public Schools: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba, Lisa Jacobs, Guin Waite (student representative) Marlene Clark, Scott Beckman, Jason Springer (BTR videographer), Bob Stull (Zoom manager).

Various guests rotated in and out of the room during their respective agenda items to maintain allowable distancing and occupancy limits. Their names are included in the minutes as such.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Recognition

MASB Board of Education "Standard of Excellence" Award

Board trustee/MASB liaison Nick Reichenbach reported on the RPS Board of Education's Standard of Excellence Award, which was received from the Michigan Association of School Boards. The Standard of Excellence Award recognizes Board trustees' continuous commitment to excellence and is given when all trustees have received the Award of Merit for completing all Level 1 classes and 45 education credits. The MASB will hold a virtual statewide recognition of school board achievements the evening of April 29, 2021.

Individual State Champion – Wrestling and MWA Coach of the Year

[In attendance for this agenda item: Trenton Wachter, his parents, Cole Andrews, and Brian Richardson.] Director of Athletics Cole Andrews introduced Wrestling Coach Brian Richardson, who described student-athlete Trenton Wachter's many accomplishments culminating in an MHSAA Division I individual state championship. Board President Postema recognized Trenton with a certificate of recognition and the Board of Education also recognized Coach Richardson for being elected MWA Division I Coach of the Year.

TV Studio "MAB Station of the Year" Award

[In attendance for this agenda item: Kris DeYoung, Moses Bosscher, Hannah Butzer, Hayley Butzer, Lauren Lewis.] Television Broadcasting Instructor Kris DeYoung and TV Studio Technician Jason Springer introduced RHS Beyond the Rock students Moses Bosscher, Hannah Butzer, Hayley Butzer, and Lauren Lewis, who are members of the RHS award-winning television production class that has won its 13th (8th consecutive) TV Station of the Year Award through the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. Board Vice President Geoff Downs presented a certificate of recognition to the group.

Middle School Outstanding Students- April 2021

The Board of Education viewed a [video](#) produced by Beyond the Rock in recognition of middle school outstanding students of the month.

East RMS

Lucy Elyea & Ben Rourk (6th), Cloe Stadt & Kristian Fedorowych (7th), Hailey Harrold & Cullen Yurick (8th)

North RMS

Kyla Chapman & Chase Dzirbowicz (6th), Leah Neeley & Logan Peck (7th), Alyssa Vallier & Andrew Hambelton (8th)

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present

Anna Rapp (8316 Bush Drive, Rockford) requested the Board of Education revert to remote learning given the spike in COVID cases.

Laura Kane (6929 Rex Drive, Rockford) requested the Board of Education revert to remote learning given the spike in COVID cases.

Correspondence

None.

Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of April 12, 2021 study session and Regular Meeting #17
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$6,386,096.47
- Leave of absence requests for 2021-22 school year. Claire Goodman (second year), Sarah Aalderink, Lisa Abramowski, Emily Napieralski
- Certified staff resignation. Allan Halla II (effective May 5, 2021)

Reports

Student Representative

Student representative Guin Waite reported to the Board of Education on various spirit activities and end-of-year plans for seniors, including a May 8 evening event in lieu of prom.

Old Business

Fall Policy Updates (Second Reading)

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford presented the following fall policy updates to the Board of Education, which were previously accepted as a first reading:

po4362.01	Threatening behavior toward staff members	Revised
po5610	Emergency Removal, suspensions and expulsion of students	Revised
po5611	Due process rights	Revised
po7440	Facility security	Revised
po8450.01	Protective facial coverings during pandemic/epidemic events	New
ag7420F	Hand washing protocol	New
ag226	Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities	New
ag5517.02	Sexual violence	Rescinded

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shabler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Kelley Freridge, to adopt the policies as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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 Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Geoff Downs, approving the April 2021 Reconfirmation Plan. Trustee Freridge urged the community to take precautions outside of the school environment to allow for in-person learning to continue. President Postema also urged parents to keep children home from school when they are ill. Motion carried unanimously.

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

New Business

Public Hearing (First of Two) – Sex Education Materials Update

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm co-chairs a staff/community committee responsible for evaluating and updating instructional materials for the district's sex education program. Mr. Ramm reviewed proposed resource updates in detail with the Board of Education in an April 12 study session.

Because RPS chooses to include sex education as part of the mandatory HIV/AIDS curriculum, the district is required to hold two public hearings prior to formal Board approval. Mr. Ramm provided an overview of the materials updates. President Postema noted that no members of the public registered to address the Board of Education regarding the sex education materials update.

No action is needed at this time, however, following a second public hearing on May 10, Dr. Shibler will recommend the Board of Education approve the updates as presented.

Bid Recommendation – COVID Screening, Volunteer & Visitor Management System

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented to the Board of Education bids for a COVID screening, volunteer & visitor management system. The Board of Education reviewed the bid summary in an earlier study session. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Jake Himmelspach, to award the bid to Raptor Technologies in the amount of \$40,240 as presented, to be paid through ESSER II federal funding. Motion carried unanimously.

RHS Principal Retirement

Following 33 years as an educator in Michigan and 21 years as an educational leader for RPS, RHS Principal Dan Zang has submitted his intent to retire. Mr. Zang served as RHS Assistant Principal and RFC Principal prior to his appointment as RHS Principal.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Geoff Downs, to accept, with regret, Mr. Zang's retirement effective August 1, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at May 10, 2021 meeting