



Date | time Monday – May 10, 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 Himmelspace, Timothy J. Lewis, Miles J. Postema, Nick Reichenbach.

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), Stephen Provost (Zoom manager).

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 Nick Reichenbach, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition

Student Representative Gift Presentation

Board President Miles Postema postponed the gift presentation to student representative Guin Waite to take place under Reports.

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present

The following members of the public addressed the Board of Education in opposition to the district's COVID mitigation strategies:

Stephanie Buikema (9085 10 Mile Road, Rockford), Renee Russo (8100 Herrington Avenue, Belmont), Kristy Stites (6492 Gran Via Drive, Rockford), Brenda Wodarski (7383 Decosta Drive, Rockford), Rebecca TenBrink (8790 Flat Creek Drive, Rockford), Mary Fountain (440 Summit Avenue, Rockford), Chris Curtis (did not provide address), Tony Brownell (6057 Maksimowski, Belmont), Kyle Warmington (6406 Cannon Farms Drive, Rockford), Alice Wilson (did not provide address), Lauren Taylor (did not provide address), Nikki Moore (645 Orchard Court, Rockford), Mary Swaving (did not provide address), Debra Miller (8452 Wolven Avenue, Rockford).

Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach reviewed correspondence received from Marlene Clark, Ross and Jami Dondit, the family of Ryan Whitmore, and Rick Laven.

Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of April 26, 2021 study session and Regular Meeting #18
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$4,213,913.50
- Certified staff resignation. Whitney Thering (effective May 4, 2021) and Marissa Wilkinson (effective end of 2020-21 school year).
- Rescission of Policy #8450.01 (Protective facial coverings during pandemic/epidemic events). To clarify the Board of Education's intent following action taken at Regular Meetings #17 and 18.
- Kent ISD 2021-22 Proposed Budget. Resolution for KISD operational budgets in compliance with Section 624 of the Revised School Code.

Student Representative

Following comments by Superintendent Shabler, Board President Postema, and Trustee Freridge, President Postema presented a gift of appreciation to student representative Guin Waite for her service to the Board of Education. Guin reported to the Board of Education that the powder puff game was canceled due to lack of participation. Guin also reported on several upcoming activities to honor graduating seniors. Guin reported that 11th grader Bella MacKenzie will be the next student representative.

Summer Learning Opportunities

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm, Executive Director of Community Services Lisa Jacobs, and Director of Literacy Sharon Wells reported to the Board of Education on academic and enrichment opportunities being made available to students this summer.

The core subjects of reading and math will be the focus for elementary and middle school students, including 47 book clubs, 29 math tutoring groups, and several reading, math, and science based exploration camps. High school students will have credit recovery opportunities in math, English, social studies and science as well as open enrollment in several elective courses. To date, over 1,700 students have enrolled in programs.

Sharon Wells updated the Board of Education on the Rockford Reading Bus which will also be used to promote literacy. The bus will make 16 stops per week for eight weeks throughout the district and is made possible through support from a \$25,000 Founders Grant from the Rockford Education Foundation.

Kent ISD Biennial School Board Election

Board Secretary/KISD Liaison Nick Reichenbach presented to the Board of Education for their information, a resolution for the upcoming Kent ISD School Board Election. Under Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code, the resolution must be presented at not less than one public meeting after the 4:00 p.m. May 10 filing deadline and before the Board adopts the resolution on or before May 31.

The resolution will 1) designate a board member and an alternate board member to vote on behalf of the district, and 2) identify the candidates the voting designee is directed to vote for. The resolution will be presented to the Board of Education for adoption at their May 24, 2021 regular meeting, at which time Trustee Reichenbach will recommend Matt Rettig for the six-year term and former RPS Board Trustee Laura Featherston for the partial term. Mr. Reichenbach will provide a recommendation on the voting delegate and alternate for May 24 Board action as well.

Old Business

Public Hearing (Second 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 facilitated the first of the two hearings at the April 26 Board of Education regular meeting and again provided a brief overview of the materials updates, clarifying that the request is to update materials only, not the curriculum.

Following Mr. Ramm's presentation, President Postema noted that no members of the public registered to address the Board of Education regarding the sex education materials update.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Geoff Downs, approving the updates to the district's sex education materials as presented. On behalf of the Board of Education, President Postema thanked the committee for their work. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

2021 Rockford High School, River Valley Academy, and Adult Education Graduates

Rockford High School. On behalf of RHS Principal Dan Zang, Associate Principal Eric Cavalli presented to the Board of Education the Rockford High School Class of 2021. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Timothy Lewis, approving the 2021 RHS Graduates as presented. Plans for a May 25 graduation event are being finalized. Motion carried unanimously.

River Valley Academy. RVA Principal Lisa Jacobs presented to the Board of Education the River Valley Academy Class of 2021. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Geoff Downs, supported by Nick Reichenbach, approving the 2021 RVA Graduates as presented. Graduation is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 20 at Rams Stadium. Motion carried unanimously.

Rockford Adult Education. RAE Principal Lisa Jacobs presented to the Board of Education the Rockford Adult Education Class of 2021. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Kelley Freridge, approving the 2021 RAE Graduates as presented. Graduation is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12 at Rams Stadium. Motion carried unanimously.

RHS Principal Recommendation

The Board of Education recently accepted, with regret, RHS Principal Dan Zang's retirement. Dr. Shibler reported to the Board of Education that he would be recommending current RFC Principal Tom Hosford, a highly-qualified internal candidate who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, as the next RHS Principal. Because of Mr. Hosford's qualifications, Dr. Shibler opted to not post the position.

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Timothy Lewis, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, to appoint Tom Hosford as the RHS Principal effective July 1, 2021 as presented. President Postema echoed Dr. Shibler's comments regarding Mr. Hosford's qualifications for the position. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hosford thanked the Board of Education and Dr. Shibler for the opportunity and thanked his family for their ongoing support.

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford reported to the Board of Education that the RFC Principal position will be posted both internally and externally.

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at May 24, 2021 meeting