



Date | time Monday – May 24, 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, 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, Sharon Wells, Guin Waite and Bella MacKenzie (student representatives) 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 Kelley Freridge, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Recognition of Visitors and Hearing of People Present

The following members of the public addressed the Board of Education:

Eli Jachim (5833 Nine Mile Road), Kelly Theaker (RPS District Head Nurse), Stephanie Buikema (did not provide address), Brenda Wodarski (did not provide address), Sarah Hunt (did not provide address), Laura Kapuscinski (did not provide address), Emily Ziemba (Madrone Drive), Tammy Gombar (did not provide address), Katy Klein (Flat Creek Drive), Chris Curtis (did not provide address), Robert "RJ" Regan via Zoom (1160 East Pond Drive, Grand Rapids), Nikki Moore (did not provide address), Renee Russo (Herrington Avenue, Belmont), Linda Rothenthaler (RPS District Nurse), William Miller (Wolven Street), Diane Patterson (did not provide address), Craig Ladyman (9069 Wolven Ridge Court), Andrew Denhof (Crystal Drive), Duane Gritter (Kent County), Kyle Warmington (did not provide address).

Correspondence

Secretary Reichenbach read correspondence received from the REA and RESPA leadership teams.

Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of May 10, 2021 study and closed sessions and Regular Meeting #19
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$3,153,271.07
- 2021-22 PASE Appointment. Jennifer Gard.
- Certified staff resignation. Kristin Hanzek (effective end of 2020-21 school year).

Student Representative

Bella MacKenzie, 2021-22 student representative, reported to the Board of Education on tomorrow's graduation ceremony and plans for next school year. 2020-21 student representative Guin Waite had planned to introduce Bella but had to leave for another commitment.

Collaborative Team Reports

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

Elementary: Lakes Elementary Principal Mindy McGinn reported on year-end activities including picnics and various student activities.

Secondary: Rockford Freshman Center Principal Tom Hosford reported on finishing the school year strong and how students are being honored as the school year wraps up.

Rockford Virtual: Principal Dr. Kelley Amshey summarized year-end activities for and recognition of Rockford Virtual students.

Enhanced Enrollment Procedures

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm and Executive Director of Community Services Lisa Jacobs reported to the Board of Education on steps the district is taking to encourage enrollment following a state-wide decline in public school enrollment and how the district has streamlined the enrollment process.

Old Business

Kent ISD Biennial School Board Election

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

Upon recommendation of Trustee Reichenbach, motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Jake Himmelspach, designating Nick Reichenbach as the voting designee to vote on behalf of the district and Bobbi Jo Blanton to act as the alternate board member in the event of Mr. Reichenbach's absence and directing the voting designee to cast votes for Matthew Rettig for the six-year term and Laura Featherston for the partial term. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. 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 Geoff Downs, supported by Nick Reichenbach, approving the May 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.

New Business

KIASB Board Election

Upon recommendation of Board Trustee/KIASB Liaison Kelley Freridge, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Timothy Lewis, to cast a ballot for Ken Hornecker (Region 3) and Eric-John Szczepaniak (Region 1) for the KIASB Board election. Motion carried unanimously. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Marlene Clark will cast the ballot on behalf of the Board of Education by the 5 p.m. deadline on May 28.

Certified Staff Recommendation

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Timothy Lewis, supported by Geoff Downs, to employ the following certified staff for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Several of the new teachers thanked the Board of Education and District for the opportunity.

Elizabeth Andrus	Art	Meadow Ridge
AnnMarie Aulbach	3 rd Grade	Crestwood
Rachel Cohen	3 rd Grade	Lakes
Kristen Coopriider	1 st Grade	Crestwood
Nicole Denny	3 rd Grade	Parkside
MacKenzie Hauke	Music	Cannonsburg
Kaitlin Hodgman	Social Worker	Meadow Ridge
Austin Leader	Theater	Rockford High School
Madison McCall	Kindergarten	Belmont
Rachel McKenna	3 rd Grade	Roguewood
Michelle Murdock	1 st Grade	Belmont
Thomas Murdock	3 rd Grade	Roguewood
Erin Narducci	Developmental Kindergarten	Meadow Ridge
Stephanie Rann	Psychologist	Valley View/East Rockford Middle
Erika Rito	Music	Roguewood
Dustin Rocho	Physical Education	Parkside
Hannah Schnaar	2 nd Grade	Belmont
Chelsea Turner	Art	Roguewood

Adjournment

President Postema adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Reichenbach

Rockford Public Schools Board of Education

Minutes approved at June 14, 2021 meeting