



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

September 16, 2022

Happy September!

The school year is four weeks old. We have settled into patterns and routines. I have been in every building and visited many of them to see our students and staff. Every month I will visit every building so that I can see the good things that go on every day. I am seeing wonderful things go on in our schools.

I wanted to update you on district happenings.

Tonight's (Friday, September 16th) football game against Grand Haven has been cancelled. Grand Haven called on Wednesday to cancel the game. They had a small team and had several injuries. As a result they felt they did not have enough students left to play the game. We looked for another opponent but could not find one on such short notice. I called their Superintendent to make the case that we could manage the game. But it was all to no avail.

The next scheduled game is next Friday, September 23, at East Kentwood.

Our newest counseling dog officially began today at Belmont. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Rockford Education Foundation for supporting this effort. Jovie is our fourth counseling dog.

On November 8, 2022, in addition to the Board of Education election, the district has a non-homestead renewal millage on the ballot. The state requires communities to vote regularly to renew this millage. This millage generates over \$7 million dollars for the district. It is about 6.5% of our general fund dollars. More information is available on our district website.

The non-homestead millage is a millage on commercial and business property or second homes. It is not a millage on your personal residence. It was last renewed in 2018.

The non-homestead renewal asks two questions. First, we are asking that the community renew the current millage at 16.5992 mills. The second question asks for the authority to levy the state approved 18 mills. When the non-homestead millage was originally passed it was at 18 mills. Over time because of the Headlee amendment that millage has been reduced to 16.5992. Our second question asks the community to approve levying the full state-approved 18 mills.

More information is on our district website.

I also wanted our community to know that one of our bus drivers passed away unexpectedly on Monday. Jeff Brower worked for our district since 2005. We extend our sympathies to his family and friends for this loss. Anytime we lose someone that we love and care about it is difficult. We provided a crisis response team to help both our transportation staff and the students who had Mr. Brower as a driver.

Finally, if you want to have a great time Saturday, I would encourage you to come to the marching band festival that is taking place at Rockford High School. There will be over 15 high school marching bands participating. There are two competitions. The scholastic competition begins at 1:45 PM. The MCBA begins at 6:30 PM. Our Rockford High School band will perform their program at about 8:30 PM Saturday at the stadium. There is a charge to see the bands: adults - \$8, K-12 students - \$6, and children 4 and under - free. It will be a great show!

As a reminder if you want to see some of the things I see when I visit our schools you can find me on Twitter and Instagram: @docsmatthews.

Have a great weekend!

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews
Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools