



# SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

October 14, 2022

On November 8, 2022, there are two important election items on the ballot that impact the Rockford Public Schools.

First, there is a board of education election. There are three 4-year terms and one 2-year partial term on the ballot. We have seven candidates running for the 4-year terms and two candidates running for the 2-year term.

Rockford Forward hosted a candidate forum on October 5. All candidates were invited to participate. Seven of the nine candidates came to the forum. Beyond the Rock taped the event. Here is a link to view that forum:

Rockford Forward Event  
School Board  
<https://youtu.be/K0h43YQTU-s>

The second important ballot question is a RENEWAL of the non-homestead millage. This millage has been renewed several times since 1994 when it was created as a piece of the school funding puzzle in Michigan. All districts are required to pass a non-homestead millage as part of the state's per pupil funding allocation. The millage impacts commercial and business property and second homes. It is NOT a millage on your primary residence. Failing to pass this renewal would mean a decrease of over \$900 per student in our district.

The ballot has two questions. One is to renew at the current rate which, because of the Headlee amendment, is 16.5992 mills. The second question asks voters to allow the district to collect at the state allowed rate which is 18 mills.

Again, this is a RENEWAL of the millage that has been in place since 1994. Additional information is on our district website. There is a non-homestead millage renewal link on the front page of the website.

The next Cookies with the Superintendent will be October 24 at 6:30 PM in the Board room at the administration offices at 350 N. Main in Rockford. Some of our counselors will join me as we discuss how parents can help students be successful. I'll bring the cookies!

Our girls' golf team competes October 14 and 15 in the state finals. Our boys' soccer team starts the state tournament with the district round on Tuesday, October 18, at 5:00 PM at the high school. Our football team celebrates homecoming with a game tonight, October 14, at 7:00 PM.

At the Board meeting on October 10, we discussed with the Board the addition of two new School Resource Officers to the district. One will be a city of Rockford public safety officer who will also have DARE functions. The second will be a Kent County Sheriff officer. The city of Rockford Officer will start as soon as possible but no later than October 31. The Kent County Sheriff officer we hope to have in place by January 1.

Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, reviewed M-STEP, NWEA, PSAT, and SAT data with the board. Our results are strong and trending, for the most part, in the right direction. Test scores are the result of strong classrooms environments that focus on high quality teaching and learning with robust educational resources. Our focus is not on the test score but on creating those engaging classrooms where students will be challenged and supported in their learning. If we teach well and if we focus on ensuring that students learn, test scores will take care of themselves.

I visit schools and events throughout the district. I post pictures of the good things that are happening in the district on Twitter and Instagram @docsmatthews. Join me in celebrating all the good things that are happening in our schools.

Thank you for your support of the Rockford Public Schools. Working together we are continuing to build a great place for kids to learn and grow. Our staff is working hard to create engaging classrooms and schools where every student feels like they belong. Our families are working hard to support our students and our schools. It is deeply appreciated.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews  
Superintendent  
Rockford Public Schools