



# SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

February 3, 2023

Good afternoon,

Today's weather certainly woke me up when I left the house this morning. On days like this it is not uncommon to wonder if we would ever close school for cold or dangerous wind chill. Student and staff safety are always a priority. As I review the circumstances for closing, we look at the window when people will be traveling. If a student walks to school what is the level of danger? What are the roads like? How quickly would the cold present a danger?

Today, there was no snow to slow down traffic, the roads were clear, we did not anticipate any bus delays, and the window for dangerous conditions was not a concern.

At times there might be a need to close for cold or wind chill. Today was not that day. I know I disappointed several students.

But, truth be told, it was cold.

On Monday, February 6, at 6:30 PM, author Devorah Heitner will be in the Rockford High School auditorium to discuss how to help kids thrive and survive in their digital world. She has written a book called *Screenwise*, which provides great insight into helping our students. Ms. Heitner helps parents understand the digital age and offers advice on helping kids navigate friendship and identity issues that are common among new texters, gamers, and social media users. Please plan to attend!

The Rockford Board of Education agendas and board packets are available on our district website. On the district website click on the Our District link and the Board of Education link. There you will find a link to Board Meetings. On that page you can find links to the agendas and to the board packets.

At this time of the year middle and high school students start thinking about their schedules for next year. If you are a parent of a student in 5th – 11th grade make sure that you pay attention to information that will come to you from our middle schools and high schools about course selection for next year. Talking with your child about course selection is a good way to support them in middle and high school and to ensure that they are preparing for their future.

The Rockford Education Foundation will host "The Taste" on Thursday, March 2, from 6:00 -10:00 PM at The Gilmore Event Venue - 5179 West River Drive. Go to the REF website to support this worthy goal and make plans to attend. Home: Rockford Education Foundation ([rockfordedfoundation.org](http://rockfordedfoundation.org))

Our winter sports teams are in full swing. Hockey, wrestling, competitive cheer were in action Friday. Tonight – Friday, February 3 – our girls and boys basketball teams plan Grand Haven at home. Girls start at 6:00 and boys at 7:30.

Stay warm this weekend.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews  
Superintendent  
Rockford Public Schools