



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

October 10, 2023

To Rockford families and staff:

At the Board of Education meeting on October 9, the Board of Education, in addition to routine business, received four reports:

Student Achievement

– Mike Ramm, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, gave an overview of our student achievement data.

- We report to the Board of Education scores in the aggregate - or for the whole district by grade level.
- As parents, it is important to track your own child's achievement. Look at grades and test scores, remembering that students are more than just a test score.
- Our schools each use this data in Collaborative Action Teams (CAT) to ensure that each student receives the instruction and support that they need.

Spanish Immersion

– Amie Santillan, Dean of Spanish Immersion, provided an overview of our K-12 program and how the program continues to grow.

Edgerton Trails Elementary

– Our newest elementary school is on track to open for the 2024-2025 school year, and we provided the Board with an update of our planning.

- Building and site, including attendance areas
 - Attendance areas changes will be brought to the Board in December for discussion.
- Human Resources
 - Staffing the new building
- Instruction
 - Ongoing discussion of how we provide elementary instruction.
- Communication
 - Discussion of our communication plan

RAMS XII

– Overview of the strategic planning update that will occur during the 2023-2024 school year.

If you want to review agendas and board packets for the Board of Education meetings, please go to our district website. Under the “Our District” tab there is a link to board and to the Board Meetings.

Our RAMS XII strategic planning process is taking place beginning this fall. The RAMS XI blueprint for continuous improvement was approved by the Board of Education in December 2021. For the past 30 years the strategic plan has been updated every 3 years. Instead of waiting until December 2024 to update the plan, the administration recommended to the Board that we move forward with updating it in time for the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year. Over the next two months a survey will be sent to students, parents, community members, and staff to identify key ideas that need to be incorporated into our strategic planning process. We look forward to building our next strategic plan with our students, parents, community, and staff over the next several months.

Finally, our Parks and Recreation millage renewal is on the November 7th ballot. Information on the renewal is on our district website. We are asking that this millage be renewed at its current rate of .9125 mills. This is a RENEWAL. This millage provides needed funding for our gyms, fields, and playgrounds. As you know, our Community Services Department provides a variety of opportunities for youth, adults, and senior citizens using our facilities, gyms, fields, and playgrounds. This millage supports the people and the facilities for those activities. Please vote on this important issue on the November 7th ballot. And, if you have questions, reach out to either me or Mike Cuneo, Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance. I tried to resist turning on the heat this weekend but was overruled at home. It seems that fall has finally arrived.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews
Superintendent
Rockford Public Schools