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*Date | time* Monday – July 12, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.

*Location* Boardroom

*Meeting called to order with a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance by* Vice President Downs

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### In Attendance

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Board of Education: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoffrey L. Downs, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspach, Nick Reichenbach.

Regrets: Timothy J. Lewis.

Administration: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba, Bob Stull, Marlene Clark.

Vice President Downs acknowledged former Trustee Postema for his 17 years of exemplary service as trustee and noted the Board will regretfully accept his resignation at this evening's meeting.

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### Adoption of Agenda

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Motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Nick Reichenbach, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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### Annual Organization of the Board of Education

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#### Election of Officers

2020-21 Board Secretary Reichenbach called for nominations for the office of President. Motion was made by Kelley Freridge supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, nominating Geoff Downs as the 2021-22 President. There being no further nominations, Secretary Reichenbach declared nominations closed. Motion carried unanimously. Geoff Downs was declared President for 2021-22 and took the chair.

President Downs called for nominations for the office of Vice President. Motion was made by Jake Himmelspach, supported by Kelley Freridge, nominating Nick Reichenbach as the 2021-22 Vice President. There being no further nominations, President Downs declared nominations closed. Motion carried unanimously. Nick Reichenbach was declared 2021-22 Vice President.

President Downs called for nominations for the office of Secretary. Motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Jake Himmelspach, nominating Timothy Lewis as the 2021-22 Secretary. There being no further nominations, President Downs declared nominations closed. Motion carried unanimously. Timothy Lewis was declared 2021-22 Secretary.

President Downs called for nominations for the office of Treasurer. Motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Kelley Freridge, nominating Jake Himmelspach as the 2021-22 Treasurer. There being no further nominations, President Downs declared nominations closed. Motion carried unanimously. Jake Himmelspach was declared 2021-22 Treasurer.

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## Board of Education Members' Compensation

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Per the Michigan School Code and Rockford Board Policy 0144.1, board trustees may be compensated up to \$30 per meeting up to a total of not more than 52 meetings (including committee meetings) as compensation for their services.

While it has always been the position of the Rockford Board of Education to not accept compensation for meeting attendance, Superintendent Shibler believes the Board should be compensated for their many hours of service for the benefit of the students of Rockford Public Schools. It is Superintendent Shibler's recommendation that the Board of Education accept compensation in the amount of \$30 per meeting up to a total of not more than 52 meetings. There was no support for Dr. Shibler's recommendation.

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## Consent Grouping – Annual Organization

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Dr. Shibler summarized the following items and recommended the Board of Education approve the consent grouping for the 2021-22 school year as presented. Motion was made by Jake Himmelspach, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, approving the consent grouping of routine organizational matters as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Board of Education meeting schedule for 2021-22, with meetings to be held at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays monthly, except as indicated;
2. Designation of Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, or any other employee(s) at the discretion of the Superintendent, to post public meeting notices;
3. Designation of the Assistant Superintendent of Finance to serve as Interim Superintendent;
4. Banking Resolutions—Depository for School Funds/Savings and Checking Accounts and Signatures Fund/Savings
5. Fidelity Bonds in the amount of \$10,000 for Board Treasurer and \$20,000 for the Assistant Superintendent of Finance (all other employees are covered by the District's blanket insurance policy);
6. Board Secretary delegating election duties to the Assistant Superintendent of Finance or designee and to any other employee(s) at the discretion of the Superintendent;
7. Approval of professional memberships with the Michigan Association of School Boards and the Kent Intermediate Association of School Boards;
8. Approval of Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) membership;
9. Appointment of Mike Ramm and Stephanie Linsley as co-chairs of the district's Sex Education Advisory Board in compliance with §380.1507;
10. Thrun Law Firm, PC, to serve as the District's legal counsel for the 2021-22 school year and, when matters may occasionally dictate, authorizing the Administration to use an alternate appropriate law firm for the 2021-22 school year;
11. Appointment of the firm Hungerford Nichols as School Auditors for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Audit. This completes the current three-year contract and bids will be solicited for future years.

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## Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of June 28, 2021 study session and Regular Meeting #22
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$6,288,633.94
- **Certified Staff Resignation.** Accept resignations of Renee Crittenden and Hannah Sedlock (both effective end of 2020-21 school year).
- **Board Trustee Resignation.** Accept Miles Postema's resignation effective July 5, 2021.

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## Reports

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None.

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## Old Business

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None.

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## New Business

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### District Phone System Upgrades Bid Recommendation (2019 Bond Issue)

On behalf of Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo, Carl VanderZee (Communications by Design) and Director of Technology Bob Stull presented bids received for phone system upgrades. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Bobbi Jo Blanton, supported by Nick Reichenbach, accepting the bid from Moss in the total amount of \$485,101.89, as presented, to be paid through the 2019 bond issue. Motion carried unanimously.

### Security Contract Services Bid Recommendation (2019 Bond Issue)

On behalf of Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo, Carl VanderZee (Communications by Design) and Director of Technology Bob Stull presented bids received for security contract services. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Jake Himmelspace, accepting the bid from Parkway Electric in the total amount of \$315,643, as presented, to be paid through the 2019 bond issue. Motion carried unanimously.

### Rockford Freshman Center Assistant Principal Recommendation

As a result of interim RFC Assistant Principal Staci Szuch's retirement, it was necessary to seek candidates for the next RFC Assistant Principal. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford summarized for the Board of Education the interview process. Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Nick Reichenbach, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, to appoint Derek Dillon as the RFC Assistant Principal for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Following approval, Mr. Dillon thanked the Administration and Board of Education for the opportunity.

### Certified Staff Recommendations

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shabler, motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Jake Himmelsbach, to employ the following certified staff for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried unanimously. Following approval, the new employees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to join the Rockford Public Schools team.

Tessa Bibler  
Murphy Hodder  
Grace Hogan

K-2 CI Classroom  
Social Studies  
Speech & Language Pathologist

Lakes Elementary  
East Rockford Middle  
Belmont/Meadow Ridge Elementaries

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### Call of the Audience

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

Carol (Comstock Park), Carol (grandmother of four children)

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### Adjournment

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President Downs adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Timothy J. Lewis  
Rockford Public Schools Board of Education*

**Minutes approved at August 9, 2021 meeting**