



*Date | time* Monday – October 11, 2021 | 5:30 p.m.

*Location* Administration Boardroom

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

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### In Attendance

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Board of Education: Bobbi Jo Blanton, Geoff Downs, Kelley Freridge, Jake Himmelspach, Andrea Jacobson, Timothy Lewis, Nick Reichenbach

Student representative: Isabella MacKenzie

Administration: Dr. Michael Shibler, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba, Lisa Jacobs, Marlene Clark

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### Adoption of Agenda

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Motion was made by Timothy Lewis, supported by Jake Himmelspach, approving the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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### Recognition

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Middle School Outstanding Students- October 2021

The Board of Education viewed a [video](#) produced by Beyond the Rock in recognition of middle school outstanding students of the month.

East RMS

Ava Wekenman & Quentin Lafferty (6<sup>th</sup>), Allie Mathews & Braeden Kies (7<sup>th</sup>), Kate Vandenberg & Payton Hanselman (8<sup>th</sup>)

North RMS

Emma Buckley & Vincent Medendorp (6<sup>th</sup>), Gabriella Terkeurst & Stephen Chien (7<sup>th</sup>), Ella Perry & Bennett Roller (8<sup>th</sup>)

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### Consent Agenda

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Motion was made by Kelley Freridge, supported by Bobbi Jo Blanton, approving the following consent agenda items. Motion carried unanimously.

- Minutes of September 13, 2021 closed session, September 16, 2021 special and closed sessions; and Regular Meeting #4
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$7,038,283.32
- **Administrative Contract Renewals.** Central Office Assistant Superintendents (four-year rolling contracts); Executive Directors, Building Principals, Building Assistant Principals, Directors, District Athletic Director, Assistant District Athletic Director, Dean of Spanish Immersion Instruction, North/East Middle Schools Activities Coordinator (two-year rolling contracts).
- **2021-22 Rockford Virtual Curriculum Recommendation.** Approval of Rockford Virtual K-12 curriculum through Pearson-Connexus for elementary students and APEX for secondary students.

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### Reports

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Student Representative

RHS student representative Bella MacKenzie reported to the Board of Education on last week's homecoming activities, athletics and fine arts, the addition of Gunner the therapy dog to the school,

mental health awareness and student council activities, and support provided from Beyond the Rock through event livestreams.

#### Rockford Education Foundation

On behalf of the Rockford Education Foundation Board of Directors and administration, REF Chair Amy Vancil announced to the Board of Education the establishment of the Dr. Michael Shibley Scholarship in honor of Dr. Shibley’s 32+ years as Superintendent of the Rockford Public Schools. The scholarship has been established to honor Dr. Shibley’s impact on the district and community and will be awarded to an outstanding student who has shown fortitude and dedication.

#### Therapy Dog Program

Executive Director of Special Services Mindy Duba reported to the Board of Education on the district’s therapy dog program and introduced Gunner, RHS’s newest certified therapy dog and his handler RHS counselor Rachel Kreuze. Gunner is the district’s second therapy dog, joining Chillie, who has been at North Rockford Middle School since 2019. The district’s therapy dogs are trained through the Interquest CARES (Comfort, Assist, Reassure, Encourage, Support) Program. Data supports not only the emotional benefits for students and adults but also increased attendance and performance. The district’s therapy dog program is possible through support from the Rockford Education Foundation and Rogue Valley Veterinary Hospital, and the district hopes to expand the program to other schools.

#### Collaborative Team Reports

The Board of Education received information about events occurring in our schools in the form of monthly collaborative team reports.

Elementary: Valley View Elementary Principal Jeremy Karel reported on completion of CAT meetings to identify and establish needed literacy interventions, literacy training, Professional Learning Committees work, resumption of PTO-sponsored activities, and a new tool for parents to sign-up for and participate in online parent-teacher conferences.

Secondary: East Rockford Middle School Principal Adam Burkholder reported on CAT meetings for 6<sup>th</sup> grade literacy and interventions, upcoming middle school choir concerts, and online parent-teacher conferences, as well as marching band activities, a high school club fair, last week’s homecoming activities, and the upcoming E-Sports tournament.

#### RAMS X Progress Reports

The Board of Education received the following final progress reports for RAMS X:

Building and Site.....	Mike Cuneo
Co-Curricular .....	Tom Hosford
Community Services.....	Lisa Jacobs
Curriculum .....	Mike Ramm
Finance.....	Mike Cuneo
Human Resources .....	Korie Wilson-Crawford
Public Relations .....	Lisa Jacobs
Special Services .....	Mindy Duba

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#### Old Business

None.

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## New Business

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### Certified Staff Recommendation

Upon recommendation of Dr. Shibler, motion was made by Jake Himmelspach, supported by Kelley Freridge, to employ the following certified staff for the 2021-22 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Allison Dykstra	Teacher Consultant	Cannonsburg/Crestwood Elementaries
Nancy Henderson	Business	Rockford High School
Caitlin Oliver	Social Worker	Crestwood Elementary

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## Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present

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The following individuals addressed the Board of Education. "XX" represents individuals who either did not provide their name or their pronouncement was unintelligible. President Downs emphasized the importance of receiving public feedback and reminded the audience to remain respectful in sharing their comments.

Sarah O'Neill, Kahlan Dukes, Jason XXX, Sue Hands, XXX, Tammy Gombar

Due to lack of decorum, President Downs recessed the meeting. Trustees Downs, Freridge, Himmelspach, and Jacobson left the Boardroom.

President Downs reconvened the meeting at 7:14 p.m., and the Board of Education continued to receive public comment.

Brenda, XXX, Duane Gritter, XXX, Amanda, XXX.

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## Adjournment

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President Downs adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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

**Minutes approved at November 8, 2021 meeting**