



Date | time Monday – June 12, 2023 | 5:30 p.m.

Location Administration Boardroom

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

In Attendance

Board of Education: Tricia Anderson, Kelley Freridge, Barbara Helms, Jarrod Folsom, Christie Ramsey, Nick Reichenbach

Regrets: Jake Himmelspach

Administration: Dr. Steve Matthews, Mike Ramm, Mike Cuneo, Korie Wilson-Crawford, Mindy Duba, Lisa Jacobs, Jodi Nester.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to amend the agenda by Kelly Freridge moving #6 from Recognition to Consent and Remove New Business #17. Move the recognition section in front of the budget hearing. Support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognition

A video was played, and certificates were handed out to all of the Examples in Excellence recipients.

The Administrators choice art award and artwork was presented to the board of education. This framed art piece will hang in the Administration building for one year.

A certificate was presented to the congressional art award winner. Her piece was purchased by and will hang at the Kent ISD offices.

A certificate of congratulations was presented to a North Rockford Middle School student who participated in the National Spelling Bee contest.

There were several athletic recognitions. The Men's 4 X 100 Meter Relay Team for their state championship title. The Women's Long Jump individual state champion winner and the Boy's Rugby state championship team.

Budget Hearing

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented budget information and asked for comments from the community. There were no comments.

Consent Agenda

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion carried unanimously.

- Approval of the minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting.
- Approval of the minutes from the May 18, 2023 meeting.
- Presentation of bills in the amount of \$10,424,665.28
- MHSAA Resolution
- Certified Staff Resignations
- Nomination of Nick Reichenbach for MASB Board Officer

Reports

Grown Your Own Educator Grant

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford and Executive Director of Community Services Lisa Jacobs submitted a grant application to the MDE. Rockford Public Schools was granted 3.8 million dollars to fund the program. We will work with three university partners and three areas. We have partnerships with Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, and Ferris State University. GVSU will be for students to obtain credit and awareness. MSU will be for current certified staff to obtain a Master's degree among other certifications. The FSU partnership will help support staff to obtain a teaching degree and a Bachelor's degree. Ms. Wilson-Crawford explained how this program will have wrap-around support for our staff to help them be successful.

Committee Reports

Policy Committee – Christie Ramsey gave a report on the policy committee meeting and discussed the items that were covered. The Board Norms document is something they have been working on together. The Board will have a meeting with the MASB this summer which will help with some of the questions raised at the policy meeting.

Human Resources – Kelley Freridge talked about the Human Resources meeting and commended the Human Resources department on the hiring they have done so far. Ms. Wilson-Crawford shared that two tentative agreements were reached through collaborative processes.

Finance – Board President Folsom shared that there are a lot of finance items on the agenda and everything covered in the meeting would be covered in New Business.

FOIA Appeal Notice

Dr. Steve Matthews informed the Board of Education that we have received a FOIA appeal. The District FOIA Coordinator processed the FOIA. Some of the requested information was available and some was not. There was also some information not provided based on FERPA laws. A written appeal was submitted to the Board of Education through the FOIA Coordinator. The appeal isn't formally accepted until the next open session of the Board of Education; therefore, the appeal was received on June 12, 2023. The Board should set a special meeting to review the appeal. The Board will work with a Rockford Public Schools attorney to determine what action if any should be taken regarding the appeal.

New Business

Certified Staff

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford shared an update on sixteen new Certified Staff Hires. Motion to approve by Nick Reichenbach with support by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Recommendation

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented a recommendation for Jesus Santillan to be hired as an Assistant Principal at East Rockford Middle School. We are very excited to have him join the team. Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Kelley Freridge. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Santillan addressed the Board of Education and thanked them for the opportunity to join the Rockford Public Schools team.

Administrator Contract Renewal

Assistant Superintendent Korie Wilson-Crawford explained that the Administrator contracts are approved yearly for two additional years. Dr. Matthews would have the ability to give incremental salary adjustments that are in line with REA and RESPA. Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Tricia Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

Wage Agreements

Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Korie Wilson-Crawford discussed the wage agreements reached by the REA and RESPA.

REA – The contract contained 30 steps. It will be consolidated into 20 steps. It is a retention strategy that also puts us in line with other districts. The increase for the salary grid is by 3.5 percent plus steps.

RESPA – The support staff union was also consolidated to 15 steps rather than 30. There are some classification adjustments based on comp district numbers. The paraprofessional class I step I is being increased to \$15.00 per hour. The RESPA increase is 2.1 percent.

Board Trustee raised a concern about the starting salary of the paraprofessionals. This is an ongoing process as we continue to change to be competitive.

Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the New Elementary Building

A survey was sent out and suggestions were collected from 3rd-grade students and the community. All suggested names were reviewed by the committee. Over 250 suggested names were collected. The name presented to the board for approval was Edgerton Trails. Motion by Tricia Anderson with support by Nick Reichenbach. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Matthews shared that current Belmont Elementary Principal Shannon Ouellette will be the Principal of Edgerton Trails beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and will remain in role of Principal of Belmont Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year.

2022-2023 Budget Amendments

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented budget amendments for the 2022-2023 year.

General Fund (including athletics) – motion to approve by Nick Reichenbach with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Food Service – Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Barb Helms. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Activity Fund – Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Public Purpose Trust Fund – Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2023-2024 Budget Proposals

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented budgets for the 2023-2024 school year.

General Fund – Motion to approve by Kristie Ramsey with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Food Service – Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Nick Reichenbach. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Debt Retirement – Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Barb Helms. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Activity Fund – Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Tricia Anderson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Public Trust Fund – Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Nick Reichenbach. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

2023 Tax Levy Certification

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented the tax levy information. Motion to approve document by Nick Reichenbach with support by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Parks and Rec Millage Renewal Resolution

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo discussed the renewal of the Parks and Rec Millage Renewal Resolution. If approved, this will be on the November ballot. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Barb Helms. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Potential Land Purchase Resolution

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo presented a potential land purchase. This land would be just under 3 acres the borders the Edgerton Trails Elementary. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Barb Helms. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Roguewood Bid Packet

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo introduced Mr. Guliver from OAK who presented the plans for expansion for Roguewood Elementary and improvements to the building. Bids came in under budget. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.

Crestwood Elementary Easement

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo discussed allowing the Kent County Road Commission easement at Crestwood Elementary due to the change in the bus loop. Motion to approve the resolution by Christie Ramsey with support by Tricia Anderson. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

North Rockford Middle School Flooring

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo discussed the flooring needs for North Rockford Middle School. The recommendation was to go with Tarkett through the consortium. Motion to approve by Nick Reichenbach with support by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.

Roguewood Elementary Flooring

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Mike Cuneo discussed the flooring needs for Roguewood Elementary School. The recommendation was to go with Tarkett through the consortium. Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with support by Kelley Freridge. Motion passed unanimously.

Math Manipulatives Purchase

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm showed examples of Math Manipulatives that would be purchased and explained how they would be used. Teachers are very excited about these items. The purchase cost will be coming from a grant that Mr. Ramm and his team received. Motion to approve by Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. Motion passed unanimously.

High School Classroom Library expansion

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Mike Ramm and Rockford High School Assistant Principal Rachel DeKuiper gave a presentation on Classroom Library expansions. Board Trustee Helms voiced some concerns she had to Mrs. DeKuiper. Motion to approve by Christie Ramsey with Support by Kelley Freridge. The motion passed with 5 aye votes by Tricia Anderson, Jarred Folsom, Kelley Freridge, Christie Ramsey, Nick Reichenbach, and 1 nay vote by Barb Helms.

Old Business

Board Operating Procedures

Board President Folsom talked about the document and how it's a useful tool to help the new board. It's a supplement to the bylaws. It's intended to be a living, breathing document. Motion to approve Kelley Freridge with support by Christie Ramsey. There was discussion by the board members

regarding the document and some of the items that they do/don't agree with. Barb Helms moved to table with support from Nick Reichenbach. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Recognition of Visitors & Hearing of People Present

The following individuals addressed the Board of Education.

Helen Brinkman

Brenda Wodarski

Duane Gritter

Chris Crandall

Superintendent Remarks

Dr. Matthews thanked the community for their support this year and their participation in RPS events. He also thanked all staff for their hard work. He thanked both staff and the community for welcoming him.

Adjournment

President Folsom adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Recording Secretary

Secretary, Board of Education