



Independent School District #883

Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2026 in the District Board Room. Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Members Johnson, Gordee, Morgan, Hillstrom, and Praska were present. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Riddlehoover, CFO Bridget Peterson, Assistant Principal Jill Gordee, Summer School Lead Erin Sindelir, Director of Technology Jeff Kienitz, and Administrative Assistant Courtney Neibert.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Gordee seconded by Hillstrom to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Praska, seconded by Hillstrom to approve the consent items. Motion carried.

- **Minutes:**

- August 10, 2026 Special Meeting
- August 17, 2026 Work Session
- August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting

- **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
New Hire	Amari	Kirckof	Galaxy-Student worker	August 25, 2026
New Hire	Isabella	Angell	Galaxy-Student worker	August 25, 2026
New Hire	Quiana	Larson	Galaxy-Student worker	August 25, 2026
New Hire	Ari	Davis	Galaxy-Student worker	August 25, 2026
New Hire	Meghan	Wilson	Early Childhood teacher	August 24, 2026
New Hire	Sophie	Lynch	REAMS Kindergarten	August 24, 2026
New Hire	Margaret	McCall	RCC	September 2, 2026
New Hire	Samantha	Kohnen	REAMS SpEd Para	September 10, 2026
New Hire	Cooper	Hedtke	REAMS Custodian	September 21, 2026
Lane Change	Alyson	Reaves	BA+30 to MA	September 15, 2026
Lane Change	Jack	McCoy	BA to BA+10	September 15, 2026
Lane Change	Josh	Westgaard	BA+10 to BA+20	September 15, 2026
Lane Change	Janee	Udall	MA to MA+10	September 15, 2026
Lane Change	Abbey	Kaufman	Ma+10 to MA+30	September 15, 2026
Resignation	Emily	Lewis	REAMS-Paraprofessional	August 20, 2026
Resignation	Kayla	Linkert	REAMS-Paraprofessional	August 17, 2026
Resignation	Elizabeth	Borders	RMS- Paraprofessional	August 17, 2026

- **Approval of Disbursements:**

FUND	DESCRIPTION	August 01- August 31, 2026
1	GENERAL	\$ 359,326.28
2	FOOD SERVICE	42,831.17
4	COMMUNITY EDUCATION	31,729.19
6	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	-
7	DEBT SERVICE	575.00
21	STUDENT ACTIVITIES	1,772.23
	TOTAL	\$ 436,233.87

PAYROLL		August 2026
Payroll Wires	8/14/2026	
Net Pay		\$ 340,273.87
Taxes		129,909.27
Deductions & Benefits		101,967.73
Payroll Wires	8/31/2026	
Net Pay		\$ 331,125.89
Taxes		125,099.22
Deductions & Benefits		101,115.68
GIS Benefits		\$ 28,445.66
Medica		\$ 172,450.17
Medsurety	11	\$ 23,973.91

- **Open Enrollments:**

Resident Students Attending Other Schools

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	8/31/2026	live closer to Hanover Elementary
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	8/31/2026	live closer to Hanover Elementary
6	Orono	278	9/1/2026	better academic fit
K	Wayzata	284	8/31/2026	Mom teaches in Wayzata District
1	Wayzata	284	8/31/2026	Diversity and quality of education
6	Eden Prairie	272	9/8/2026	online
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	8/31/2026	Mom works in Buffalo School District
K	Delano	879	9/1/2026	siblings attend Delano
K	Delano	879	9/1/2026	more opportunities
5	Delano	879	9/1/2026	more extra curricular opportunities
4	Delano	879	9/1/2026	more opportunities
1	Delano	879	9/1/2026	more opportunities
9	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	8/31/2026	previously homeschooled; has friends in BHM District
K	Orono	278	9/1/2026	siblings attend Orono
10	Eden Prairie	272	9/8/2026	online
9	Orono	278	9/1/2026	better academic fit
K	Orono	278	9/2/2026	older siblings attend Orono
K	Orono	278	9/2/2026	ease of after school care options
K	Orono	278	9/2/2026	older siblings attend Orono
2	Osseo	279	9/8/2026	live closer to Osseo Schools, sports, and friends

Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford

Grade	Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
1	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--looking for smaller school
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--looking for smaller school
12	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--prefer smaller school
7	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	RE-ENROLLMENT--parent works for Rockford Schools
6	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--safer environment, strong academics
3	Anoka Hennepin	11	9/1/2026	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
9	Anoka Hennepin	11	9/1/2026	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
11	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--looking for smaller school
K	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--siblings attend Rockford Schools
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--older siblings attend Rockford Schools
6	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--teacher recommendation
6	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
1	Delano	879	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--prefer Rockford Schools
4	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--plan to move to Rockford; we trust and prefer Rockford Schools; father graduated from Rockford
2	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--plan to move to Rockford; we trust and prefer Rockford Schools; father graduated from Rockford

Note : Non-resident agreements will not be signed for families requesting a release from our school district. The students listed above are covered under MN Statute 124D.03, thus meeting the legal requirements for open enrollment.

- **Custodial/Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance Coordinators MOU:** The board was presented the Custodial/Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance Coordinators MOU for approval.
- **Custodial/Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance Mentorship MOU:** The board was presented the Custodial/Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance Mentorship MOU for approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **September 2026 Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.
- **District Rocket Spotlight:** Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented the District Rocket Spotlight Award to recipient Kevin Neff.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

- **Summer School Report:** Erin Sindelir presented an overview of the district's summer school program.
- **Nordic Ski Co-op:** Dr. Ridlehoover presented the new Nordic Ski Co-op for approval.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Morgan to approve to establish a Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) cooperative sponsorship agreement for Nordic Skiing (Boys & Girls) between Orono Public Schools as the host district, with Delano Public Schools and Rockford Area Schools joining as participating member districts.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

- **Technology and Safety Report:** Director of Technology Jeff Kienets presented an update on safety and the Technology Department.
- **Annual Preliminary Levy Certification:** CFO Bridget Peterson presented the annual preliminary levy certification for approval.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Morgan to approve the annual preliminary levy certification as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

- **Policy Review Updates - Final Reading:** The board was presented policy updates to policies 721, 506, 506 FORM, 722, 731R, 806, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425R, 427, and 901 for a final reading.

Motion by Hillstrom seconded by Praska to approve policies 721, 506, 506 FORM, 722, 731R, 806, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425R, 427, and 901 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP):** Dr. Ridlehoover presented the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan for approval.

Motion by Hillstrom seconded by Morgan to approve the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

- **Resolution of Acknowledgement of Contributions/Donations**

Hillstrom motioned, seconded by Praska, to approve the following resolution as presented:

WHEREAS Minnesota Statute 123B.02 permits school boards to "receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the

purpose designated. On that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, and for the benefit of pupils thereof.”

THEREFORE, be it resolved by the School Board of Rockford Area Schools, Independent School District 883 that the School Board accepts, with appreciation, the contributions detailed below.

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Fund</i>
Rocket Boosters	\$980.87	Girls Soccer Activity Fund (Soccer Supplies / Equipment)
Land O'Lakes Foundation (The Blackbaud Giving Fund)	\$40.00	REAMS Gift Fund
Kwik Trip	5 - \$10 Gift Cards	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
VOYA	2 - \$25 Starbucks Gift Cards	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
Buffalo Rock Winery	2 - \$30 Buffalo Rock Winery Gift Cards	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
Elevated Integrative Wellness	Fruit Punch Electorlytes	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
Rockford Foundation	\$50 River Inn Gift Card	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
River Inn	\$50 River Inn Gift Card	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
Big Bore	\$25 Gift Card and 3 Sauces	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
Cub-Buffalo	Bananas and granola bars	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation
USI	Keurig Mini Mate	Benefit and Wellness Fair Donation

Anne King	RHS Donation: 3 TI34 calculators; RMS Donations: Book, Combination Locks, Notebooks	General Fund Donation
Delano Chiropractic	Pencils, Gluesticks, Composition notebooks, notebooks, loose-leaf paper, Clorox wipes, highlighters, Ziploc baggies, colored pencils, Kleenex, Expo markers, colored markers	General Fund Donation
Sylvia & Warren Brengman	Rifton Bike donated in memory/in honor of Sarah Brengman	General Fun Donation (REAMS Special Education Department)
Matt Fricke	Pallet of wood donated to RHS Ag Department	General Fund Donation
Lewis Howey Family	Naptime Powers book, Diner Restaurant play set, Fridge fillers condiment set, clorox wipes	General Fund Donation REAMS
Croix Theismann Family	Safari animals, farm animals, Pantry products play set, brew and serve coffee play set	General Fund Donation REAMS
Anonymous Donation	Doll house people	General Fund Donation REAMS
Anonymous Donation	alphabet tracing blocks	General Fund Donation REAMS
Mathews Family	12 piece rainbow wooden dancing ribbons and art kit	General Fund Donation REAMS
Kenny Family	Wooden tree balancing toy	General Fund Donation REAMS
Redinger Family	Kinetic sand	General Fund Donation REAMS

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Gordee, Johnson, Morgan, Hillstrom, and Praska. And the following voted against: None

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

- **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Negotiations Committee Meeting: Monday, September 28, 2026 at 5:00 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- Finance Committee Meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 7:30 am virtually at Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zcg-ydgj-mzd> Or dial: ?(US) +1 567-402-0094? PIN: ?266 130 908?#
- Board of Education Work Session: Monday, October 19, 2026 at 5:30 pm at Corcoran City Hall.
- Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:30 pm at Corcoran City Hall.

- **Board Committee Updates:**
 - Johnson - Negotiations Committee Meeting, MAWSECO Welcome Back, Rockford Welcome Back, MAWSECO Board Meeting, MSBA Board Chair Chat, AMSD Meeting, Negotiations Update, Chamber Lunch, Board Prep Call.
 - Gordee - Board Prep Call, Start of year welcome, Chamber lunch, Northwest Suburban Meetings, AMSD Meeting, Communications Committee Meeting.
 - Morgan - Finance Committee Meeting.
 - Hillstrom - Finance Committee Meeting, Communications Committee Meeting, MSBA Coffee and Conversations.
 - Praska - Welcome Back Breakfast, Negotiations Committee Meeting.

Gordee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Courtney Neibert
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*