



Independent School District #883

Regular School Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 in the District Board Room. Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members Johnson, Gordee, Hillstrom, Sjodin and Praska were present. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover, RMS-CES Principal Paul Warzeca, AIPAC Liesan Perry Buffie, CFO Bridget Peterson, Learning & Innovation Specialist Kathy Mattson, RHS Principal Paul Menard, and Administrative Assistant Courtney Neibert.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Gordee seconded by Sjodin to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Kissner made a public comment recognizing great staff members.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- **Minutes:**

- January 21, 2026 Work Session

- January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting

- **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
Resignation	Dawn	Rund	REAMS Sub - Galaxy/EC	February 2, 2026
Resignation	Stacey	Larson	Activities Secretary	June 30, 2026
New Hire	Nira	Fisher	RCC Instructor	February 6, 2026
New Hire	Abigail	Solsback	REAMS SpEd Para	February 10, 2026
Non-renewal	Josh	Westgaard	RHS Business (OFP)	June 5, 2026
Non-renewal	Emily	Ansley	REAMS SpEd Teacher (OFP)	June 5, 2026
Retirement	Colleen	Peterson	REAMS Phy Ed	June 5, 2026

- **Bills and Wire Transfers:**

January 2026 Disbursements Paid (listings attached):

Fund 01 General Fund	\$ 733,470.74
Fund 01 Payroll	\$ 823,230.78
Fund 01 BankWest	\$ 225,148.00
Fund 02 Food Service	\$ 99,872.93
Fund 04 Community Services	\$ 11,914.76
Fund 04 CEd-BWest/KSBank	\$ 3,588.86
Fund 06 Building Construction	\$ 2,550.00
Fund 07 Debt Redemption	\$ 575.00
Fund 21 Student Activities	\$ 5,090.96
Fund 45 OPEB Trust	\$
 Total All Funds	 \$ 1,902,892.03

- **Open Enrollments:**

Resident Students Attending Other Schools

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
11	Houston	294	9/2/2025	online school

Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford

Grade	Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
3	Buffalo Hanover Montrose	877	1/20/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT
5	Buffalo Hanover Montrose	877	1/20/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT
5	Buffalo Hanover Montrose	877	1/20/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT
4	Buffalo Hanover Montrose	877	1/29/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--believe Rockford will be a better fit for the student

- **Custodian on Special Assignment MOU:** The Board was presented the Custodian on Special Assignment MOU for approval.
- **Pay Equity:** The board was presented the Pay Equity Implementation Report for the Minnesota Management & Budget (State of Minnesota) for approval.
- **Robotics Field Trip:** The board was presented the Robotics Duluth Field Trip for approval.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **January 2026 Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.
- **RMS-CES Celebration:** The Board celebrated the accomplishments of three exceptional student council representatives who have amplified student voice to improve the daily student experience for many at Rockford Middle.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

- **AIPAC Annual Vote of Concurrence:** Perry Buffie and Jessica Perrault presented the AIPAC vote of Concurrence and read a brief statement.
- **Enrollment Projections:** CFO Bridget Peterson presented the enrollment projections.
- **Revised SY Budget:** CFO Bridget Peterson presented the Revised SY Budget.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Praska to approve the FY 25-26 Budget Revision as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

- **RMS-CES Principal Report:** Principal Warzeca presented to the board on his buildings goals and other things going on at RMS-CES

- **Learning & Innovation Report:** Learning & Innovation Specialist Kathy Mattson presented an update on the Learning & Innovation department.

Healthy and Supportive Environment

- **RAS A&I Proposal:** Dr. Ridlehoover presented the MDE required RAS Achievement and & Integration (A&I) Proposal for Board approval.

Motion by Johnson seconded by Sjodin to approve the RAS A&I Proposal as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

- **SY 27-28 Calendar Approval:** Dr. Ridlehoover presented the proposed SY 27-28 School Year Calendar for Approval.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Hillstrom to approve the SY 27-28 School Year Calendar as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

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

Praska motioned, seconded by Sjodin, 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	\$622.62	Girls Basketball Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$65.40	Deep Portage--Class of 2032 Fund
Anonymous Donations	\$148.00	RHS Band/Choir Trip Fund
Anonymous Donations	\$403.45	RHS Band/Choir Trip Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$90.00	Deep Portage--Class of 2031 Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$170.00	Deep Portage--Class of 2032 Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$450.00	Deep Portage--Class of 2029 Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$210.00	Deep Portage--Class of 2028 Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$210.20	General Fund Donation (REAMS Whiteboards w. handwriting lines & RHS Supplies for IB Biology)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$2,938.89	General Fund Donation (RHS Pathways Launch your Future Brochure & REAMS 3rd grade Artist in Residence)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$1,153.61	General Fund Donation (Rolling White Boards for RHS Career Fair, Watch & Scrubs for RHS CNA Program, RHS Career Center Mural Supplies, RHS Tech/Ag Supplies for Launch your Future event)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$6,055.81	General Fund Donation (RMS Audio System)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$1,033.00	General Fund Donation (REAMS 1st grade Children's Theater Fieldtrip)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$101.41	General Fund Donation (RHS Supplies for Rocket Block)
SYNOVA Group	Special Ed Cookie Shirts (valued at \$262.42)	General Fund Donation (RHS)

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

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

● **Upcoming Meetings:**

- School Board Retreat: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 9am virtually in the District Office Board Room
- Policy Committee Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2026 at 4:00 pm in the District Office Conference Room
- School Board Work Session: Monday, March 16, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room

- Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- **Board Committee Updates:**
 - Johnson - MAWSECO Board Meeting, MAWSECO Negotiations, MSBA Chair. Training, MSBA Board Chars, Board Prep Call.
 - Gordee - Board Prep Call, Northwest Suburban Focus Group.
 - Hillstrom - Finance Committee Meeting, Shuttling students.
 - Praska - None
 - Sjodin - None

Gordee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. & Hillstrom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Courtney Neibert
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*