



## Independent School District #883

### Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, July 21, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025 in the District Board Room. Chair Gordee called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Members Gordee, Johnson, Hillstrom, Praska, and Sjodin were present. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover, Director of Business Operations Mike McNulty, Community Education Director Melissa Joseph, and Administrative Assistant Courtney Neibert.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion by Johnson seconded by Sjodin to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

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

- **Minutes:**

June 12, 2025 Work Session

June 16, 2025 Regular Meeting

- **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
New Hire	Eleanor	Marti	RMS Math	2025-26
New Hire	Mark	Boon	RMS Science	2025-26
New Hire	Sarah	Naslund	REAMS - 3rd Grade	2025-26
Status Change	Mulbah	Nyerkeh	Summer Custodian	June-August 2025
Status Change	Jacob	Roh	Summer Custodian	June-August 2025
Status Change	Angel	Swanson	Summer Scanning Project	June-August 2025
Status Change	Olivia	Koskela	Summer Scanning Project	June-August 2025
Non-Renewal	Jenna	Scheevel	REAMS/RHS Music	June 5, 2025
Non-Renewal	Krista	Schroeder	REAMS Kindergarten	June 5, 2025

- **Bills and Wire Transfers:**

June 2025 Disbursements Paid (listings attached):

Fund 01 General Fund	\$923,819.03
Fund 01 Payroll	\$ 1,100,203.44
Fund 01 BankWest	\$ 225,078.70
Fund 02 Food Service	\$ 84,457.30
Fund 04 Community Services	\$ 21,436.87
Fund 04 CEd-BWest/KSBank	\$ 2,428.13
Fund 06 Building Construction	\$ 40,514.25
Fund 07 Debt Redemption	\$ 2,000.00
Fund 21 Student Activities	\$ 8,486.88
Fund 45 OPEB Trust	\$ 0
 Total All Funds	 \$ 2,408,424.60

- **Open Enrollments:**

**Resident Students Attending Other Schools**

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
K	Delano	879	9/4/2025	Older siblings attend Delano
12	Maple Lake	881	9/2/2025	
9	Orono	278	9/2/2025	Family move, want to stay enrolled at Orono
4	Orono	278	9/2/2025	Divorce situation, moving to Orono soon
2	Wayzata	284	9/2/2025	Family move, mom works @ Wayzata Schools
K	Delano	879	9/4/2025	Residence is closer to Delano Schools
K	Delano	879	9/4/2025	Older sibling attends Delano
2	Delano	879	9/4/2025	Better opportunities
K	Delano	879	9/4/2025	Attended preschool in Delano, wants to stay enrolled there
1	Delano	879	9/4/2025	Older sibling attends Delano

**Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford**

Grade	Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--feels Rockford is a better district for their child
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--Rockford is a great school; older sibling attends Rockford along with parents and many family members
6	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--STEM program and like smaller school
9	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	RE-ENROLLING--love the smaller school in Rockford
7	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--Rockford is a better fit for my student
6	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--sibling attends Rockford; Rockford is one of the best schools in the state
6	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--wants to continue with a STEM magnet school
6	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT; preference for magnet programs
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--siblings attend Rockford; prefer smaller school
K	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	2687	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--Mother works @ Rockford Schools
6	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--STEM Program
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--siblings attend Rockford Schools

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- **July 2025 Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.
- **Community Member Rocket Spotlight:** The board recognized Shannon Sand as the Community Member Rocket Spotlight recipient.

### **HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

- **Rockford Community Education Update:** Director Melissa Joseph presented an update on Community Education including Programs/Classes, Galaxy, Early Learning, and RCC.
  - **Rockford Community Education Surveys:** Director Melissa Joseph reviewed the results of the rental and expo surveys.

## **STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES**

- **Resolution Calling General Election:** The board was presented the Resolution relating to increasing the General Education Revenue of the School District, Approving a Capital Projects Levy Authorization to fund Technology and calling an election thereon.

### **RESOLUTION RELATING TO INCREASING THE GENERAL EDUCATION REVENUE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPROVING A CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY AUTHORIZATION TO FUND TECHNOLOGY AND CALLING AN ELECTION THEREON**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 883, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The School Board hereby determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to increase its general education revenue by \$633 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term “per adjusted pupil unit” as “per pupil.” The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately 0.05193% of the referendum market value of the school district for taxes payable in 2026, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years and increase each year by the rate of inflation commencing with taxes payable in 2027, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. For this purpose, the rate of inflation shall be the annual inflationary increase calculated under Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 2(b). The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization shall be School District Question 1 on the School District ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

2. The School Board hereby determines and declares that it is also necessary and expedient for the School District to also submit a capital project levy authorization to fund technology to the voters for their approval. The capital project levy authorization will be in the amount of 1.136% times the net tax capacity of the School District. The proposed capital project levy will raise approximately \$250,000 for taxes payable in 2026, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded by the proposed capital project levy authorization during that time period is approximately \$2,500,000. The additional revenue from the proposed capital project levy authorization will provide funds for technology to enhance safety and security, classroom and building technology, digital curriculum, technology infrastructure and network improvements, device replacement, and to pay the costs of technology related personnel and training. The program will be commenced prior to November 1, 2030, which date is not more than five (5) years from the date of the special election authorizing the approval of the capital project levy authorization. The question on the approval of this capital project levy authorization shall be School District Question 2 on the School District ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization. The passage of School District Question 2 shall be contingent upon the passage of School District Question 1.

3. The ballot questions specified above shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the School District at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 o'clock a.m. and 8:00 o'clock p.m. This date is a uniform election date specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.05.

4. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the School District's combined polling place and the precincts served by the polling place, as previously established and designated by a resolution of the School Board, is hereby designated for this special election. In the event a municipality located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the School District will also be conducting a municipal election on November 4, 2025, any affected School District voters will vote at their respective municipal polling locations and not the School District's combined polling place.

5. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be given: (i) to the county auditor of each county in which the School District is located, in whole or in part, at least eighty-four (84) days prior to the date of said election; and (ii) to the Commissioner of Education at least seventy-four (74) days prior to the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said special election and the title and language for the ballot question to be voted on at said special election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

6. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed to each taxpayer in the School District at least fifteen (15) but no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 9(b). The Clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the County Auditor of each county in which the School District is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

7. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be posted for public inspection at the administrative offices of the School District at least ten (10) days before the date of said special election.

8. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the School District for public inspection at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause a sample ballot to be posted in the combined polling place on election day. The sample ballots shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

9. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be published in the official newspaper of the School District, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of said election. The notice of election so posted and published shall state each question to be submitted to the voters as set forth in the form of ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

10. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the rules and instructions for use of the optical scan voting system to be posted in the combined polling places on election day.

11. The Clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this special election and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on that date. The Clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections or to obtain assistance from the county auditor with respect to the administration of the School District's election, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, the processing of absentee ballots, election administration and cost sharing.


12. The Clerk and members of the administration are further authorized and directed to cause a ballot to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form, color, instructions, and content as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system, to correct typographical errors, or to comply with the form and content requirements of applicable state election laws:

**[Form of Ballot on the Following Page]**

**SAMPLE** Special Election Ballot  
Independent School District No. 883  
(Rockford Area Schools)  
November 4, 2025

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**Instructions to Voters:**

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: .

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To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question.  
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

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**School District Question 1  
Approval of School District  
Referendum Revenue Authorization**

The school board of Independent School District No. 883 (Rockford Area Schools) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$633 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2026, and increase each year by the rate of inflation beginning with taxes payable in 2027, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

☐

**Yes**

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 883 be approved?

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**No**

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE  
VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

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**School District Question 2**  
**Approval of Capital Project Levy**  
**Authorization for Technology**

The school board of Independent School District No. 883 (Rockford Area Schools) has also proposed a capital project levy authorization of 1.136% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The money raised from the capital project levy authorization will provide funds for technology to enhance safety and security, classroom and building technology, digital curriculum, technology infrastructure and network improvements, device replacement, and to pay the costs of technology related personnel and training. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$250,000 for taxes payable in 2026, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total costs of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$2,500,000.



**Yes**

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the capital project levy proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 883 also be approved?



**No**

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE  
VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

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13. Optical scan ballots must be printed in black ink on white material, except that marks to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed in another color ink. The name of the precinct and machine-readable identification must be printed on each ballot. Voting instructions must be printed at the top of the ballot on each side that includes ballot information. The instructions must include an illustration of the proper mark to be used to indicate a vote. Lines for initials of at least two election judges must be printed on one side of the ballot so that the judges' initials are visible when the ballots are enclosed in a secrecy sleeve.

14. If the School District will be contracting to print the ballots for this special election, the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to prepare instructions to the printer for layout of the ballot. Before a contract in excess of \$1,000 is awarded for printing ballots, the printer, at the request of the election official, shall furnish, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 204D.04, a sufficient bond, letter of credit or certified check acceptable to the Clerk in an amount not less than \$1,000 conditioned on printing the ballots in conformity with the Minnesota election law and the instructions delivered. The Clerk shall set the amount of the bond, letter of credit, or certified check in an amount equal to the value of the purchase.

15. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to provide for testing of the optical scan voting system at least three (3) days before voting equipment is used. The Clerk shall cause notice of the time and place of the test to be given at least two (2) days in advance by publishing the Notice of Testing once in the official newspaper and by causing the notice to be posted in the office of the county auditor, the administrative offices of the School District, and the office of any other local election official conducting the test.

16. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of the location of the counting center or the place where the ballots will be counted to be published in the

official newspaper at least once during the week preceding the week of the election and in the newspaper of widest circulation once on the day preceding the election, or once the week preceding the election if the newspaper is a weekly.

17. As required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 203B.121, the School Board hereby establishes a ballot board to process, accept and reject absentee ballots at School District elections not held in conjunction with the state primary or state general election or that are conducted by a municipality on behalf of the School District and generally to carry out the duties of a ballot board as provided by Section 203B.121 and other applicable laws. The ballot board must consist of a sufficient number of election judges. The ballot board may include deputy county auditors and deputy city clerks who have received training in the processing and counting of absentee ballots. The Clerk or the Clerk's designee is hereby authorized and directed to appoint the members of the ballot board. The Clerk or the Clerk's designee shall establish, maintain and update a roster of members appointed to and currently serving on the ballot board and shall report to the School Board from time to time as to its status. Each member of the ballot board shall be paid reasonable compensation for services rendered during an election at the same rate as other election judges; provided, however, if a staff member is already being compensated for regular duties, additional compensation shall not be paid for ballot board duties performed during that staff member's duty day. Each member of the ballot board must be provided adequate training on the processing and counting of absentee ballots, including but not limited to instruction on accepting and rejecting absentee ballots, storage of absentee ballots, timelines and deadlines, the role of the ballot board, procedures for opening absentee ballot envelopes, procedures for counting absentee ballots, and procedures for reporting absentee ballot totals.

18. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to begin assembling names of trained election judges to serve at the combined polling place during the special election. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit the results to the School Board for canvass in the manner provided for other School District elections. The election must be canvassed between the third and the tenth day following the election.

19. If the capital project levy authorization proposed in School District Question 2 is approved, a capital project referendum account shall be created as a separate account in the general fund of the School District. All proceeds from the capital project levy must be deposited in the capital project referendum account. Interest income attributable to the capital project referendum account must be credited to the capital project referendum account. Money in the capital project referendum account may be used only for the costs of acquisition and betterment of the approved projects. As required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.71, subdivision 8, the School Board hereby determines and states that the funds approved by the voters for said authorization will only be used as authorized in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.10, subdivision 14. The funds in the capital project referendum account may be accumulated and not be expended until sufficient funds are available, may be accumulated and not be expended until additional funds from a bond issue are available, or may be expended on an ongoing basis for approved project costs. Any funds remaining in the capital project referendum account that are not applied to the payment of the costs of the approved projects before their final completion shall be transferred to the School District's debt redemption funds.

20. The Clerk shall make all Campaign Financial Reports required to be filed with the School District under Minnesota Statutes, Section 211A.02 available on the School District's website. The Clerk must post the report on the School District's website as



soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the receipt of the report. The School District must make a report available on the School District's website for four years from the date the report was posted to the website. The Clerk must also provide the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board with a link to the section of the website where reports are made available.

*Gordee motioned, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Resolution Calling Special Election:*

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

*Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.*

- **Negotiations Update:** Director of Business Operations Mike McNulty gave an update on EMR Negotiations.
- **Facilities Update:** Director of Business Operations Mike McNulty gave an update on summer facilities projects.

### **COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**

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

*Johnson motioned, seconded by Hillstrom, 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><b>Donor</b></i>	<i><b>Amount</b></i>	<i><b>Fund</b></i>
Anonymous Donation	\$150.00	Band Activity Fund
Star Lodge No. 62 AF & AM	\$250.00	DECA Activity Fund
Gregory Family	Larger Trailer load of black dirt for Galaxy Kids garden	Galaxy Kids Program

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

*Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.*

- **Upcoming Meetings:**
  - Communications Committee Meeting: Monday, August 4, 2025, time to be posted in the District Office Conference Room.

- Negotiations Committee Meeting: Monday, August 11, 2025 at 4:00 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- Negotiations Committee Meeting: Monday, August 18, 2025 at 3:00 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- Board of Education Work Session: Monday, August 18, 2025 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.

- **Board Committee Updates:**

- Gordee - Board Prep Call, Communications Committee Meeting
- Johnson - MAWSECO Meeting, Board Prep Call, 2 Negotiations Meetings
- Hillstrom - Communications Committee Meeting, 2 Negotiations Meetings
- Praska - None
- Sjodin - Communications Committee Meeting, 2 Negotiations Meetings

*Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Gordee seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

*Courtney Neibert  
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom  
Clerk*