



Independent School District #883

Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, September 15, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, September 15, 2025 in the District Board Room. Chair Gordee called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members Gordee, Johnson, Morgan, Sjodin, Praska, and Hillstrom were present. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover, Director of Business Operations Mike McNulty, Principal Paul Warzeca, Technology Director Jeff Kienetz, CFO Bridget Peterson, and Administrative Assistant Courtney Neibert.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Johnson seconded by Hillstrom to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- **Minutes:**

August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting

- **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
New Hire	Brenda	Limon-Peterson	EC Assistant	2025-2026
New Hire	Grace	McCoy	REAMS Secretary	September 2, 2025
Lane Change	Alyson	Reeves	BA to BA+20	September 15, 2025
Status Change	Averi	Kuipers (Shrode)	Gymnastics Coordinator to HS Gymnastics coach	September 5, 2025
Status Change	Heidi	Sanderson	OnStaff Substitute Teacher	September 5, 2025
Status Change	Trevor	Schroeder	REAMS Custodian to REAMS Lead Custodian	September 8, 2025
Resignation	Mary	Spangler	RHS SpEd Paraprofessional	August 12, 2025
Resignation	Justin	Bergman	REAMS Lead Custodian	September 12, 2025

- **Bills and Wire Transfers:**

August 2025 Disbursements Paid (listings attached):

Fund 01 General Fund	\$673,315.66
Fund 01 Payroll	\$
Fund 01 BankWest	\$
Fund 02 Food Service	\$ 17,009.06
Fund 04 Community Services	\$ 25,788.49
Fund 04 CEd-BWest/KSBank	\$
Fund 06 Building Construction	\$ 293,898.82
Fund 07 Debt Redemption	\$
Fund 21 Student Activities	\$ 2,832.56
Fund 45 OPEB Trust	\$ 0
 Total All Funds	 \$ 1,012,844.59

- **Open Enrollments:**

Resident Students Attending Other Schools

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
1	Delano	879	9/4/2025	want to try a new school
1	Orono	278	9/2/2025	academic opportunities and school closer to home
2	Orono	278	9/2/2025	academics and activities options
4	Delano	879	9/4/2025	504 support
6	Delano	879	9/4/2025	SPED and gifted support
6	Orono	278	9/2/2025	family move--wants to stay enrolled at Orono
6	Orono	278	9/2/2025	family move--wants to stay enrolled at Orono
3	Osseo	279	9/4/2025	family move--wants to stay enrolled at Osseo
3	Delano	879	9/4/2025	not happy with current district
10	Orono	278	9/2/2025	family move--wants to stay enrolled at Orono
K	Orono	278	9/3/2025	siblings attend Orono
K	Orono	278	9/3/2025	closer to home
6	Westonka	277	9/2/2025	family situation--want to stay enrolled at Westonka
K	Westonka	277	9/2/2025	family situation--want to stay enrolled at Westonka
3	Westonka	277	9/2/2025	family situation--want to stay enrolled at Westonka

Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford

Grade	Resident	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
10	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--looking for smaller school & better academics
5	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--looking for smaller school
K	Delano	879	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--siblings attend Rockford
12	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	2687	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
10	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	2687	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
6	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	2687	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
3	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	2687	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
11	Delano	879	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
12	Delano	879	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--just moved out of district & want to stay enrolled at Rockford
9	Anoka Hennepin	11	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--want to enroll in a smaller district
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--siblings attend Rockford
8	Wayzata	284	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
7	Wayzata	284	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
6	Wayzata	284	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
9	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--school opportunities
9	Osseo	279	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--strong academics; aunt & uncle graduated from Rockford
2	Annandale	876	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford
K	Annandale	876	9/2/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--siblings attend Rockford
4	Annandale	876	9/2/2025	family move; wants to stay enrolled at Rockford

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **September 2025 Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.
- **District Rocket Spotlight:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented the district Rocket Spotlight to Custodian Kris Larson.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

- **RMS-CES Principals Report:** Principal Paul Warzecha presented an update on the start of the school year at RMS-CES.
- **North Star Assessment Report:** Superintendent Ridlehoover presented the North Star Assessment Report.
- **ADSIS Presentation:** Superintendent Ridlehoover presented on ADSIS.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

- **Technology Report:** Director Jeff Kienitz presented a Technology department update.
- **Preliminary Levy Certification:** CFO Bridget Peterson presented the preliminary levy certification for approval.

Johnson motioned to approve the preliminary levy certification as presented. Morgan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Resolution Appointing Election Judges:** The School Board was presented the Resolution Appointing Election Judges for approval.

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

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELECTION JUDGES FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION

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

- 1. The individuals specified on EXHIBIT A attached hereto, each of whom is qualified to serve as an election judge, are hereby appointed as judges of election for the School District's special election on November 4, 2025, to act as such at the combined polling place listed on said exhibit.*
- 2. 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.*
- 3. The School District Clerk and the Clerk's designee are hereby authorized to appoint additional election judges, as needed, to fill vacancies that may occur on or before election day.*

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

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

- **Negotiations Update:** Director McNulty presented an update on EMR Negotiations
- **Meal Price Approval:** Director McNulty presented updated meal prices for approval.

Johnson motioned to approve meal prices as presented. Hillstrom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

- **Policy Updates Final Read:** The board was presented with the following policy updates that were reviewed by the Policy Committee for a final reading. Policies 413, 414, 514, 516.5, 616, 708, 709R, 721, 722, and 806.

Motion by Johnson seconded by Sjodin to approve policies 413, 414, 514, 516.5, 616, 708, 709R, 721, 722, and 806 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

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

Hillstrom motioned, seconded by Morgan, 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>
Kelly Zech	Rack Enclosure (Wall Mount & 6 Rack Units, valued at \$231.41)	General Fund Donation
Rockford Education Foundation	\$110.80	DECA Activity Fund (from catalog sales)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$192.00	General Fund Donation (BILT Lunch & Learn)
USI	Popcorn Maker/Wireless Speaker	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Corebridge	Teacher Survival Basket	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
VOYA	2 - \$50 Amazon Gift Cards	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Cub Foods--Buffalo	fruit/granola bars	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Sunshine Supply	Flower Flight for door prize	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Midland Nursery	\$25 Gift Card	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Apple Jacks Orchard	Apple Butter and Apple Salsa	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Big Bore	\$25 Gift Card	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
River Inn	2-\$25 Gift Cards	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Hutch & Home	\$20 Gift Card	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Grateful Gifts	Gift Basket	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Jersey Mike's	20 - Free Sub cards	Wellness Donation
Heidi's Grow Haus	\$25 Gift Card	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Rocket Boosters	\$25 Gift Card	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Yale Mechanical	2 - \$50 Target Gift Cards	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Buffalo Rock Winery	5 - \$15 Buffalo Rock Winery Gift Cards	Benefits & Wellness Fair Donation
Infinity Flooring	\$500 donation check	Wellness Donation
Kwik Trip	5 - \$10 Gift Cards	Wellness Donation

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

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

- **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Negotiations Meeting: Monday, September 22, 2025 at 3:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- Policy Committee Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2025 at 2:30 pm in the District Office Conference Room.

- Negotiations Committee Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2025 at 3:15 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- School Board Work Session: Monday, October 6, 2025 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.

- **Closed Session–Negotiations:**

Motion by Johnson seconded by Gordee to enter into closed session to discuss negotiations pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 13D.03. Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into closed session to discuss negotiations at 8:33 p.m.

Morgan motioned to return to open session. Sjodin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to open session at 8:59 p.m.

- **Board Committee Updates:**

- Gordee - Election meeting, Board Prep, MSBA Board Chair Chat, AMSD Meeting, NWSISD.
- Johnson - Rockford Welcome Back, MAWSECO Welcome Back, Board Prep, MAWSECO Training, Chamber Meeting.
- Hillstrom - Retirement Committee Meeting, Chamber Meeting, Negotiations Meeting
- Morgan - None
- Praska - None
- Sjodin - Negotiations Meeting

Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Gordee seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Courtney Neibert
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*