District Operations Briefing – September 15, 2025

Rockford Area Schools

presented by,
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15 September 2025

R O C K E T S 8 8 3

Welcome - Introduction and Framework of Discussion

- Safety and Security
- Classroom Learning
- Essential Support Services
- Inter-Agency Highlights
- Review and Comment

Security and Safety

Security and Safety

- 911 updates – staff shuffle/new staff is being worked

- Geo-fencing and emergency integration project still awaiting a levy passage.

- Phones – received 154 phones in donation. Minimum Value - $4000 to $50,000 saved.

- FCC Analog Conversion

  - Fax, Fire Panels, Elevators, Alarms are now digital with a log file for troubleshooting.

  - Next step – remove remaining analog lines – a reduction of $1020.72 monthly.
    (13 lines identified)

Security and Safety

Security and Safety

- Cameras

  - Hennepin County Sheriff Operations Center Collaboration.
    - Identifying cameras
    - Received hardware from Hennepin County
    - May port 50 to 100 cameras dependent on State rule.
    - Legislative action regarding MN Statute Chapter 13.

  - Added cameras at each building. (Donation acquired by a non-resident for the cabinet needed for the switch and patch panel)

  - Planned upgrades to existing security servers/needed replacement server on hold

  - Planned additions for RMS/REAMS (funding dependent). (80-120k needed)

Security and Safety

○ Crisis Management

Sandy Hook Promise – second year, parent messaging to be delivered soon.

I Love You Guy's – integrating into emergency plans and reunification/ALICE

Relocation and Reunification – Wright and Hennepin Counties – added site

Safe Schools – scheduled for the year.

Classroom notification via Clevertouch panels

Staff Mandatory Online Training – 57% completed, 14.5 started (65% average) 28% not started.

○ Various Management Plans

Cyber Security – improved and slight reduction in cost.

Safety Committee – scheduled for the year, agenda meeting tomorrow

Crisis Management Teams – met this summer and in September.

Staff Development tentatively planned for non-licensed staff in October

Classroom Learning

Infinite Campus -

Hall Pass - RHS

Parent Portal - Online Attendance

Student credentials updated

Standards revised

Custom forms – 504, SPED, Technology, Field Trips

1:1 program update

Kindergarten was removed to cover other grades (budget reduction)

Grade 5 and 6 moved to carts (Kindergarten went to RMS)

Online Forms to parents/student via portal

Improving cost controls – fees

Protection Plan to be made available.

MDE:

MCCC Due October 1 – converting to Ed-Fi. (est. 705,000 errors) STAR in Nov.

Perkins, ACT, and other submitted timely.

Essential Support Services

Essential Support Services

Archive Scanning

Started Archiving student records this summer

Destruction of records will be scheduled soon.

Continuing to work on retention schedules and protocols.

Plan to move operations to district office in near future.

Backup Data:

24 Sept – backup procedures being tested under outside agency supervision

Office of Civil Rights – submitted timely - may become an annual event?

Essential Support Services

Essential Support Services

Capitol Projects – firewall replaced and batteries installed.

Protection Plan
    $40 per device per student, capped at $80.00 per family.
    50% reduction for students enrolled in educational benefits.
    If no concern – plan to offer next week

Fees – outlined in the 1:1 handbook.

Chargers - $20 to $40.00 each ● Keyboards with trackpad - $50.00 to $65.00 ● Screens vary in cost from $49.73 to $89.50 ● Full replacements currently vary from $250.00 for the Acers and $275 for the HP 14 model. This cost doesn't include the licensing needed for Google and other services.

Technology Budget Update

Technology Budget considerations

Experiencing a **greater than 3 percent cost increase**. (Google, Microsoft, VMWare – 10%)

Less then $75,000 available for capital – **lost matching grants** due to lack of funds.

Reductions to **1:1 Chromebook program** (billing, lack of replacements, longer use). Next year – IB programs (100k)?

Loss of funding for **teacher/classroom devices.**

Decrease in **software licensing**.

Reduction in **handheld radios** and **hot spot services** used in emergency planning.

Risk in maintaining **Raptor visitor management** and **emergency generator testing**.

Deferred replacements of **switches, servers, wireless access points, cabling, and fiber**

Loss of **maintenance contracts** and **extended warranties** for critical gear.

Limited support for **robotics, STEAM/STEM expansions, and theater AV systems**.

Added costs for **emergency planning**.

No dedicated funds for safety and security – e.g. cameras, door controls, repairs.

Dropped staff development and training site for technology

Possible reduction of Infinite Campus Add-on programs

Possible loss of levy passage may mean reducing technology staff.

One highlight: $60,000 MDE Grant was approved for cybersecurity.

Technology Budget Update

- Technology Budget

Cybersecurity / Internet Services

Plan cost: $305,790

Risk if cut:

Loss/Reduction of Carbon Black, Auvik, KnowBe4, Nessus, ECMECC, firewall services.
Non-compliance with insurance & state mandates (Minn. Stat. 16E.36, 13.32).
Higher chance of ransomware, leading to grave recovery costs.

Cameras – Currently no budget for additional door controls or camera additions, repairs, or replacements.

Wireless & Wired Networks

Plan cost:

Wireless: $165,000
Switches: $300,000
Cabling: $60,000
Power Backups: $30,000

Risk if cut:

Wi-Fi dead zones → instruction collapses.
Security cameras/PA/phones can't function on failing switches.
No funding after E-Rate Category 2 ends June 2025.

Inter-Agency support highlights

- Regional: Educational Resources – Vector/Safety/Tech Coordination
- Regional: ECMECC – Spring Security Audit/Security Meetings/Director Meetings

- State of MN: Minnesota Cyber Incident Reporting
- MN National Guard cyber resources
- Federal: CISA: Additional Indicators of Attack and Indicators of Compromise Training
  (Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency) (Reduction in Training/Pay models)
- Budget Loss: MS-ISAC: MDBR reporting (Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center) 513 attempts of Malware
  prevented last year in one week at the beginning of school.
- Federal: CRDC: Office of Civil Rights data collection
- Wright/Hennepin safety and security meetings

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?

Thank You.