



Independent School District #883

Regular School Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 in the District Board Room. Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members Johnson, Gordee, Morgan, Hillstrom, Sjodin and Praska were present. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover, REAMS Principal Brenda Nyhus, 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

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- **Minutes:**

December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting

January 5, 2026 Organizational Meeting

- **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
New Hire	Timothy	Donka	DW PT Custodian	December 18, 2025
New Hire	Sara	Anderson	DW Custodain	January 5, 2026
New Hire	Jill	Lubben	LTS Jen Miltaon	January 19, 2026 - June 4, 2026
New Hire	Stacy	Welborn	LTS Calli Zastoupil	April 6, 2026-November 12, 2026
Lane Change	Abbey	Kaufman	MA to MA+10	January 15, 2026
Status Change	Pang	Lee	RHS Para to Para Sub	January 30, 2026
Status change	Haxel	Sususco-Trigg	resigned from REAMS Playground, staying at RCC	December 19, 2025
Leave	Derek	Bratsch	RHS Math	April 29, 2026 - June 5, 2026
Leave	Jennifer	Milton	REAMS Teacher	January 21, 2026 - June 5, 2026
Leave	Aaron	Rickart	REAMS	February 17, 2026 - March 6, 2026
Resignation	Tristen	Carter	RCC	November 1, 2025
Retirement	Dan	Pratt	Athletic Director	June 30, 2026

- **Bills and Wire Transfers:**

December 2025 Disbursements Paid (listings attached):

Fund 01 General Fund	\$ 563,704.76
Fund 01 Payroll	\$ 772,563.62
Fund 01 BankWest	\$ 110,025.00
Fund 02 Food Service	\$ 101,851.44
Fund 04 Community Services	\$ 15,752.63
Fund 04 CEEd-BWest/KSBank	\$ 3,060.10
Fund 06 Building Construction	\$ 2,550.00
Fund 07 Debt Redemption	\$ 550.00
Fund 21 Student Activities	\$ 7,146.99
Fund 45 OPEB Trust	\$
Total All Funds	\$ 1,577,204.54

- **Open Enrollments:**

Resident Students Attending Other Schools

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
2	Buffalo Hanover Montrose	877	9/2/2025	family move; want to stay enrolled at Buffalo

Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford

Grade	Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
10	Anoka Hennepin	11	1/15/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT

- **Teacher Seniority:**

Number	Name	First Day	File Folder	Yrs - Rockford as of December 2025	Months	Tier	Current Valid Licensure	Expiration	General Assignment
1	Sprague, Jennifer	9/8/1989	295950	33	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6)	2028	ES ADSIS Reading
2	Engebretson, Dawn	8/31/1993	327256	32	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Coaching (7-12)	2030 2030	ADSIS Math
3	Ulen, Cheryl	8/31/1993	341845	32	4	4	Mathematics (7-12)	2030	HS Math
4	Merila, Julie	8/29/1994	350771	31	3	4	English/Language Arts (7-12) Coaching (7-12)	2027 2027	HS English
5	Peterson, Colleen	1/3/1995	305327	30	11	4	Developmental / Adaptive Phy Ed (PreK-12) Physical Education (K-12) Coaching (7-12) Driver and Traffic Safety (9-12)	2028 2028 2028 2028	ES Physical Education / DAPE
6	Hester, Jason	8/29/1995	352743	30	3	4	Life Sciences (7-12) Physical Education (K-12)	2028 2028	MS / HS Physical Education
7	Belanger, Amy	8/29/1995	357508	30	3	4	Specific Learning Disabilities (K-12) Mild to Moderate Mentally Hdep (K-12)	2028 2028	MS Special Education
8	Nolby, Kristen	9/9/1996	344768	29	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6) Coaching (7-12)	2026 2026	ADSIS Math
9	Madson, Jamie	11/18/1996	355894	29		4	Elementary Education (K-6) Keyboarding For Computer Application (K-8) Coaching (7-12)	2028 2028 2028	MS A & I
10	Mateyka, Kristine	8/31/1998	350263	27	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Coaching (7-12)	2029 2029	MS English

11	Biorn, Holly	8/31/1998	365795	27	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2030	EXCEL Coordinator
12	Merila, Steven	8/31/1998	373040	27	3	4	Physical Sciences (Physics and Chem) (7-12)	2026	HS Science
13	Johnson, Marty	8/31/1998	377368	27	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6)	2027	ES Grade 2
14	Hendrickson, Jan	4/12/1999	311670	26	8	4	English/Language Arts (7-12) Specific Learning Disabilities (K-12)	2028 2028	MS English
15	Sarsland, Corina	8/30/1999	343208	26	3	4	Life Sciences (7-12) Coaching (7-12) Principal (K-12)	2028 2028 2026	MS Science
16	Wilts, Bonnie	8/30/1999	357434	26	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6) Coaching (7-12)	2030 2030	MS Social Studies
17	Roelofs, Joel	8/30/1999	375615	26	3	4	Coaching (7-12) Health (5-12) Driver and Traffic Safety (7-12) Physical Education (K-12)	2028 2028 2028 2028	MS PE/Health
18	Tauber, Michael	8/30/1999	381683	26	3	4	Social Studies (7-12)	2027	HS Social Studies
19	Sanner, Tracy	8/30/1999	383135	25	3	4	English/Language Arts (7-12) Emotional Behavior Disorders (K-12)	2027 2027	MS Special Education
20	Eliason, Darren	8/28/2000	383855	25	3	4	Vocal and Classroom Music (K-12) Principal (K-12)	2027 2026	ES CIC (0.5) / Music (0.5)
21	Neff, Kevin	8/28/2000	385556	25	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6) Keyboard For Computer Application (K-8) Mathematics (5-8)	2028 2028 2028	TOSA Tech Integrationist
22	Koste, Anne	8/28/2000	386982	25	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6)	2028	ES Grade 1
23	Klukas-Weber, Cheri	8/27/2002	352919	23	3	4	Visual Arts (K-12)	2027	ES/HS Art
24	Young, Caroline	8/27/2002	394274	23	3	4	Social Studies (5-12)	2028	HS Social Studies
25	Wirth, Molly	8/18/2003	392152	22	3	4	Secondary Guidance and Counseling (7-12) School Counselor (K-12)	2027 2027	MS Counselor
26	Houghton, Daniel	8/25/2004	394360	21	3	4	Social Studies (7-12)	2027	HS Social Studies

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27	Mattson, Kathryn	8/25/2004	417063	21	3	4	Communication Arts/Literature (5-12)	2030	HS English, Learning & Innovation
28	Russell, Beth	8/29/2005	422934	20	3	4	Communication Arts/Literature (5-12) Library Media Specialist (K-12)	2026 2026	MS Digital Skills
29	Ferdig, Jerald	8/29/2006	387299	19	3	4	Instrumental and Classroom Music (K-12)	2028	HS Band
30	Hedeen Childers, Tamara	7/20/2009	372018	16	4	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Reading (K-12)	2027 2027	ES Grade 2
31	Trandahl, Polly	5/17/2010	321227	15	6	4	Elementary Guidance & Counseling (1-6) Elementary Education (K-6) Middle School Guidance & Counseling (MS) Reading (K-12)	2027 2027 2027 2027	HS ADSIS Math/Reading/AVID
32	Yakesh, Rachel	1/31/2011	381543	14	10	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2027	ES ADSIS Reading
33	Milton, Jennifer	8/22/2012	448595	13	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Communications Arts/Literature (5-8) Social Studies (5-8)	2030 2030 2030	ES Title Math
34	Pennings, Benjamin	7/15/2013	397319	12	5	4	Social Studies (5-12)	2028	HS Social Studies
35	Gregory, McKenzie	8/26/2013	472437	12	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2030	ES Grade 3
36	Hammer, Kylene	9/26/2013	468971	12	2	4	Elementary Education (1-6)	2028	ES Grade 2
37	Farmer, Laura	9/26/2013	472919	12	2	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Early Childhood Ed (B-Grade 3)	2030 2030	ES Grade 3
38	Bakken, Amanda	1/2/2014	439306	11	11	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Social Studies (5-8)	2030 2030	ES Grade 2
39	Rygg, Diane	8/25/2015	286035	10	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6) English as a Second Language (K-12)	2030 2030	ES ELL
40	Stariha, Paul	8/25/2015	330571	10	3	4	Coaching (7-12) Social Studies (7-12) Academic Behavioral Strategist (K-12) Autism Spectrum Disorders (B-12)	2026 2026 2026 2026	HS Special Education
41	Ellos, Laura	8/25/2015	403568	10	3	4	Speech Language Pathologist (PreK-12)	2028	ES Speech
42	Gordec, Jill	8/25/2015	478967	10	3	4	School Counselor (K-12) Principal (K-12)	2030 2029	HS CIC (0.5) / IB Grant (0.5)

43	Nelson, Leah	8/25/2015	485440	10	3	4	English as a Second Language (K-12) Spanish (K-12)	2026 2026	HS Spanish (0.5) / EL (0.5)
44	Morgan, Becca	8/25/2015	486398	10	3	4	Public School Nurse (PreK-12)	2026	School Nurse
45	Cosgrove, Stephanie	8/25/2015	486663	10	3	4	Science (5-8) Chemistry (9-12)	2026 2026	HS Science
46	Kaufman, Abbey	1/2/2016	491479	9	11	4	Social Studies (5-12)	2027	MS Social Studies
47	Anderson, Mali	1/11/2016	479545	9	11	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2027	ES Kindergarten
48	Gunderson, Sarah	8/22/2016	408072	9	3	4	Visual Arts (K-12)	2030	MS Art
49	Olivarius, Hannah	8/22/2016	490995	9	3	4	Science (5-8) Life Science (9-12)	2027 2027	MS Science
50	Probst, Alexandra	8/22/2016	493290	9	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6)	2028	ES Grade 1
51	Vasseei, Alex	8/22/2016	495419	9	3	4	Math (5-12)	2027	HS Math
52	Schnettler, Lanava	12/19/2016	498571	8	11	4	Academic & Behavior Strategist (K-12)	2028	MS Special Education
53	Wawrzaszek, Madison	5/21/2017	501271	8	6	4	Learning Disabilities (K-12) Developmental Disabilities (K-12) Emotional Behavior Disorders (K-12)	2028 2028 2028	HS Special Education
54	Folger, Katie	8/24/2017	404801	8	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Communication Arts / Literature (5-8)	2028 2028	ES Grade 1
55	Oeding, Brenda	9/18/2017	485882	8	2	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2027	ES Kindergarten
56	Tensen, Cara	9/18/2017	491213	8	2	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Early Childhood Education (B-Grade 3)	2027 2027	ES Grade 1
57	Laidly, Suzanne	9/18/2017	496681	8	2	4	Elementary Education (1-6)	2028	ES Grade 1
58	Udalla, Janee	2/1/2018	466871	7	10	4	Communication Arts / Literature (5-12) Reading	2028 2028	MS English
59	Schneider, Corissa	8/21/2018	415346	7	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6) Autism Spectrum Disorders (K-12) Developmental Disabilities (K-12) Communication Arts / Literature (5-8)	2030 2030 2030 2030	TOSA SpEd Assessment

60	Bauer, Britta (on leave)	8/21/2018	473372	7	3	4	Instrumental and Classroom Music (K-12)	2029	MS Band
61	Beattie, Amber	8/21/2018	501261	7	3	4	Communication Arts / Literature (5-12)	2028	MS ADSIS Reading
62	Zastoupil, Calli	8/21/2018	505483	7	3	4	Spanish (5-12)	2028	HS Spanish
63	Von Kaenel, Robert	6/17/2019	427849	6	5	4	Communication Arts / Literature (5-12)	2027	HS English
64	Gruber, Kaytlyn	6/17/2019	500854	6	5	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2028	ES Kindergarten
65	Korzendorfer, Cassandra	7/8/2019	424447	6	5	4	Communication Arts / Literature (5-12)	2026	MS English
66	Bird, Krista	8/19/2019	424909	6	3	4	Communication Arts / Literature (5-8) Elementary Education (K-6) EL (K-12)	2026 2026 2026	ES / MS ELL
67	Bloom, Samantha	1/16/2020	1004868	5	10	4	School Counselor (K-12)	2028	HS Counselor
68	Penick, Kacie	8/28/2020	441129	5	3	4	ECSPed (B-Age 6), ECE (B-Grade 3)	2029	ECSE
69	Carlson, Kerry	6/21/2021	439815	4	5	4	Spanish (K-12)	2029	MS Spanish/CCP/AVID
70	Desmarais-H, Jennifer	9/20/2021	350885	4	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2027	HS Media Specialist (0.5) HS Avid (34)
71	Kenady, Andrew	9/20/2021	486325	4	2	4	Communication Arts/Literature (5-12)	2028	HS English
72	Ellie Engstrom	2/15/2022	1015407	3	10	4	School Counselor (K-12)	2030	HS/MS Counselor
73	Allison Leistico	2/16/2022	1015638	3	9	4	School Counselor (K-12)	2030	ES Counselor
74	Katherine Reynolds	8/16/2020	1018055	3	6	4	School Counselor (K-12)	2030	ES Counselor
75	Bratsch, Derek	7/1/2022	501036	3	5	4	Mathematics (5-12)	2028	HS Math
76	Budde, Abbielyn	7/15/2022	517026	3	5	4	Science (5-8) Life Science (9-12)	2028 2028	MS Science
77	Veldhuizen, Abbey	8/16/2022	433223	3	3	4	Speech-Language Pathologist (PreK-12)	2030	District Speech/Patho
78	Rickart, Aaron	8/16/2022	513911	3	3	4	Physical Ed (K-12), Health (5-12), DAPE (PreK-12)	2030	Elem PE/DAPE
79	Reeves, Alyson	8/16/2022	1016909	3	3	4	Early Childhood Education (B-Grade 3)	2030	MS Special Education

80	Stall, Allyson	8/16/2022	1017222	3	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2030	ES Grade 3
81	Miller, Kelly	10/27/2007	1016265	3	3	4	Social Studies (5-12)	2030	MS Social Studies
82	Seabright, Lindsey	06/06/2022	1016695	3	2	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2030	ES Kindergarten
83	Sindelar, Erin	4/12/2023	453851	2	8	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2026	Student Support Spec.
							Science (5-8)	2026	
84	Douglas, Suzanne	5/12/2023	510031	2	7	3	Learning Disabilities (K-6)	2026	ES Special Education
85	Sitala-Habib, Brenna	6/20/2023	502326	2	5	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2028	ES Grade 4
86	Thell, Elizabeth	06/21/2023	1003968	2	5	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2028	ES Grade 4
87	Schoeller, Elizabeth	7/17/2023	472121	2	4	4	Science (5-8)	2028	HS Science
							Life Science (9-12)	2028	
							Chemistry (9-12)	2028	
88	Beard, Emily	7/18/2023	472322	2	4	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2029	ES Grade 2
89	George, Anne	8/21/2023	442064	2	3	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2029	ES Grade 4
							Communication Arts/Literature (5-8)	2029	
90	Schlin-Goneau, Brenda	8/22/2023	292674	2	3	4	Elementary Education (1-6)	2026	HS Special Education
							Emotional Behavior Disorders (K-12)	2026	
							Learning Disabilities (K-12)	2026	
							Autism Spectrum Disorders (K-12)	2026	
							Mild to Moderate Mentally HDPC (K-12)		
91	Andring, Christina	11/20/2023	389768	2		4	Mild to Moderate Mentally HDPC (K-12)	2030	District Special Education
							Teacher Coordinator WBL (9-12)	2030	
92	Nelson, Stephen	04/08/24	471130	1	8	4	Academic & Behavior Strategist (K-12)	2029	HS Special Education
							Life Science (9-12)	2029	
93	LeAnn Marudas	11/04/2024	422324	1	1	4	Elementary Education (K-6)	2029	ES Title English
							Age 3 - PreK	2029	

● **Principal Seniority:**

Number	Name	First Day	File Folder	Tier/Scope	Current Valid Licensure	Expiration	General Assignment
1	Nyhus, Brenda	7/10/2006	367945	4	Vocal & Classroom Music	2029	Elementary Principal
				Prof Admin	Principal K-12		
2	Menard, Paul	1/27/2020	422891	4	Communication Arts/Lit 5-12	2026	High School Principal
				Prof Admin	Principal K-12		
3	Warzecha, Paul	7/1/2022	436203	4	Mathematics (5-8)	2027	Middle School Principal
				4	Elementary Education K-6		
				Prof Admin	Principal K-12		

● **EC Teacher Seniority:**

Number	Name	First Day	File Folder	Yrs - Rockford as of December 2025	Months	Tier	Current Valid Licensure	Expiration	General Assignment
1	Deann Denise Lommel	8/25/2015	361902	10	3	4	ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (K-6) PRE-KINDERGARTEN	2025 2025	School Readiness/PreSchool
2	Bethann Joy Brooks	8/25/2015	371516	10	3	4	PRE-KINDERGARTEN PARENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION	2026 2026	School Readiness/PreSchool
3	Jessica Marie Koch	3/16/2021	446342	4	9	4	LIFE SCIENCES (9-12) PARENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION	2027 2027	ECFE Parent Educator
4	Lori Vigasaa	10/14/2021	395787	4	3	4	EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (8-Age 6)	2027	ECFE/ECSE Teacher
	Non-Continuing								
5	Jessica Attleson	8/5/2025	NA		4	NA	NA	NA	School Readiness/PreSchool
6	Joy Johnson	10/14/2025	NA		1	NA	NA	NA	School Readiness/PreSchool

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **December 2025 Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.
- **REAMS Rocket Spotlight:** First grade teacher Alex Probst was presented the rocket spotlight award.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

- **REAMS Celebration:** The board heard from students participating in Letter Leaders and Math Masters on their experience.
- **REAMS Principal Report:** Principal Nyhus presented to the board on her buildings goals and other things going on at REAMS

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

- **Resolution for Reduction in Programs and Positions:** The board was presented the Resolution for Reduction for approval.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE.

- WHEREAS, the financial condition of the school district dictates that the school board must reduce expenditures immediately, and
- WHEREAS, this reduction in expenditure must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and
- WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contracts must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District #883, as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of program or positions to effectuate economies in the school district and reduce expenditures, make recommendations to the school board for the discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of position and curtailment of positions.

Hillstrom motioned, seconded by Praska, to approve the resolution Directing the Administration to Make Recommendations for Reduction in Programs and Positions:

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.

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

- **Mid Year DOP Review:** Dr. Ridlehoover presented an update on the DOP
- **Policy Committee Review Final Read:** The board was presented with the following policies that were reviewed by the Policy Committee for approval. Policies 722, 731R, 801, 801 FORM, 805, 807, 301, 302, 303, 701.1, 701.2R, and 701.3R.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Sjodin to approve policies 722, 731R, 801, 801 FORM, 805, 807, 301, 302, 303, 701.1, 701.2R, and 701.3R as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

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

Sjodin motioned, seconded by Johnson, 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>
Anonymous Donations	\$102.00	Class of 2033 Deep Portage Donations
Give MN	\$90.00	Rockford High School Gift Fund
Heinzen-Ditter VFW Post 5903	\$500.00	RHS Band Fund
Box Tops	\$448.60	REAMS Gift Fund
Box Tops	\$575.10	RMS Gift Fund
Farmer's Union Foundation	\$1,500.00	RHS FFA Fund
National FFA Organization	\$500.00	RHS FFA Fund
NW Area Jaycees	\$1,000.00	RHS FFA Fund
Anonymous Donation	\$300.00	RHS Band/Choir Trip Fund

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:**
 - Finance Committee Meeting: Friday, February 13, 2026 at 8am virtually at meet.google.com/bej-vyuy-iyh
 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.

- **Closed Session:** Motion by Gordee seconded by Morgan to enter into closed session to discuss the mid-year Superintendent's review pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 13D.05. Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into closed session to discuss the mid-year Superintendent's review at 7:47 pm.

Gordee motioned to return to open session. Morgan seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to open session at 8:00 pm.

- **Board Committee Updates:**
 - Johnson - MAWSECO meetings, MSBA Conference, Board Prep Call, District Holiday Gathering, AMSD Meeting, MSBA Board Chair meetings, Calendar committee Meeting.
 - Gordee - MSBA Conference, Board Prep Call, Board Chair Chat, AMSD Meeting, NorthWest Suburban meetings, NorthWest Suburban employee review.
 - Morgan - MSBA Conference
 - Hillstrom - Coffee and Conversation, MSBA Conference, Calendar committee meeting.
 - Praska - None
 - Sjodin - None

Hillstrom motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. & Gordee seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Courtney Neibert
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*