



Independent School District #883

Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, April 21, 2025

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025 in the District Board Room. Chair Gordee called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members Gordee, Johnson, Morgan, Hillstrom, Praska and Sjodin were present. Also present were Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover, REAMS Principal Brenda Nyhus, Director of Business Operations Mike McNulty, Learning and Innovation Specialist Kathy Mattson, and Administrative Assistant Christa Larson.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 4H pulled until May work session. Motion by Hillstrom seconded by Sjodin to approve the agenda, with the removal of item 4H. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- **Minutes:**

March 12, 2025 Work Session

March 12, 2025 Regular Meeting

● **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
New Hire	Emily	Lewis	REAMS SpEd Paraprofessional	March 17, 2025
New Hire	Kenny	Sisombath	DO IT	April 21, 2025
New Hire	Elliot	Rysavy	RHS Language Arts	2025-2026
New Hire	Brett	Unrein	RMS Long Term Sub	April 7 - June 4, 2025
New Hire	Becky	Cronk	RHS Tech Ed/Ag	2025-2026
New Hire	Kilah	Kennedy	REAMS Art	2025-2026
New Hire	Elsa	Swanson	REAMS/RHS Music	2025-2026
New Hire	Bailey	Paulsen	REAMS SpEd Teacher	2025-2026
Renewal	Diane	VanOrsdol	REAMS Teacher	2025-2026
Leave	Cara	Tensen	REAMS 1st Grade	March 31 - June 5, 2025
Leave	Courtney	Neibert	DO Admin	April 1 - June 26, 2025
Leave	Shari	Coons	RMS Paraprofessional	April 30-June 11, 2025
Status Change	Lanaya	Schnettler	.65 FTE to 1.1 FTE RMS SpEd Teach	April 7 - June 5, 2025
Resignation	Meghan	Larson	REAMS/RHS Music/Choir	March 7, 2025
Resignation	Lana	Halldorson	REAMS SpEd Teacher	June 5, 2025
Resignation	Erika	Finanger	REAMS SpEd Teacher	June 5, 2025
Resignation	Nathan	Stanek	RMS SpEd Teacher	April 4, 2025
Resignation	Kaari	Binsfield	RMS Ag TEacher	June 5, 2025
Resignation	Byron	Vieau	DO Custodian	March 28, 2025
Resignation	James	Johnson	REAMS Custodian	April 18, 2025
Resignation	Ann	Steinle	REAMS 4 Grade	June 5, 2025

- **Bills and Wire Transfers:**

March 2025 Disbursements Paid (listings attached):

Fund 01 General Fund	\$546,597.26
Fund 01 Payroll	\$ 896,442.54
Fund 01 BankWest	\$ 200,855.38
Fund 02 Food Service	\$131,115.28
Fund 04 Community Services	\$ 19,465.13
Fund 04 CEd-BWest/KSBank	\$ 3,941.76 (x2)
Fund 06 Building Construction	\$ 8,700.00
Fund 07 Debt Redemption	\$ 0
Fund 21 Student Activities	\$ 7,049.30
Fund 45 OPEB Trust	\$ 0
Total All Funds	\$ 1,818,108.41

- **Open Enrollments:**

Resident Students Attending Other Schools

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
9	Osseo	279	9/3/2024	family move, want to stay at Osseo
8	Osseo	279	9/3/2024	online school through Osseo
11	Osseo	279	9/3/2024	online school through Osseo

Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford

Grade	Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
8	Anoka Hennepin	11	2/10/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
2	Anoka Hennepin	11	2/10/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
1	Osseo	279	3/3/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
7	Osseo	279	3/3/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
K	Buffalo	877	3/3/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
2	Buffalo	877	3/3/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
3	Buffalo	877	3/3/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
3	Osseo	279	2/27/2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--issues at previous school
6	Anoka Hennepin	11	3/31/2025	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
3	Robbinsdale	281	9/3/2024	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford
7	Robbinsdale	281	9/3/2024	family move, wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford

- **Deep Portage Field Trip:** The board was presented the RMS-CES Deep Portage trip for approval.
- **Band/Choir Trip:** The board was presented the RHS Band/Choir trip for approval.
- **FFA State Convention Trip:** The board was presented the FFA State Convention trip for approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **April 2025 Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

- **REAMS Celebration:** Student Soloists Mila Bidne, Reina Kaszubowski and Reyna Ndifon shared their experience in learning and recording the REAMS All School Song, "We Are Here." Charlotte Thornton was also a Student Soloist but was not able to attend the meeting.
- **REAMS Principals Report:** REAMS Principal Brenda Nyhus presented an update on building goals and school events from REAMS.

HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- **Literacy Curriculum Adoption Report:** Learning & Innovation Specialist Kathy Mattson, and REAMS teachers Alex Probst, McKenzie Gregory and Katie Folger presented on the proposed new literacy curriculum for board approval.

Motion by Praska seconded by Johnson to approve literacy curriculum as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

- **Resolution of Nonrenewal of Probationary Teacher:** Director of Business Operations, Mike McNulty presented the resolution of nonrenewal of a probationary teacher.

Gordee motioned, seconded by Sjodin, to approve the following resolution as presented:

WHEREAS, Krista Schroeder, presented accordingly on the meeting agenda is probationary teacher in Independent District No. 883.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent District No. 883, that pursuant to Minn. Stat. 122A.40, subd. 5 and the District master agreement, the teaching contract of Krista Schroeder, probationary teacher in Independent District No. 883, shall be nonrenewed at the end of the 2024 - 2025 school year effective June 5, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that written notice be sent to Krista Schroeder regarding the nonrenewal of the teacher's teaching contract.

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

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

- **Operations Update:** Director of Business Operations, Mike McNulty, shared an HR and Facilities Projects update.

Motion by Johnson seconded by Morgan to approve summer facilities projects as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Student Fees–Activities:** Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover shared information regarding Student Activity Fees. No change is proposed for the 2025-26 school year.

Motion by Sjodin seconded by Hillstrom to approve student fees as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

- **Handbooks 1st Reading:** The board was presented with the following handbooks for a first reading: RAS Parent & Student, RAS Staff, Galaxy Kids Staff, Galaxy Kids Parent, Early Childhood Staff, Launching Pad Preschool Parent, RAS Board, 1:1 District Issued Device, and Volunteer.
- **Fund Balance Policies Final Read:** The board was presented with the following policy updates; final reading of Policies 701.2 R and 714.

Motion by Johnson seconded by Praska to approve policies 701.2 R and 714 as presented. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Gordee, Johnson, Morgan, Hillstrom, Praska and Sjodin. And the following voted against: None. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

- **Crows Agreement:** Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover shared an update regarding a rental agreement with the Rockford Crows. This agreement extends conditions and clarifies facility use and special considerations.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Hillstrom to approve the rental agreement with the Rockford Crows as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Johnson 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.

Donor	Amount	Fund
Music Partners/Rocket Boosters	\$827.40 donation for Bass Clarinets	Band Activity Fund
Anonymous Donations	\$109.00 for Band/Choir Trip	Band Activity Fund
Kevin & Michelle Hunter	\$250 for DECA Nationals	DECA Activity Fund
Anne Mueller	\$250 for DECA Nationals	DECA Activity Fund
Michael & Lisa Feyen	\$250 for DECA Nationals	DECA Activity Fund
Carol & Tony Jensen	\$250 for DECA Nationals	DECA Activity Fund
John Peterson & Caroline Young	\$250 for DECA Nationals	DECA Activity Fund
Grant & Anna Thelen	\$250 for DECA Nationals	DECA Activity Fund
Anonymous Donations	\$347.00 banquet donations	RHS FFA Activity Fund
Shannon Mattson	RAS Donation: pens, pencils, highlighters & stickers	General Fund Donation
In Memory of Don & Marilyn Olson	Notebooks	General Fund Donation
MN Blaze Track & Field Club	track	Track Activity Fund
Steven & Christine Derner	\$750 donation to RHS In Memory of Jen Derner	RHS Gift Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	Nationals)	DECA Activity Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$617.50	General Fund Donation (REAMS Kindergarten Children's Museum Fieldtrip)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$236.71	General Fund Donation (Cards & Games for RMS Lunchroom)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$350.70	General Fund Donation (RMS Coffee Cart supplies)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$1,232.80	General Fund Donation (RMS Flex Farm supplies)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$600.00	General Fund Donation (RHS Come From Away Theater tickets)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$2,036.77	General Fund Donation (ovens & cords for RHS Food Science Room)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$1,384.43	General Fund Donation (RMS 2 tanks for Trout in the Classroom)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$419.50	General Fund Donation (RHS Storage for Dresses & Mirrors for Rockee's Closet)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$164.26	General Fund Donation (RHS Storage Bins for Rockee's Closet)
Jeanne Popp	RAS Donation: 4 large boxes of paper & labels	General Fund Donation
Kal Davis & Family	REAMS Donation: Dry Erase pockets, dot markers and expo	General Fund Donation
Olivia Dexter & Family	REAMS Donation: Classroom set of white boards, book, sensory strips	General Fund Donation
Dumont Family	REAMS Donation: "Kindness Starts With You" Book and Social Skills	General Fund Donation
Walton Family	REAMS Donation: 3 Social/Emotional Learning books	General Fund Donation
Bohjanen Family	RMS-CES Donation: 30 count computer mice	General Fund Donation
Lewis Family	RMS-CES Donation: Markers	General Fund Donation
Folger Family	RMS-CES Donation: Composition Notebooks	General Fund Donation
Langemak Family	RMS-CES Donation: Colored Pencils	General Fund Donation
Marina Noles-Lyric & Family	REAMS Donation: Labels, Painters Tape, Packing Tape, Post-its &	General Fund Donation
Dylan Dexter & Family	REAMS Donation: Press Here Game, Messy Project Pads, pom pom beads, Ricrack Ribbon, 4 pks Crayola	General Fund Donation
Trey Jones & Family	REAMS Donation: Terracotta Pots	General Fund Donation
Anas Akinbola & Family	REAMS Donation: 12 count Elmer's Glue Bottles	General Fund Donation
Lewis Family	REAMS Donation: Classic Lego Set	General Fund Donation
Conner Miller & Family	REAMS Donation: Learning Locks w. Keys Number Matching	General Fund Donation
Ariella Bahr & Family	REAMS Donation: Sticker Rewards	General Fund Donation
Danny Folger & Family	RMS-CES Donation: Book "Who Would Win? Patrick Mahomes or Peyton Manning"	General Fund Donation
Lincoln & Porter Lewis & Family	RMS-CES Donation: Book "Who Would Win? Sidney Crosby or	General Fund Donation
Ian Anderson & Family	RMS-CES Donation: Book "Who Would Win? MJ or LeBron James"	General Fund Donation

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

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

- **Upcoming Meetings:**

- EOY Award Selection Committee Meeting: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 2:00pm in the District Office Conference Room.
- NHS Induction & Senior Awards: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 6pm in the RHS Auditorium.
- Board of Education Work Session: Monday, May 19, 2025 at 5:30pm in the District Office Board Room.
- Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Monday, May 19, 2025 at 6:30pm 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 8:07 pm.*

Johnson motioned to return to open session. Gordee seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to open session at 8:46 pm.

- **Board Committee Updates:**

- Gordee - MSBA Board Chair Chats, AMSD Meeting, Finance Committee
- Johnson - Board Prep and numerous MAWSECO Meetings
- Morgan - Finance Committee, meeting with Ehlers Finance Advisors
- Praska - NWSISD Meeting
- Hillstrom - Communications Committee, SAFF meeting
- Sjodin - Finance Committee, Communications Committee

Gordee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Sjodin seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

*Christa Larson
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*