



Independent School District #883

Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2026 in the District Board Room. Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members Johnson, Gordee, Morgan, Hillstrom, Praska, and Sjodin were present. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover, RMS-CES Principal Paul Warzecha, Magnet Coordinator Jill Gordee, Learning and Innovations Specialist Kathy Mattson, Robotics Coach Holly Kimbal, CFO Bridget Peterson, and Administrative Assistant Courtney Neibert.

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Hillstrom seconded by Gordee to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- **Minutes:**
 - April 20, 2026 Work Session
 - April 20, 2026 Regular Meeting

- **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
Non-Renewal	Eleanor	Marti	RMS MATH Teacher	June 5, 2026
Lane Change	Elizabeth	Thell	BA Step 6 to BA+10 Step 6	May 15, 2026
Lane Change	Josh	Westgaard	BA Step 8 to BA+10 Step 8	May 15, 2026
New Hire	Katrina	Davis	REAMS Kindergarten	2026-2027
New Hire	Samuel	Kleinwolterink	REAMS Phy Ed	2026-2027
New Hire	Abbie	Schlueter	RHS-LTS	May - June 2026
New Hire	Joseph	Kley	Athletic Dir	July 1, 2026
New Hire	Jackson	Angell	Custodian	May 2026
Resignation	John	Jorgensen	RHS-Custodian	April 23, 2026
Resignation	Jenifer	Milton	Volleyball Head Coach	April 22, 2026
Resignation	Daniel	Hamm	JV Boys Soccer	May 1, 2026
Resignation	Joe	Roelofs	MS Football Coach	May 1, 2026
Resignation	Bryan	Sandoval Vargas	Boy's Soccer	May 1, 2026
Resignation	Lindsey	Seabright	Dance Coach	May 1, 2026
Resignation	Ben	Pennings	MS Football Coach	May 1, 2026
Resignation	Holly	Kimball	Robotics Coach	June 1, 2026
Resignation	Britta	Bauer	MS Band	not returning from Leave

- ***Bills and Wire Transfers:***

April 2026 Disbursements Paid (listings attached):

Fund 01 General Fund	\$ 489,832.77
Fund 01 Payroll	\$
Fund 01 BankWest	\$
Fund 02 Food Service	\$ 103,270.80
Fund 04 Community Services	\$ 22,935.99
Fund 04 CEd-BWest/KSBank	\$
Fund 06 Building Construction	\$
Fund 07 Debt Redemption	\$
Fund 21 Student Activities	\$ 2,243.50
Fund 45 OPEB Trust	\$
 Total All Funds	 \$ 618,283.06

- **Open Enrollments:**

Resident Students Attending Other Schools

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
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Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford

Grade	Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
11	Anoka-Hennepin	11	4.27.2026	family move--wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford Schools
4	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	4.28.2026	family move--wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford Schools
8	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	4.28.2026	family move--wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford Schools
5	Anoka-Hennepin	11	5.1.2026	family move--wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford Schools
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9.2.2025	NEW ENROLLMENT--older siblings also attend Rockford Schools
11	Osseo	279	5.11.2026	family move--wants to stay enrolled @ Rockford Schools

- **Handbook Final Reading:** The board was presented the following handbooks for approval. RAS Parent & Student, RAS Staff, Galaxy Kids Staff, Galaxy Kids Parents, Early Childhood Staff, Launching Pad Preschool Parent, RAS Board, 1:1 District Issued Device, Volunteer, Paraprofessional, and AWAIR Plan.
- **Math Curriculum Adoption:** The board was asked to approve the adoption of a new math curriculum.
- **Cross Country Field Trip (Detroit Lakes):** The board was presented the Cross Country Field Trip to Detroit Lakes for approval.
- **Cross Country Field Trip (Rochester):** The board was presented the Cross Country Field Trip to Rochester for approval.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **May 2026 Superintendent’s Report:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH

- **RMS-CES Celebration:** The board celebrated the 8th Grade Envirothon team.
- **RMS-CES Rocket Spotlight:** Principal Paul Warzecha presented the 2026 RMS-CES Rocket Spotlight award to recipient Stacy Kleist.
- **RMS-CES Principal Report:** Principal Warzecha presented to the board an update on his buildings goals and other things going on at RMS-CES.
- **Robotics Presentation:** Coach Holly Kimbal presented an update on the Robotics program.
- **Summer Programing:** Magnet Coordinator Jill Gordee presented an update on Summer Programing.
- **Resolution to Certify Listing of Graduates:** The board was presented with the resolution certifying the listing of graduates for approval.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 883, Authorizes Rockford High School Principal, Paul Menard, to grant high school diplomas on Friday, May 29, 2026 to all Rockford Area School District students that have met the State of Minnesota and Rockford Area School District graduation requirements.

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.

HEALTHY AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

- **Learning and Innovation Update:** Learning and Innovation Specialist Kathy Mattson presented an update on the Learning and Innovation department along with the Q-Comp Plan.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Praska to approve the Q-Comp Plan as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

- **Early Retirement Incentive Approval:** The board was presented the Early Retirement Incentive for approval.

Motion by Sjodin seconded by Hillstrom to approve the Early Retirement Incentive as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Resolution of Nonrenewal of Probationary Teachers:** Dr. Ridlehoover presented the resolution of nonrenewal of a probationary teaches.

Gordee motioned, seconded by Sjodin, to approve the following resolution as it relates to Eleanor Marti as presented:

WHEREAS, *Eleanor Marti* , 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 *Eleanor Marti* , 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 *Eleanor Marti* 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

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

- **End of Year District Operational Plan:** Dr. Ridlehoover presented an End of Year update on the District Operational Plan.
- **Policy Committee Review Final Reading:** The board reviewed the following Policy Committee reviewed policies for approval: 702, 703, 704, 705, 705.1R, 706, 707R, and 707 attachment.

Motion by Hillstrom seconded by Praska to approve policies 702, 703, 704, 705, 705.1R, 706, 707R, and 707 attachment as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

- **MSBA Policy Updates Final Reading:** The board reviewed the following MSBA updated policies for approval: 211, 401, 404, 405, 406, 410, 418, 420, 427, 503, 515, 520, 530, 615, 613, 616, 618, 619, 620R, 701, 807, and 731R.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Hillstrom to approve policies 211, 401, 404, 405, 406, 410, 418, 420, 427, 503, 515, 520, 530, 615, 613, 616, 618, 619, 620R, 701, 807, and 731R attachment as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

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

Sjodin 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>Donor</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Fund</i>
Rocket Boosters	\$665.00	Band/Choir Trip Fund
MN Blaze Track & Field Club	\$250.00	Track Activity Fund
Jacob Praska	2 Mexikid Books	General Fund Donation (RMS)
Box Tops	\$100.70	REAMS Gift Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$4,871.08	General Fund Donation--REAMS The Fidget Game Bundle, 1st Grade Stages Theatre Fieldtrip, and RHS Supplies for Craftsmanship Pathway
Rockford Education Foundation	\$164.73	General Fund Donation--RHS Scholastic Subscription
Rockford Education Foundation	\$647.39	General Fund Donation--RHS Supplies for IB Testing, and REAMS Final payment for Kindergarten MN Children's Museum Fieldtrip
Rockford Education Foundation	\$1,363.10	General Fund Donation--REAMS Kindergarten Artist in Residency
Rockford Education Foundation	\$517.22	General Fund Donation--RHS Bench Grinders, Cake Pans, and oven mitts for RHS Craftsmanship Pathway, and RHS Community Project Supplies for MCA Testing
Rockford Education Foundation	\$4,965.00	General Fund Donation--Raptor Experience for RMS STEM Showcase, REAMS Stages Theatre Fieldtrip for 3rd grade, REAMS Ordway Field Trip for 4th grade, REAMS Artist in Residency for 1st grade)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$2,637.50	General Fund Donation--RMS Sensory Safe Spot for STEM Showcase, REAMS All School Song Final Payment, RAS SPED DAPE Extravaganza Medals
Wright Hennepin Electric Cooperative	\$1,500.00	RHS FFA Fund
Rebecca Slininger	\$20.00	RHS FFA Fund
Jessica Lappe	\$50.00	RHS FFA Fund
Rocket Boosters	RHS Donation: 3 Rockford Blankets (valued at \$35 each) to graduating foreign exchange students	General Fund Donation (RHS)

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

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Gordee seconded by Johnson to amend the agenda to add item 10D Closed session for negotiations. Motion passed unanimously.

● **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Graduation: Friday, May 29, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the Rockford Community Center.
- End of Year Celebration: Friday, June 5, 2026 at 7:00 am in the RHS Commons.
- Finance Committee Meeting: Friday, June 12, 2026 at 8:15 am virtually at Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ora-nmax-yib> Or dial: ?(US) +1 240-356-1627? PIN: ?627 579 192?#
- Board of Education Work Session: Monday, June 15, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.

- **Board Committee Updates:**
 - Johnson - MAWSECO Meeting, Board Prep Call, Facilities Committee Meeting, Superintendent Evaluation Meeting, Senior Awards, DAPE Extravaganza.
 - Gordee - NorthWest Suburban meeting, Board Prep Call, STEM Showcase, Superintendent Evaluation Meeting.
 - Morgan - Facilities Committee Meeting, Senior Awards, STEM Showcase.
 - Hillstrom - SAFF meeting, Curriculum advisory, STEM Showcase, Arts & Academics showcase, Awards Selection Meeting, Finance Committee, Chamber Luncheon, Senior Awards.
 - Praska - Curriculum advisory meeting, Senior Awards.
 - Sjodin - None.

- ***Closed Session–Negotiations:***

Motion by Gordee seconded by Hillstrom 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 8:16 p.m.

Gordee motioned to return to open session. Morgan seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to open session at 8:41 p.m.

Gordee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. & Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Courtney Neibert
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*