



ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION

A Tradition of Excellence, One Student at a Time

Agenda for January 5, 2026

5:30 PM

District Board Room

6051 Ash Street

Rockford, MN 55373

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Board Roll Call
2. **CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE & SCHOOL BOARD OPERATING NORMS** **3**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD** **4**
 - A. Chair
 - B. Vice-Chair
 - C. Clerk
 - D. Treasurer
5. **COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**
 - A. Renewal of Memberships 6
 - B. Board Committee Assignments 8
6. **EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS**
 - A. Delegate Statutory Duties of Clerk to Administrative Staff 13
 - B. Delegate Statutory Duties of Treasurer to the CFO. 14
 - C. Authorize CFO or Superintendent to Make Deposits, Pay Expenses, Invest and Transfer Funds in the Best Interest of the District 15
 - D. Authorize the Use of Facsimile Signature on Payroll and Voucher Checks 16
 - E. Set Compensation for the Board Members 17
 - F. Designate Time and Place of Meetings 22
 - G. Designate Official Media Outlet 25
 - H. Designate Official Depositories 27
 - I. Designate Official Legal Counsel 28
7. **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - A. Board of Education Work Session: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
8. **ADJOURNMENT**



ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Our Mission: *In partnership with our communities and families, Rockford Area Schools provides challenging opportunities to engage, inspire, and educate globally-minded citizens.*

Our Vision: *Rockford Area Schools provides a supportive, rigorous, and relevant learning culture producing courageous learners prepared to enter a global society.*

Rockford Board of Education

Eric Gordee	Jessica Johnson
Jamie Hillstrom	Chris Morgan
Dr. Beth Praska	Kevin Sjodin
Superintendent Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover	



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Ceremonial Oath of Office & School Board Operating Norms

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE

It is an honor that you were elected to guide the education of our community's children. As you recite the oath of office, you assume a tremendous responsibility as a director of our school district with the duties empowered by the Minnesota Legislature. This power puts you and the other members of our school board in the position of being both morally and legally responsible for equitable, quality education of every student in the district.

In carrying out this responsibility, you will be asked to fulfill the roles of vision, structure, accountability, and advocacy. In providing vision, the board, with extensive participation of the community, envisions the community's educational future and then formulates the goals, defines the outcomes and sets the course for the public schools.

To achieve the vision, the board establishes a structure and creates an environment designed to ensure all students the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework.

Because as a board we must be accountable to the community, we must ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children.

As board members, we serve as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community schools to advance the vision for our schools.

Furthermore, we must strive to work together with the superintendent and staff to lead the district toward fulfilling the vision we have created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills and knowledge, citizenship and personal development.

Having previously signed the acceptance of office and oath of office, we hereby ask Board members to publicly affirm their commitment to the oath of office:

I affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this state, and that I will discharge faithfully the duties of the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 883 to the best of my judgment and ability.

Enclosed is Policy 209 Code of Ethics for your review.₃



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Election of Officers of the School Board

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: November 17, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

The board needs to elect a Chairperson, Vice Chair, Clerk and Treasurer. Each of these positions is for one year. The duties are (per Policy 202)

- **CHAIR**--The chair when present shall preside at all meetings of the school board, countersign all orders upon the treasurer for claims allowed by the school board, represent the school district in all actions and perform all duties a chair usually performs.

In case of absence, inability, or refusal of the clerk to draw orders for the payment of money authorized by a vote of the majority of the school board to be paid, the chair may draw the orders, or the office of the clerk may be declared vacant by the chair and treasurer and filled by appointment.

- **VICE CHAIR** -- The vice-chair shall perform the duties of the chair in the event of the chair's temporary absence.
- **CLERK**

1.The clerk shall keep a record of all meetings in the books provided.

2.Within three days after an election, the clerk shall notify all persons elected of their election.

3.On or before September 15 of each year, the clerk shall:

a.file with the school board a report of the revenues, expenditures and balances in each fund for the preceding fiscal year.

b.make and transmit to the commissioner certified reports, showing (1) condition and value of school property; (2) revenues and expenditures in detail, and such other financial information required by law, rule, or as may be called for by the commissioner; (3) length of school term and enrollment and attendance by grades; and (4) other items of information as called for by the commissioner.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

4. The clerk shall enter into the clerk's record book copies of all reports and of the teachers' term reports, and of the proceedings of any meeting, and keep an itemized account of all expenses of the school district.

5. The clerk shall furnish to the county auditor, on or before September 30, an attested copy of the clerk's record, showing the amount of money voted by the school district or the school board for school purposes.

6. The clerk shall draw and sign all orders upon the treasurer for the payment of money for bills allowed by the school board for salaries of officers and for teachers' wages and all claims, to be countersigned by the chair.

7. The clerk shall perform such duties as required by the Minnesota Election Law or other applicable laws relating to the conduct of elections.

8. The clerk shall perform the duties of the chair in the event of the chair's and the vice-chair's temporary absences.

● **TREASURER--**

1. The treasurer shall deposit the funds of the school district in the official depository.

2. The treasurer shall make all reports which may be called for by the school board and perform all duties a treasurer usually performs.

3. In the event there are insufficient funds on hand to pay valid orders presented to the treasurer, the treasurer shall receive, endorse, and process the orders in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 123B.12.

(The persons who perform the duties of clerk and treasurer need not be members of the school board. The school board by resolution may delegate the duties of clerk and treasurer to persons in the administrative office.)



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Renewal of Memberships

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

Annual district memberships are renewed each fiscal year in July.

AMSD \$ TBD, member since 2015

- 46 K-12 school districts, 6 intermediate/educational cooperative districts. AMSD speaks with a unified voice to advocate for metropolitan school districts and their learners - One voice

CMERDC \$ TBD, member since 1981

- Provides cooperative services to public and private schools and school districts, higher education institutions, and other governmental units and agencies interested in the development of quality educational programs. Services include:
 - PK-12 Finance, Payroll, and HR Solutions
 - Cooperative Purchasing and Copiers
 - PK-12 Data Analytics
 - Strategic Planning Resources
 - PK-12 Special Education Tools and Resources
 - Digital Learning Resources
 - Custom Development and Data Integration

MN Rural Education Association (MREA) \$ TBD, member since 2014

- A lobbyist dedicated to the issues that matter to MREA members
- Keeping members informed of legislative action and how it affects the school districts
- Professional development and networking



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MN School Board Association \$ TBD, member for many decades (no record found on start date)

- As a leading advocate for public education, we support, promote, and strengthen the work of Minnesota school boards. MSBA provides workshops, resources, services, and connections designed to help boards save time, reduce expenses, govern efficiently, and stay inspired.

Resource Training and Solution \$ TBD, member since 1992

- Resource Training & Solutions provides services to school districts, cities, counties, governmental agencies, and nonprofits, as well as communities in central Minnesota. We train teachers, improve schools, inspire students, build safer communities, develop professionals, and ensure success. As a member of Resource you receive discounted rates on trainings, services, and products. The services include:
 - Cooperative Purchasing
 - Health & Safety Solutions
 - Insurance & Wellness Programing
 - Pre K-12 Education workshops, student programs, recognition events, and networking opportunities
 - Custom Training
 - Shared Services

Schools Advocating for Fair Funding (SAFF) \$ TBD, member since 1979
Formerly SEE

- SAFF Membership includes
 - Maintaining a constant presence at the Minnesota State Capitol lobbying on issues that impact SAFF districts.
 - Supporting professional development and networking with colleagues at SAFF meetings and events
 - Educating, engaging, and empowering a growing network of education advocates, including legislators, superintendents, school board members, school staff, parents, community members, and business leaders.
 - Providing understandable information and resources to support communication on issues that impact SAFF districts through the website, Brad's Blog, and weekly legislative updates.
 - Access to a community outreach liaison who stands ready to support community engagement in your district and with the legislature.

The Board is approving continued membership as they come up for renewal.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Board Committee Assignments

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

Please review the listing of board committees and attached description.

Please come to the meeting prepared to state a preference of which committee(s) you wish to serve on during 2026



2026 ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES

1. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**- Board Treasurer and two other board member serve on the committee and work with the Director of Business Operations and Superintendent
2. **POLICY COMMITTEE**- Three board members serve on this committee and work with the Superintendent and Executive Assistant.
3. **DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**- Board Chair, Treasurer, and one other board member serve on this committee and work with the Superintendent.
4. **NEGOTIATIONS** - The three board member committee works with the Human Resources Coordinator, Director of Business Operations and Superintendent.

SCHOOL BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEES

5. **FACILITIES COMMITTEE** - *Board Chair and another board member* serve on this committee with Director of Business Operations and Superintendent. Meets three times per year to review finance and business topics as well as buildings and grounds projects as needed.
6. **CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE** - Serve as Rockford board representative. The purpose of the committee is to promote professional growth of certified staff. It will also verify Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and requirements for clock hours for relicensure. Meets regularly as needed.
7. **CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE** - Serve as board representative on this advisory committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide community input for new initiatives and curriculum instruction. Committee plans to meet two to three times per year; meeting time and location TBD.



2026 ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

8. **COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD** - Serve as Rockford board representative on committee. The advisory board makes program recommendations to the school board. Meets quarterly, usually in the evening. This committee also includes the ECFE/School Readiness Advisory Committee. Committee meets four times a year as needed in the evening.
9. **COMMITTEE AT-LARGE** - Serve as Rockford board representative. The committee meets as needed to discuss items under study such as activities, technology, transportation, food service, student data support, referendum steering committee and other district needs.
10. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE** - This committee is comprised of three board appointees with the Board Chair serving in an advisory capacity. Meetings will occur as needed.

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

11. **MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (MSHSL)** - Serve as board representative to the Minnesota State High School League. Receives mailings and usually has state level meeting at MSBA Leadership Conference. For more information, go to www.mshsl.org
12. **CHAMBER COMMITTEE** - Serve as Rockford School District representative to the Rockford/Greenfield Chamber of Commerce. Meets on a regular bi-monthly basis during the day in Rockford. Only one member can attend the meetings.
13. **LEGISLATIVE/MSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY** - Serve as Rockford board legislative liaison for Area 20 with Minnesota School Board Association. May attend regional and state delegate assembly meetings. Delegate Assembly members are elected by mail ballot in summer of odd years for a two-year term. For more information, go to www.mnmsba.org.



2026 ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

14. **ASSOCIATION OF METRO SCHOOL DISTRICTS** - The Board Chair is the board representative to this organization, with the Vice-chair serving as alternate. They meet monthly on the first Friday of the month (August through May) starting at 7 am at the Quora Education Center. For more information, go to www.asmd.org.

15. **MEEKER & WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE (MAWSECO)** - Serve as Rockford representative on MAWSECO governing board. Usually meets monthly in the evening on fourth Tuesday at the MAWSECO building in Howard Lake. For more information, go to www.mawseco.k12.mn.us.

16. **NORTHWEST SUBURBAN INTEGRATION SCHOOL DISTRICT (NWSISD)** - Serve as Rockford board representative on the NWSISD Governing board. The board usually meets monthly in the evening on third Wednesday during school year at their district office in Brooklyn Park. For more information, go to www.nws.k12.mn.us.

17. **SCHOOLS FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION (SEE)** - Serve as board representative at General Membership meetings. Day meetings are usually held five to six times during the school year. For more information, go to www.schoolsforequity.org.

18. **MINNESOTA RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MREA)** - Board members would not need to be a designated district representative for/to MREA. The Board and district leadership would all be subscribed to their weekly e-newsletter, *Insider Briefing* (if they do not opt out). For more information, go to www.mreavoice.org. Board representatives may be designated to attend their annual conference in Brainerd in November. Also, as board members attend MSBA meetings, there may be other involvement with MREA as well.



2026

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEES		2025	2026
1	FINANCE COMMITTEE	Morgan	Morgan
		Gordee	Hillstrom
		Sjodin	Sjodin
2	POLICY COMMITTEE	Johnson	Gordee
		Hillstrom	Hillstrom
		Praska	Praska
3	DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE	Gordee	Gordee
		Morgan	Johnson
		Praska	Morgan
4	NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE	Johnson	Johnson
		Sjodin	Sjodin
		Hillstrom	Praska
SCHOOL BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEES		2025	2026
5	FACILITIES COMMITTEE	Gordee	Johnson
		Morgan	Morgan
6	CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE	Johnson	Sjodin
		Hillstrom	Hillstrom
7	CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE	Praska	Praska
		Gordee	Hillstrom
8	COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD	Morgan	Morgan
		Sjodin	Gordee
9	COMMITTEE AT-LARGE	Johnson	Johnson
		Hillstrom	Hillstrom
		Sjodin	Sjodin
10	COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE	Gordee	Gordee
		Hillstrom	Hillstrom
		Sjodin	Sjodin
SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE		2025	2026
11	MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE (MSHSL)	Sjodin	Sjodin
		Hillstrom	Hillstrom
12	CHAMBER COMMITTEE	Hillstrom	Hillstrom
		Sjodin	Gordee
13	LEGISLATIVE/MSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY	Hillstrom	Gordee
		Gordee	Hillstrom
14	ASSOCIATION OF METRO SCHOOL DISTRICTS	Gordee	Johnson
		Johnson	Gordee
15	MEEKER & WRIGHT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE (MAWSECO)	Johnson	Johnson
		Sjodin	Sjodin
16	NORTHWEST SUBURBAN INTEGRATION SCHOOL DISTRICT (NWSISD)	Gordee	Praska
		Praska	Morgan
17	SAFF	Hillstrom	Hillstrom
18	MREA REPRESENTATIVE	Praska	Praska



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Delegate Statutory Duties of Clerk to Administrative Staff

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

The Board needs to delegate the statutory duties of clerk to the administrative staff. This includes keeping the book of minutes of all district school board meetings, and preparation of reports that shall include the condition and value of school district property, receipts and disbursements in detail and such other financial matters that may be called for by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education. If the board agrees, action is needed.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Subject: Delegate Statutory Duties of Treasurer to the School District
CFO**

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

The Board needs to delegate the statutory duties of treasurer to the school district CFO. This includes depositing funds of the district in the official depository and preparing the monthly treasurer's report. If the board agrees, action is needed.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Subject: Resolution Authorizing CFO or Superintendent to Make Deposits,
Pay Expenses, Invest and Transfer Funds in the Best Interest of the District**

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

The board needs to pass a resolution authorizing the CFO or Superintendent to make deposits, pay expenses, invest and transfer funds (including electronic transfers) in the best interest of the district. This includes the authority to invest and wire funds issue checks between board meetings to pay bills so as to be eligible for discounts, deadlines, etc., with payment of same to be approved by the school board at the next meeting at which payments of claims approved. If the board agrees, action is needed.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Resolution Authorizing the Use of Facsimile Signature on Payroll and Voucher Checks

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

The board needs to pass a resolution authorizing the use of facsimile signatures on payroll and voucher checks in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Statutes 47.41 and 47.42. If the board agrees, action is needed.

2023 Minnesota Statutes

47.41 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS, FACSIMILE SIGNATURES, DISBURSEMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

Any public officer or other person who is authorized singly or in conjunction with another or others, to sign checks, drafts, warrants, warrant-checks, vouchers or other orders on public funds on deposit in a depository bank may authorize the bank to honor any such instrument bearing a facsimile of that person's signature and to charge the same to the account upon which drawn, as fully as though it bore a manually written signature. Instruments so honored shall be wholly operative and binding in favor of the bank although such facsimile signature shall have been affixed without authority of such officer or other person. Any one or more or all of the signatures upon any such instrument may be facsimile as herein provided. As here used "public funds" means funds of the state or of any county, city, town, school district, any political subdivision of the state, or of any commission, board, department or agency of any thereof.

47.42 FACSIMILE SIGNATURES. OFFICER NOT LIABLE.

If the governing body of the depositor political subdivision, or of any commission, board, department or agency thereof, by resolution approves the action of the public officer or other person in the use of such facsimile, and shall have insured the depositor with an insurance company authorized to do business in this state, in such amount and form as the governing body approves, against loss of any public funds withdrawn upon unauthorized use of such facsimile signature, such public officer or other person shall not be personally liable for loss, if any, resulting from the use of any such facsimile signature unless the loss occurs by reason of that person's own wrongful act.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Set Compensation for Board Members

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

State law allows the board to fix compensation for members (M.S. 123B.09, Subd. 12). Rockford Schools is proposing the attached compensation plan.

Subd. 12. Board to fix compensation. The clerk, treasurer, and superintendent of any district shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the board. Unless otherwise provided by law, the other members of the board shall also receive such compensation as may be fixed by the board. All members of the board may receive reimbursement for transportation at the rate provided for in section 471.665. No board member or school district employee shall receive any compensation or benefits based on incentives or other money provided to the school district by or from a source of group insurance coverage referenced in section 471.6161, subdivision 1, except for a refund provided under section 123B.75, subdivision 10, or a wellness plan that is mutually agreed upon by the district and the exclusive representatives of employees.

School Board Compensation 2026

OVERVIEW

Each year, as a Board and District, we have the opportunity and responsibility to evaluate the payment structure for Board related work and activities. On an annual basis, the school district needs to be able to budget appropriately in order to allocate funds. The current payment structure leverages a mix of payment vouchers, where board members are responsible for logging their time for work outside of regular governance meetings; and District recorded payments for governance meetings such as Regular, Work and Special Sessions. There is currently variation in how the payment vouchers are applied across the Board. The primary goals of this proposal are to simplify the process, provide clarity for when vouchers should be submitted and calibrate compensation commensurate for the work requested of the School Board.

HISTORY

At Rockford Areas Schools, board members are able to submit vouchers for meetings that occur outside of the formal governance meetings. This includes board approved committee appointments as well as ad hoc working meetings that occur between the District and Board. The challenge is that submission of vouchers for meetings outside of the formal governance slate of meetings is varied. In addition, vouchers have not universally been submitted in a timely manner or submitted at all. Furthermore, school board members have had the same compensation rate for at least the past six years.

DATA COLLECTION

Research was conducted on school board pay from schools in Wright County, school districts similar in size to Rockford Area Schools, and schools within the conference. Eighteen school districts were compared and analyzed. From the analysis, it is clear that there is variation across all Districts in how school boards are compensated. This variation ranges from stipends, to per meeting rates, to hourly compensation, to leadership stipends.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Required School Board Committees

New in accordance with Policy 213, there are four required school board committees.. Three of these governance related committees will have a more predictable level of responsibility, meeting schedule and requirements similar to our other governance related meetings. Therefore, we should consider a stipend payment model for participation in these committees (finance, policy and building and grounds). Furthermore, it is understood that the Negotiations Committee meeting schedule will vary by contract and calendar year; therefore, these members will be compensated for their time during active contract negotiations.

- FINANCE COMMITTEE - Board Chair, Treasurer and a Director serve on this committee and work with the Director of Finance and Operations and Superintendent.
- POLICY COMMITTEE – Vice Chair, Clerk and a Director serve on this committee and work with the Superintendent and Executive Assistant.
- DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE - Board Chair, Treasurer and another board member serve on this committee and work with the Director of Buildings and Grounds and the Superintendent.
- NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE - The three board member committee works with Director of Human Resources, Director of Finance and Operations and Superintendent.

Ad Hoc School Board Committees

There are thirteen ad hoc committees that vary in frequency of meetings. When adding up the number of meetings throughout the committees per year, there are a rough total of seventy-two meetings per year for the ad hoc school board committees, for which the District would budget \$7200 compensation to be distributed across the Board for attendance at ad hoc committee meetings. As described above, there is variation in the intensity, duration and responsibility associated with each of the committee appointments. Most meetings run from 1-2 hours; with the exception of the Delegate Assembly, which is a two day event, with one prep session, held once per year; and some committee meetings require work outside of committee in greater intensity than others.

1. All board members will receive a yearly stipend of \$3,000. This stipend covers all regular, work session and special session meetings called during the calendar year. In addition, this stipend covers any and all board member participation ceremonial, recognition and district related events.

2. The Board Chair will receive a stipend of \$500 to cover duties associated with chair responsibilities that occur outside of normal governance meetings. This is unchanged from past precedent.
3. The Board Vice Chair will receive a stipend of \$300 to cover duties associated with Vice Chair responsibilities that occur outside of normal governance meetings.
4. The Clerk will receive a stipend of \$300, this is new and is commensurate for additional roles and responsibilities associated with the clerkship. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: reviewing meeting minutes and preparing for the policy committee in partnership with District leadership.
5. The Treasurer will receive a stipend of \$300, this is new and is commensurate for additional roles and responsibilities associated with treasurer. Examples include: detailed review of treasurers report and budget on a regular basis with District Leadership, preliminary audit review prior to presentation to Finance Committee and Board, availability to the District to authorize funds transfer and other board delegated responsibilities.
6. Board members on the Finance, Policy and District Operations required board committees will receive a stipend of \$400 per required committee.
7. Board members on the negotiations committee will be compensated a monthly stipend of \$250 for when the contract is actively in negotiations. Compensation for the monthly stipend requires the board member to document meeting attendance at a minimum of one time that calendar month for an active negotiation session. This request will be logged monthly and paid out monthly.
8. All board members will receive \$50 per ad hoc committee meeting of 45 minutes or less. Members will receive \$100 for all meetings over 45 minutes to 4 hours, and \$125 for meetings over 4 hours. This request for payment will be logged monthly and paid out monthly.
9. Board members will be paid twice a year for all stipends (yearly stipend, leadership stipends, and membership on the three required Board committees of finance, building and grounds and policy).
10. Board members will have the opportunity to submit vouchers at \$50 for meetings 45 minutes or less, meetings over 45 minutes to 4 hours \$100 and for meetings over 4 hours \$125. This payment rate applies to any meeting not already described above where the District has requested active participation by a Board Member. This request will be logged monthly and paid out monthly. Additionally, we value and in many instances require participation in continuing education for Board Members. Participation in MSBA related training, inclusive of activities of annual conference and associated workshop offerings will be compensated at this rate.

11. During the years where the Board is actively engaged in Superintendent Search responsibilities, meetings that occur outside of the regularly scheduled meetings will be compensated at the standard meeting rates as described above in item 9. This includes, but is not limited to special sessions required for interview, community engagement and other best practices associated with comprehensive and thoughtful superintendent search and hiring activities.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Time and Place of Meetings

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

Currently the board meets in the District Office Board Room located in the Middle School on the third Monday of the month starting at 5:30 pm unless otherwise stated. Please note that the Board has already approved meeting dates through June 2026 at the May 2025 regular board meeting. The official posting place for school board meeting notices is in the bulletin board in the hallway next to the district office. If the board agrees, action is needed to approve the meeting dates as listed below, location as well as the meeting posting place. In May of 2026 the board will establish the schedule for the 2026-2027 school year.

2025

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| July 21, 2025 | Work Session - 5:30 p.m. |
| July 21, 2025 | Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m. |
| August 4, 2025 | Work Session - 5:30 p.m. |
| August 18, 2025 | Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m. |
| September 15, 2025 | Work Session - 5:30 p.m. |
| September 15, 2025 | Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m. |
| October 6, 2025 | Work Session - 5:30 p.m. |
| October 20, 2025 | Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m. |
| November 24, 2025 | Work Session - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MREA summit</i>) |
| November 24, 2025 | Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MREA summit</i>) |
| December 1, 2025 | Work Session - 5:30 p.m. |
| December 15, 2025 | Regular Meeting (Truth in Taxation Hearing) - 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. |



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

2026

January 5, 2026	Organizational Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
January 21, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MLK Jr. Day</i>)
January 21, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
February 2, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
February 18, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to President's Day</i>)
March 16, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
March 16, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
April 6, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
April 20, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
May 18, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
May 18, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
June 15, 2026	Work Session - 5:00 p.m. - Superintendent Evaluation
June 15, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.



SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

2026

July 20, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
July 20, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
August 3, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
August 17, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
September 14, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
September 14, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
October 5, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
October 19, 2026	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
November 23, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MREA summit</i>)
November 23, 2026	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MREA summit</i>)
December 7, 2026	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
December 21, 2026	Regular Meeting (Truth in Taxation Hearing) - 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

2027

January 4, 2027	Organizational Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
January 20, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to MLK Jr. Day</i>)
January 20, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
February 1, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
February 17, 2027	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m. (<i>moved due to President's Day</i>)
March 15, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
March 15, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
April 5, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
April 19, 2027	Regular Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
May 17, 2027	Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
May 17, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
June 14, 2027	Work Session - 5:00 p.m. - Superintendent Evaluation
June 14, 2027	Regular Meeting - 6:30 p.m.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Designate Official Media Outlet

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

School districts are required by law to publish their meeting proceedings and many notices in their official newspaper. Wright County Journal Press sent us a letter stating that they wish to serve as our legal newspaper for the year 2026.

The rates are at \$7.95 per inch

The Board needs to designate an official newspaper.

Wright County Journal-Press

Thomas McDonnell, Publisher

P.O. Box 159

108 Central Avenue

Buffalo, Minnesota 55313-0159

Telephone (763) 682-1221
FAX (763) 682-5458

e-mail: ads@thedrummer.com
web site: www.thedrummer.com

December 16, 2025

Rockford Area Schools
6051 Ash Street
Rockford MN 55373

Dear School Board Members:

Please accept the following bid from the **Wright County Journal Press** for legal newspaper designation for Rockford Area Schools. This newspaper is qualified by the State of Minnesota as a legal newspaper under Minnesota Statutes Section 331A.02, Subd. 1.

The following rate quoted for Rockford Area Schools legal notices is effective January 1, 2026.

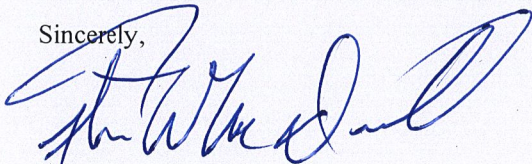
\$7.95 per column inch

A notarized affidavit will be provided for each notice published. All published legal notices are posted on the Wright County Journal Press website at no additional charge.

The **Wright County Journal Press** is published weekly on Thursday. The deadline is 10 a.m. Tuesday for publication on Thursday. If you would like a quote on a previously printed legal notice, please email your request to legals@thedrummer.com in a Word format.

Thank you for considering the **Wright County Journal Press** to be your legal newspaper.

Sincerely,



Tom McDonnell
Wright County Journal Press Inc.
Owner
763-682-1221



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Designate Official Depositories

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

The official depositories have been the following since 2016--

- Bank West, Rockford
- PMA Securities, Inc.
- Associated Bank

If the board agrees, action is needed.



**ROCKFORD AREA SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 883
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Subject: Designate Official Legal Counsel

Meeting Date: January 5, 2026

Prepared by: Superintendent's Office

Date Prepared: December 22, 2025

Information Briefing Action Enclosure Item(s)

The board needs to designate official legal counsel for the school district with an option to seek advice outside of the area in times of litigation. It is recommended to have firms:

- Kennedy & Graven
- Ratwik, Roszak and Maloney P.A.
- Squires, Waldspurger & Mace, P.A

as official legal counsels. Persons authorized to contact legal counsel include the Board Chair, and the Superintendent. If the board agrees, action is needed.