



Independent School District #883

Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice, the Rockford Board of Education met in a Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, July 20, 2026 in the District Board Room. Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members Johnson, Gordee, Hillstrom, Praska, and Sjodin were present. Also present was Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover, CFO Bridget Peterson, Director of Community Education Melissa Joseph, Director of Technology Jeff Kienitz, and Administrative Assistant Courtney Neibert. Member Morgan attended virtually

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. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Sjodin, seconded by Gordee to approve the consent items. 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.

- **Minutes:**

June 15, 2026 Work Session

June 15, 2026 Regular Meeting

- **Personnel:**

Status	First Name	Last Name	Position	Date(s)
Termination	Krissa	Baillargeon	RHS Custodian	June 18, 2023
Resignation	Gavin	Lenzen	REAMS Custodian	July 28, 2026
Resignation	Taria	Heinen	PMS/RHS SLP Teacher	June 5, 2026
New Hire	Patrick	Andry	RCC Rocket Power	June 8, 2026
New Hire	Kylan	Vigesaa	Summer Custodian	June 29, 2026
New Hire	Theo	Nyerkeh	RCC Front Desk	July 16, 2026

- **Approval of Disbursements:**

CHECKRUNS

FUND	DESCRIPTION	June 01- June 30, 2026
1	GENERAL	\$ 416,428.33
2	FOOD SERVICE	207,229.49
4	COMMUNITY EDUCATION	23,789.54
6	BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	-
7	DEBT SERVICE	-
21	STUDENT ACTIVITIES	4,290.58
	TOTAL	\$ 651,737.94

PAYROLL

June 2026

Payroll Wires	6/15/2026	
Net Pay		\$ 424,963.51
Taxes		168,812.22
Benefits		155,134.89
Payroll Wires	6/30/2026	\$ 510,813.15
Net Pay		603,776.65
Taxes		297,771.76
Benefits		183,226.21

- **Open Enrollments:**

Resident Students Attending Other Schools

Grade	Non-Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
1	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Family move, want to stay enrolled at Delano
9	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Family move, want to stay enrolled at Delano
K	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Moving to Delano, parents are Delano graduates
K	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Family move, want to stay enrolled at Delano
K	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Love the community of Delano; heard good things about schools
K	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Prefer the district's programs and teaching curriculum
6	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Desire to attend school with cousins; previously nonpublic
10	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Desire to attend school with cousins; previously nonpublic
K	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Older siblings attend Delano Schools
8	Delano	879	9/1/2026	Attend nonpublic in Delano; want to transfer a year before HS

Non-Resident Students Attending Rockford

Grade	Resident District	Number	Date Effective	Address Change/New Enrollment
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--Mom prefers Rockford Schools
K	Princeton	477	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--Mother works in Rockford and daycare is in Rockford
K	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted	2687	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--Mother works for Rockford Schools and older sibling attends Rockford
6	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--sibling attends Rockford
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--Central location for both parents
K	Maple Lake	881	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--Parents both work at Rockford Schools
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--Parents are both Rockford graduates
K	Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose	877	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT; prefer Rockford Schools; older sibling attends Rockford
1	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--wanted arts magnet program; believe Rockford will be a better education and better suited for their child
K	Osseo	279	9/1/2026	NEW ENROLLMENT--Mom prefers Rockford Schools

- **Food Service Contract:** The board was presented the food service contract for approval.
- **Crown College Joint Powers Agreement:** The board was presented the Crown College Joint Powers Agreement for approval.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- **July 2026 Superintendent's Report:** Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover presented an update on the schools.
- **Community Rocket Spotlight:** Community Education Director Melissa Joseph presented the Community Rocket Spotlight Award to recipient Trent Shipley.

CULTURE OF COLLECTIVE PURPOSE

- **Certification Presentation:** The Board was presented a school safety certification.
- **Resolution calling General Election:** the board was presented the Resolution calling General Election for approval.

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

RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS

RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND CALLING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the general election in each Minnesota school district must be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of either the odd-numbered or the even-numbered year.

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the school district to hold its general election for the purpose of electing three school board members for terms of four (4) years each.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 883 (Rockford Area Schools), State of Minnesota as follows:

The clerk shall include on the ballot the names of the individuals who file or have filed affidavits of candidacy during the period established for filing such affidavits, as though they had been included by name in this resolution. The clerk shall not include on the ballot the names of individuals who file timely affidavits of withdrawal in the manner specified by law.

The general election is hereby called and elected to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for this general election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district and which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as for the state general election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said general election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, at least eighty-four (84) days before the date of said election. The notice shall include the date of said general election and the office or offices to be voted on at said general election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district for public inspection at least ten (10) days before the date of said general election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said general election for public inspection. The clerk shall also cause two sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on Election Day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot. The sample ballot for a polling place must reflect the offices, candidates, and rotation sequence on the ballots used in that polling place. The sample may be either in full or reduced size.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be published in the official newspaper of the school district for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of said election.

The notice of election so posted and published shall state the offices to be filled set forth in the form of ballot below and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

The clerk is authorized and directed to cause the rules and instructions for use of the optical scan voting system to be posted in each polling place on Election Day.

The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this election, and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the school district administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate election officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

The clerk is further authorized and directed to cause or to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the form below, with such changes in form, color and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system.

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

- **Rockford Community Education/Buildings & Grounds Update:** Community Education Director Melissa Joseph presented an update on Community Education and the Buildings & Grounds Departments.

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

- **Resolution Adopting the School District's Long Term Facilities Maintenance Plan:** CFO Bridget Peterson presented the Resolution Adopting the School District's LTFM plan for approval.

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PLAN

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education (the "Board") of Independent School District No. 883 (Rockford Area Schools), Wright and Hennepin Counties, Minnesota (the "District") as follows:

1. Authority to Fund Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan. It is hereby determined and declared as follows:
 - (a) Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.595, as amended (“Section 123B.595”) establishes a long-term facilities maintenance revenue program for school districts, charter schools, intermediate districts and other cooperative units to fund a ten-year facility plan developed by a school district, intermediate school district, or cooperative. A school district may use revenue under Section 123B.595 for (i) deferred capital expenditures and maintenance projects necessary to prevent further erosion of facilities; (ii) increasing accessibility of district facilities; (iii) health and safety capital projects under Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.57; or (iv) by board resolution, to transfer money from the general fund reserve for long-term facilities maintenance for long-term facilities maintenance to the debt redemption fund to pay the amounts needed to meet, when due, principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued under subdivision 5 of Section 123B.595.
 - (b) The District has developed at ten-year plan for long-term facilities maintenance consistent with Section 123B.595 (the “Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan” or “Plan”).
 - (c) The District has issued bonds to help finance the Plan.
 - (d) The Plan includes: (i) provisions for implementing a health and safety program that complies with health, safety, and environmental regulations and best practices, including indoor air quality management and remediation of lead hazards, and (ii) a debt service schedule demonstrating that the debt service revenue required to pay the principal and interest on the bonds each year will not exceed the projected long-term facilities revenue for that year.
2. Adoption of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan. The District hereby adopts the LongTerm Facilities Maintenance Plan.
3. Authorization to Submit Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan to the Commissioner for Approval.
 - (a) District administration is hereby authorized and directed to submit the Plan to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education (the “Commissioner”) and such additional documents and information as may be necessary to secure the approval of the 1 51 Commissioner for the Plan and the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the Plan, as required by Section 123B.595.
 - (b) The District further covenants to comply with all procedures now or hereafter established by the Minnesota Department of Education pursuant to Section 123B.595 and otherwise to take such actions as necessary to comply with that statute. The Chair, District Clerk, Superintendent or Director of Finance & Operations are authorized to execute any applicable Minnesota Department of Education forms.

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.

- **Superintendent Evaluation Summary:** Board Chair Jessica Johnson presented a Summary of the Superintendent Evaluation per Minnesota Statute section 13D.05, Subd. 3(a).

On June 15, 2026, the Superintendent evaluation process was completed in accordance with Board Policy 304, the district contract language, and Minnesota Statute 123B.143. Board

members participating included Eric Gordee, Jamie Hillstrom, Jessica Johnson, Chris Morgan, and Kevin Sjodin. The Board completed its annual evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Jeffery Ridlehoover's performance during the 2025–2026 school year. The evaluation reflected progress toward district strategic priorities and Board expectations. The Board recognizes Dr. Ridlehoover's performance as strong, thoughtful, and aligned with the needs of Rockford Area Schools. Areas of focus included academic achievement, student and staff support, community engagement, fiscal stewardship, and organizational leadership. The Board affirms its confidence in Dr. Ridlehoover's leadership and looks forward to continued collaboration in support of Rockford Area Schools and the students, staff, families, and community it serves.

COMMUNITY, SCHOOL AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

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

Hillstrom motioned, seconded by Gordee, 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 Donation	\$40.00	ES Yearbook Fund
Rockford Education Foundation	\$754.00	General Fund Donation (RMS Author Visit)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$1,699.99	General Fund Donation (REAMS Sound System)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$1,336.88	General Fund Donation (RHS Art Supplies, RHS Art Stools, REAMS 2nd grade MN Zoo Fieldtrip)
Rockford Education Foundation	\$6,339.02	General Fund Donation (RMS Author Visit Sub Coverage, REAMS 2nd grade Artist in Residence, REAMS 4th grade Artist in Residence)
Theresa Gaupp	REAMS SPED Donations: Balance Board, Airwalker Sensory Swing with adjustable straps, 6 Sportime Medicine Sensory Balls, Escape from Anger Island Game	General Fund Donation (REAMS SPED Program)

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.

- **Upcoming Meetings:**
 - Negotiations Committee Meeting - Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 10:00 am in the District Office Board Room.
 - Board of Education Special Meeting - Board Evaluation: Monday, August 10, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
 - Finance Committee Meeting: Friday, August 14, 2026 at 8:15 am virtually at Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/xcd-mvwr-kdk> Or dial: +(US) +1 754-702-3120? PIN: ?180 021 411?#
 - Board of Education Work Session: Monday, August 17, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
 - Regular Meeting of the Board of Education: Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Office Board Room.
- **Board Committee Updates:**
 - Johnson - Board Eval Meeting, and Board Prep Call.
 - Gordee - Board Prep Call, and Policy Committee Meeting.
 - Morgan - Finance Committee Meeting, and NorthWest Suburban Meeting.
 - Hillstrom - Policy Committee Meeting, Finance Committee Meeting, and Board Eval Meeting.
 - Praska - Policy Committee.
 - Sjodin - Board Eval, and Finance Committee Meeting.
- **Closed Session–Negotiations Start:**

Motion by Gordee seconded by Praska to enter into closed session to discuss negotiations parameters pursuant to Minnesota Statute section 13D.03. Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into closed session to discuss negotiations at 7:05 p.m.

Gordee motioned to return to open session. Hillstrom seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Returned to open session at 7:52 p.m.

Gordee motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. & Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

*Courtney Neibert
Recorder*

*Jamie Hillstrom
Clerk*