

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
{{MeetingType }} MEETING
April 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM - District Main Conference Room
800 Devillen
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073**

MINUTES

PRESENT: President Tim Ciechorski; Vice President Erika Alexander; Secretary Deb Anderson; Treasurer Michelle Cook; Trustee Lauren Jasinski; Trustee Maryanne VanHaitsma; Trustee Matt Wickey; and Student Representatives Charles Francis and Leilani Hamilton

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Mary Beth Fitzpatrick; Executive Director of Finance & Operations Kathy Abela; Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction Joe Youanes; Executive Director of Staff & Students Services Patrick Wolynski and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Board Paula Sutterfield

ABSENT:

1. OPENING / CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. STANDING APPROVAL ITEMS

1. Acceptance of Agenda
The President asks for approval of the agenda, including all attached documents, which may be accessed on the Royal Oak Schools website. Are there any additions or deletions?

"The agenda is approved as presented."

OR

"The agenda is approved with the following additions/deletions" by consensus.

2. Approval of Minutes
Recommendation:

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the following minutes:

March 5, 2026 Special Meeting (F&F)
March 12, 2026 Regular Meeting

4. PROCLAMATIONS
1. Board Proclamation: National Arab American Heritage Month
Recommendation:

WHEREAS, Royal Oak Schools recognizes and celebrates the rich cultural heritage, achievements, and contributions of Arab Americans; and

WHEREAS, April is designated as National Arab American Heritage Month, a time to honor the diverse traditions, history, and accomplishments of Arab Americans; and

WHEREAS, Arab Americans have made significant contributions to our nation and community in various fields, including education, arts, sciences, and business; and

WHEREAS, Royal Oak Schools is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, recognizing and valuing the diversity of our student population; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Royal Oak School Board of Education hereby proclaims April 2026 as National Arab American Heritage Month.

2. Board Proclamation: Autism Acceptance Month
Recommendation:

WHEREAS: Autism is a developmental disability that is usually evident before the age of three and can lead to differences in how people interact with others, communicate, demonstrate flexibility in thoughts, and actions, and learn; and

WHEREAS: Autism is considered a spectrum as it presents differently in everyone, and individuals with autism may have particular strengths in one area and particular barriers or high support needs in another; and

WHEREAS: Autism occurs across all socioeconomic, ethnic, cultural, and geographic groups, and according to 2025 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism spectrum disorder impacts as many as one in 31 kids in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Schools, educators, and families across Michigan strive to provide services and supports to ensure that all students with autism can fully participate and thrive in their education and beyond; and

WHEREAS: Educators, families, and community organizations recognize the essential need for collaboration in expanding awareness and improving supports and services for students with autism; and

WHEREAS: This April, the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education joins students, families, and school district staff in celebrating the unique and positive identity of students with autism.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

If you would like to make a public comment:

- A person may address the Board on an agenda item by completing a note card located inside the Board Room and placing the card in the basket prior to the citizen public comment period. You will have an opportunity to comment on items *not* on the agenda at the end of the meeting.
- Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. If you need more time, you are offered a second opportunity to address the Board at the end of the meeting for an additional three (3) minutes.
- Please address the Board as a whole and not individually.
- Please avoid mentioning specific staff members by name.
- Public comment is not intended for the exchange of dialogue. This is a time for members of the public to express their views. We are paying attention to your comments and appreciate them. However, school board members do not respond to public comment during the meeting.
- Questions that arise from public comment shall be referred to the superintendent, or their designee, for review, study and possible future response.
- Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

6. RECOGNITIONS / PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. Special Bond Presentation

2. Presentation of the 2025–26 Teachers of the Year and Support Person of the Year

Pat Wolynski

Congratulations to the following teachers:

Alec Snyder, Royal Oak High School (Don Loomis)

Shannon Bowman, Royal Oak Middle School (Kristin Meldrum)

Miranda McArthur, Addams Elementary (Tim Boyer)

Mary Beth Nagy, Early Childhood Center (Danielle Truesdell)

Congratulations to support person, Angela Hall, Oakland Elementary (Jason Taylor)

3. Break for Photos

4. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Ashley Phillips

5. Student Representatives to the Board
Leilani Hamilton and Grace Hatton

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Education Secretary

8. *CONSENT AGENDA (*Personnel / Instruction / Business*)

The consent agenda generally consists of routine matters as well as items we have covered during this meeting or another board or committee meeting. All items are documented in the minutes, which are published following the meeting at which they were approved. All of our committee and board meetings are open to the public and public comment is an item on each agenda. We invite members of the public to join our committees.

1. *Payment of Expenses

Recommendation:

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education hereby approves expenditures as processed in the amount of \$7,775,261.34, for the period of March 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.

2. *Field Trip – Royal Oak High School students will travel to Atlanta, Georgia to compete in the DECA ICDC Competition

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the request from teacher Cheryl Turk and her three CTE students to attend the DECA competition in Atlanta, GA from April 24–29, 2026.

9. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Superintendent

John Tafelski

1. First Reading of Revised/Replaced and/or Recommended Policies on Nondiscrimination

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves a first reading of the policies being revised, replaced and/or recommended as presented.

This first set of policies deals with nondiscrimination. In an attempt to streamline the complex collection of Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, and related issues, several of the policies have been consolidated in order to provide a comprehensive approach to related employment issues. The definitions included are consistent with related policies, and the grievance process is designed to be consistent throughout the investigation, decision-making, and appeal stages.

Also included in this update are the technical corrections to five policies, correcting the address and contact information for the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

In total, this update includes fourteen policies (three replacement policies for adoption, six policies for deletion/rescission, and five policies with technical corrections).

2. First Reading of Revised/Replaced and/or Recommended Policies

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves a first reading of the policies being revised, replaced and/or recommended as presented.

These next four policy changes address the following:

PO0155 corrects a discrepancy between the board's procedural guide and our current policy regarding the time frame when appointing members to committees.

PO2240 replaces some language for clarification around contentious issues in the classroom.

PO4162 has been revised to reflect the statutory and regulatory changes to the Return-to-Duty process as required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, including evaluation by a qualified Substance Abuse Professional, education and/or treatment, and follow-up evaluation. This revision should be adopted to maintain compliance with current requirements.

PO2340 outlines the process by which field trips are approved. Adding "designee" to the policy language will expedite the approval times.

3. 2026 Bond Resolution

Recommendation:

WHEREAS, the School District is contemplating undertaking various capital improvements to facilities within the School District which include remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, athletic fields and other facilities; erecting and completing additions to school buildings and other facilities; acquiring and installing instructional technology infrastructure and equipment in school buildings and other facilities; and preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings, athletic fields and other facilities (collectively the "Projects"); and

WHEREAS, the School District is of the opinion that in order to finance the Projects, a bonding proposition should be submitted to the electors as described in the School Improvement Bond Proposition attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Bond Proposition"); and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to submit the Bond Proposition to the electors at an election to be held on August 4, 2026 (the "August Election Date"); and

WHEREAS, Michigan law requires that the School District certify the ballot language for any proposals to be voted on at a permitted election date to the School District's Election Coordinator (i.e. the Clerk of the County of Oakland) not later than 4:00 p.m., on the twelfth Tuesday before the election date; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to approve and certify the above referenced Bond Proposition and to authorize the Superintendent or his designee to certify the Bond Proposition to the School District's Election Coordinator for the August Election Date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Bond Proposition attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby approved and certified to the School District Election Coordinator for submission to the School District's electors on the August Election Date. The Superintendent, or his designee, on behalf of the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to file this Resolution and/or complete any such forms, certificates or documents as may be required by the School District Election Coordinator to evidence the foregoing certification and/or submission by no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 12, 2026.

2. The School District Election Coordinator is hereby authorized and directed to: (a) post and publish notice of last day of registration and notice of election for the August Election Date; and (b) have prepared and printed ballots for submitting the Bond Proposition at the August Election Date, which ballots shall be in the form appearing in Exhibit A or the Bond Proposition shall be stated as a proposal on the voting machines, which ballots may include other matters presented to the electorate on the same date.

3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby rescinded.

4. Updates and Remarks

2. Curriculum & Instruction

Joe Youanes

1. Firewall Contract Award

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize the purchase of a new Firewall and installation from Delta Network Services LLC, in the amount of \$67,533.00 with 10% contingency to address any unforeseen conditions. Additionally, associated licensing costs from Oakland Schools in the amount of \$9,565.26.

3. Finance/Facilities and Bond

Kathy Abela

1. Three-year contract awards

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize and sign a contract with the following vendors per the unit pricing as noted in the attached bid tabulation sheets. The pricing and contracts are District-wide for 3 years.

MJ Chisholm construction for concrete

Kimberly Fence for fencing

Seven Brothers Painting for painting

2. Three-year Contract Award — Playground Mulch

Recommendation:

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize and sign a contract with Superior Groundcover Inc, utilizing HVS CoPro+ Cooperative Pricing. The pricing and contract are District-wide for 3 years.

3. ROMS Dectron Contract Award

Recommendation:

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize and sign a contract with Miller-Boldt, Inc., in the amount of \$58,642 for Royal Oak Middle School Pool Cooling Unit Partial Replacement, base bid #2. Additionally, 10% contingency to address any unforeseen conditions.

4. Water Bottle Filler Contract Award

Recommendation:

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize and sign a contract with Service Pro, LLC., in the amount of \$78,280 for District-wide water bottle filler purchase and installation. Additionally, 10% contingency to address any unforeseen conditions.

5. Northwood Chiller Compressor Contract Award

Recommendation:

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize and sign a contract with Miller-Boldt, Inc., in the amount of \$37,200 for Northwood Elementary chiller compressor replacement. Additionally, 10% contingency to address any unforeseen conditions.

4. Staff and Student Services

Patrick Wolynski

1. Personnel Changes

Recommendation:

Resolved, the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the regular personnel changes as presented in the board packet.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

If you would like to make a public comment:

- A person may address the Board on any non-agenda item at this time.
- Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.
- Please address the Board as a whole and not individually.
- Please avoid mentioning specific staff members by name.
- Public comment is not intended for the exchange of dialogue. This is a time for members of the public to express their views. We are paying attention to your comments and appreciate them. However, school board members do not respond to public comment during the meeting.
- Questions that arise from public comment shall be referred to the superintendent, or their designee, for review, study and possible future response.
- Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

11. BOARD COMMENTS / LIAISON REPORT

Health and Wellness Committee—Maryanne VanHaitsma

- April 10, ROJAM @ 7:00 p.m. (Main Board Room)
- April 13, Dr. Tafelski speaking about the bond—
 - Oak Ridge @ 6:00 p.m.
 - Oakland @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Keller @ 8:00 p.m.
- April 15, National Adult Education Honor Society Induction Ceremony (Churchill) @ 4:00 p.m.
- April 15, Dr. Tafelski speaking about the bond, Addams Literacy Event @ 6:00 p.m.
- April 17, Student/BOE lunches (ROHS) @ 11:00 a.m.
- April 17, Keller's Food & Fun Festival @ 6:30 p.m.
- April 23, TRAILS Family/Community Connections Night (TRAILS classrooms) @ 6:00 p.m.
- April 24, 25, ROHS Spring Play @ 7:00 p.m.
 - April 26 @ 2:00 p.m.
- April 27, ROHS National Honor Society Induction @ 6:00 p.m.
- April 28, Northwood's Heritage/Cultural Night @ 6:00 p.m.
- May 1, Dr. Tafelski speaking about the bond, Oakland's Cultural Night/Art Show @ 6:00 p.m.
- May 5, Safety Committee meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
- May 5, Arts & Preservation meeting @ 6:45 p.m.
- May 6, Finance & Facilities meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
- May 6 & 7, ROHS ROX Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- May 11, ROHS Senior Honors Convocation @ 7:00 p.m.
- May 12, ROHS Spring Band Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- May 13, ROHS Spring Orchestra Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- May 14, School Board meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- May 14, ROMS Spring Band Concert @ 7:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Recommendation:

Resolved, that Royal Oak Schools Board of Education meet in closed session under section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, to consult with our attorney to consider information or records subject to the attorney-client privilege, as allowed in section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act.

13. RECONVENE

Resolved, that the body end the closed session and reconvene in an open session.

14. ADJOURNMENT (approval by consensus)

Resolved, that the body end the closed session and reconvene in an open session.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Anderson
Secretary, Board of Education