

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
{{MeetingType }} MEETING
June 11, 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:

May 7, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes (F&F)

May 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

3. Donations

The Keller PTA would like to donate two (2) Gaga Ball pits to the school. They have solicited bids and have chosen to use Lawton and Associates. Their bid exceeds the \$1000 threshold in our policy and needs Board approval.

Keller Principal Marcie Dryden, PTA President Jen Mackenzie, and VP of Communications Melissa Golpe are here to answer any questions.

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education gratefully accepts the following donation as presented:

From Keller PTA—two (2) Gaga Ball pits to be constructed at Keller Elementary. The cost is over the Board's policy threshold of \$1,000.

4. PROCLAMATIONS

1. LGBTQIA + Pride Month

Recommendation:

WHEREAS, our students, families, and staff have the right to be treated consistent with their gender identity and sexual orientation at school; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ students report higher rates of being bullied or harassed at school, resulting in higher rates of dropouts, academic failure, and disengagement; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ students in Royal Oak Schools are bright, brilliant youths engaged in self- and social liberation despite this bullying and harassment; and

WHEREAS, bullying or harassment that targets a student based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression is discriminatory harassment;

WHEREAS, the District is committed to maintaining safe, healthy, and welcoming learning environments for all members of our community, including transgender and gender-expansive students; and

WHEREAS, the month of June is an opportunity to celebrate the narratives, identities, and contributions of those within the LGBTQIA+ community; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the struggle for equal rights continues today and are committed to expanded partnerships, policy reviews and updates, and opportunities to exercise learning courage to further our journey toward Gender-Inclusive Schools; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing Pride Month, we affirm that supportive school environments substantially improve the mental health and school engagement of LGBTQIA+ students; and

WHEREAS, our students have the right to engage in reflection and honest conversations in school communities on issues of social justice, equity, and the intersectionality of oppression and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, by recognizing Pride Month, we reaffirm our commitment to a supportive environment that promotes trust, growth, and achievement for all students;

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education endorses and encourages our community to participate in Pride Month of June 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Royal Oak Schools will fly a Pride Flag for the entirety of June unless otherwise directed by the Board of Education.

2. Juneteenth Celebration Day

Recommendation:

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks the day when news of emancipation reached enslaved people in Texas following the end of the Civil War; and,

WHEREAS, June 19 has come to symbolize freedom, resilience, and the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice for all; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is recognized as the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States and serves as an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history and progress; and,

WHEREAS, communities across the country observe Juneteenth through educational programs, cultural events, celebrations, and acts of service that honor African American history, heritage, and contributions; and,

WHEREAS, Juneteenth encourages individuals and communities to learn from the past, celebrate achievements, and continue working toward a more equitable and inclusive society; and,

WHEREAS, the observance of Juneteenth provides an opportunity to recognize the enduring strength, perseverance, and contributions of African Americans throughout history and today;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it recognized that June 19 is observed as Juneteenth Celebration Day, and all people are encouraged to commemorate this occasion by reflecting on the values of freedom, equality, and justice, celebrating African American history and culture, and promoting unity and understanding within their communities.

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. Presentation of the 2025-26 Retirees

Pat Wolynski

2. Presentation of Stephan Henning, new Principal at Keller Elementary

Pat Wolynski

3. Presentation of Kristin Szymanski, new Principal at Upton Elementary

Pat Wolynski

4. Recognition of Dr. Ericka Watson

Pat Wolynski

5. Presentation of Miranda Miller, Middle Level Coach of the Year

Kate Chambers

Coach of the Year is an award designed to recognize a coach in each area of Speech Activities. It is meant to recognize a coach's achievements and contributions during a single school year. Michigan Speech Coaches, Inc. (MSCI) recognizes the areas of Debate, Theatre, Individual Events, Middle Level, and Assistant Coaches.

6. Presentation of Simon Soper, ROHS Golfer

JT Uelman

7. Presentation of Brooklyn Cotton, ROHS Track and Field Athlete

Don Jackson

8. Recognition of Javien Johnson, ROHS Track & Field Athlete

Ryan Piipio

9. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Ashley Phillips

10. Budget Presentation

Kathy Abela

7. PUBLIC HEARING: 2026-2027 BUDGET & MILLAGE RATE

(A public hearing is a designated time on the agenda for the public to provide input to the specific agenda item. The rules for public comment apply to comments made during such time.)

1. Open to Public Comment

2. Closed to Public Comment

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Education Secretary

9. *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 \$8,962,030.85, for the period of May 1, 2026, through May 31, 2026.

2. * Board of Education Committee Meetings 2026-27 Schedule

3. *Field Trip—HOSA International Leadership Conference: June 17–21, 2026 in Indianapolis

10. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Superintendent

John Tafelski

1. Resolution Supporting Regional Enhancement Millage

Recommendation:

WHEREAS, the School District's intermediate school district, Oakland Schools, has approved and certified a Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal, attached hereto as Exhibit A, for submission to the Oakland County voters at the August 4, 2026 election date;

WHEREAS, if approved and levied the Regional Enhancement Millage will provide additional per-pupil operating funding for all public schools in Oakland County for a period of six (6) years;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the Regional Enhancement Millage will provide additional annual operating funding for public schools in Oakland County of approximately \$781 per pupil; and

WHEREAS; the Board believes that it is in the School District's best interest for the benefit of its educational programs to publicly acknowledge its support for the passage of the Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Board of Education supports the passage of the Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal and encourages voters in the School District to also consider supporting the Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal.
- All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby rescinded.

2. 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 November 3, 2026 (the "November 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 November Election Date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 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 November 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 August 11, 2026.
- 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 November Election Date; and (b) have prepared and printed ballots for submitting the Bond Proposition at the November 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.
- All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby rescinded.

3. 2026 Oakland County School Boards Association (OCSBA) Proposed Bylaws Amendments
The Oakland County School Boards Association (OCSBA) Resolution & Bylaws committee reviews the Association bylaws annually and recommends amendments as needed. Once proposed amendment(s) are reviewed by the Board of Directors, the proposed amendment(s) are transmitted to our member districts for consideration. The Board may vote on all the proposed changes at once (Option A), or separately (Option B). The entire packet may be found on our website under the Board of Education tab.

1. Proposed Amendment #1
Recommendation

Resolved, a member district that pays dues directly to the Association may appoint a Trustee to a seat on the Board of Directors

2. Proposed Amendment #2

Recommendation:

Resolved, ensure that either the Chair -or- Vice-Chair of every OCSBA committee is a member of the Board of Directors (BOD).

4. Oakland County School Boards Association (OCSBA) 2026 Spring Resolution

PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION:

OCSBA opposes tying any school funding to waiving the attorney-client privilege.

RATIONALE FOR THIS PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION:

In the FY26 school aid budget, section 31aa school safety and mental health categorical funding required districts to "opt in". Any district that opted in to receive 31aa funds agreed to cooperate with an investigation, including waiving the attorney-client privilege, following a mass-casualty incident. While cooperation with investigations after a mass casualty event is necessary to prevent another event, the attorney-client privilege must remain sacred. The courts have ruled on this issue. In the future, there is nothing to stop the legislature from tying waiver of the attorney-client privilege to other funding.

Recommendation:

Resolved, the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the proposed new resolution as presented.

5. 2026–27 MHSAA Membership

Recommendation:

Resolved, the Board of Education hereby delegates to the Superintendent or his designee(s) the responsibility for the supervision and control of said activities, and hereby accepts the Constitution and By-Laws of said association and adopts as its own the rules, regulations and interpretations (as minimum standards), as published in the current handbook as the governing code under which the said school(s) shall conduct its program of interscholastic athletics and agrees to primary enforcement of said rules, regulations, interpretations and qualifications. In addition, it is hereby agreed that schools which host or participate in the association's meets and tournaments shall follow and enforce all tournament policies, procedures and schedules.

This authorization shall be effective from August 1, 2026, and shall remain effective until July 31, 2027, during which the authorization may not be revoked.

6. Updates and Remarks

2. Curriculum & Instruction

Joe Youanes

3. Finance/Facilities and Bond

Kathy Abela

1. Millage Rate Certification

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 millage rate (L4029 Form) as presented in the board packet.

2. International Academy FY 2026-27 Budget (Okma Campus)

Recommended;

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approve the International Academy Okma Campus 2026-27 budget as presented in the Board packet.

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.

2. Amendments to the Royal Oak Schools Student Code of Conduct

As with all the documents discussed tonight, the amendments may be seen in the packet, located on the school website.

Recommendation:

Resolved, the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the amendments to the Student Code of Conduct as presented.

11. 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.

12. BOARD COMMENTS / LIAISON REPORT

Arts & Preservation Committee, Deb Anderson

June 19, Juneteenth Celebration (R.O. Farmers Market) 3:00–7:00 p.m.

June 23, Donuts & Coffee w/the Super (R.O. Senior Center) @ 9:30 a.m.

June 25, Special Board Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

July 9, Finance & Facilities Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.

July 9, Board of Education Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT (approval by consensus)

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Anderson
Secretary, Board of Education