

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
{{MeetingType }} MEETING
July 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:

June 4, 2026, Special Meeting (F&F)

June 25, 2026, Special Board Meeting

4. PROCLAMATIONS

1. Resolution in Commemoration of the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America

Recommendation:

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the founding of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, this historic Semiquincentennial provides a monumental opportunity for students, educators, and the entire Royal Oak community to reflect on our nation's past, celebrate our shared journeys, and look forward to our future, while always realizing that we have much work ahead to accomplish the hopes and vision of our country's promise; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Oak School District is deeply committed to fostering civic responsibility,

historical literacy, and a profound understanding of the democratic principles upon which our nation was built; and

WHEREAS, public education is a foundational pillar of American democracy, vital for cultivating an informed, engaged, and empathetic citizenry capable of guiding our nation toward a more perfect union; and

WHEREAS, the Royal Oak School District serves as a vibrant reflection of America's progress, bringing together diverse backgrounds, ideas, and cultures to learn, grow, and achieve excellence together;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education hereby recognizes and commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America throughout the 2026-2027 academic year; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Royal Oak Board of Education encourages all Royal Oak Schools educators to engage students in meaningful learning experiences, curriculum projects, and civic activities that explore American history, the complexities of our democratic journey, and the responsibilities of future citizenship.

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. Introduction of New Teachers

2. Robotics Team Demonstration

Cameron Beatty

The Royal Oak High School Robotics Team will present and demonstrate their 2026 competition robot, and give an update on the district-wide robotics programs.

3. Bond Reports

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 \$9,016,032.76, for the period of June 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

9. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Superintendent
John Tafelski
1. Updates and Remarks
2. Curriculum & Instruction
Joe Youanes
1. Updates and Remarks
Joe Youanes
3. Finance/Facilities and Bond
Kathy Abela
1. 2026-27 School Year Preparations
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

August 6, 2026: Finance & Facilities Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.

August 13, 2026: Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

August 24, 2026: First day of school for teachers

August 31, 2026: First day of school for students

September 4–7, 2026: Labor Day break

12. ADJOURNMENT (approval by consensus)

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Anderson
Secretary, Board of Education