

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
{{MeetingType }} MEETING
August 13, 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:

July 9, 2026, Special Meeting (Bond Workshop)
July 9, 2026, Regular Board Meeting

4. PROCLAMATIONS
1. Transgender and Non-Binary Pride and History Month
Recommendation:

WHEREAS, we honor the transgender and non-binary community and their positive contributions to society; and,

WHEREAS, members of the transgender and non-binary community have historically been at the forefront of the LGBTQ+ rights movement; and,

WHEREAS, transgender and non-binary people have served honorably in the military and have demonstrated their patriotism and love of country; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize the work of Rachel Crandall Crocker in establishing a transgender day of visibility, as well as other prominent leaders in Michigan's transgender community who have worked

tirelessly and determinedly to achieve justice and dignity for transgender and non-binary people; and,

WHEREAS, we honor and remember those that have been victims of crimes of violence due to their gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, we honor and remember those who ended their lives due to the trauma of oppressive discrimination in laws, policies, and anti-trans rhetoric; and,

WHEREAS, we honor those allies and organizations that are standing with the transgender and non-binary community and defending their rights as human beings; and,

WHEREAS, we support the families who continue to support their transgender and non-binary children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Royal Oak School District does hereby proclaim the month of August to be Transgender and Non-Binary History and Pride Month.

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

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 \$5,343,499.61, for the period of July 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026.

2. *Appointment of Royal Oak Representatives to Oakland Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Board of Education reappoints Danielle Maher for the school years 2026-28 and appoints Jamie Schwartz for the school years 2026-29 as Royal Oak Schools representatives to the Oakland Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

9. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Superintendent

John Tafelski

1. MASB Voting Delegates

Recommendation:

Resolved, that Royal Oak Schools Board of Education names _____ and _____ as Royal Oak Schools' voting delegates at the MASB 2026 Delegate Assembly.

2. Updates and Remarks

2. Curriculum & Instruction

Joe Youanes

Recommendation:

Resolved that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the authorization of the purchase of Black Girl MATHgic and Math Equals Me intervention materials for 2026-2027 in the amount of \$35,150.00

3. Finance/Facilities and Bond

Kathy Abela

1. Cooling Tower Repair

Recommendation:

Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the contract award to Johnson Controls Buildings Solutions LLC in the amount of \$45,291.99, under the emergency purchasing provision due to the failure of the cooling tower at Royal Oak Middle School. This follows the emergency procedures in MCL 380.1267(1).

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 24, Board Workshop—AI, Tech, & Student Achievement @ 6:30pm

August 24, First day of school for teachers

August 31, First day of school for students

September 1, Health & Wellness Committee @ 5:30pm

September 1, Communications Committee @ 7:00pm

September 2, Finance & Facilities Meeting @ 6:00pm

September 10, School Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

12. ADJOURNMENT (approval by consensus)

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Anderson
Secretary, Board of Education