ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS
A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

800 Devillen, Royal Oak, MI 48073
www.royaloakschools.org

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**
**{{MeetingType }} MEETING**
**November 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM - District Main Conference Room**
**800 Devillen**
**Royal Oak, Michigan 48073**

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**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:

   October 7, 2026, Special Meeting (Finance & Facilities)
   October 8, 2026, Regular Meeting

3. Donations

1. Donation from the Alhambra Fraternal Society
   The Alhambra is a fraternal society of Catholic men and women whose mission is to serve individuals in their communities with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through connections made by Royal Oak Schools Transition Coordinator, Susannah Oliver, Alhambra has chosen to donate a total of $2,400 to help expand micro-business opportunities within TRAILS, including the Happy TRAILS coffee shop.
   With this donation, TRAILS plans to upgrade its coffee equipment, add appliances to the newly remodeled kitchen to support baking and food preparation opportunities, and introduce 3D printing as another skill students can learn and add to their resumes. The goal is to continue building

opportunities where students can develop real-world skills while also reinvesting profits from student-run businesses back into the program to create even more opportunities for skill development.

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

A donation of $2,400 to help expand micro-business opportunities within TRAILS, including the Happy TRAILS coffee shop from The Alhambra Fraternal Society.

4. PROCLAMATIONS

1. Native American Heritage Month
Recommendation:

WHEREAS the United States Congress has designated the month of November as Native American Heritage Month, and Royal Oak Schools joins in honoring the rich histories, cultures, and enduring contributions of Native American and Alaska Native people in our society; and

WHEREAS a congressional resolution proclaiming Native American Heritage Month was first passed in 1990, and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a proclamation declaring November as Native American Heritage Month in Michigan on November 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS Michigan is home to many Indigenous nations, including the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot people, whose histories are deeply interwoven with the land and the history of the state; and

WHEREAS Native American and Alaska Native communities have made significant contributions throughout history in areas such as governance, agriculture, environmental stewardship, language, and the arts, enriching the cultural fabric of the United States and promoting sustainable practices that are essential to building a better future while also preserving distinct traditions, values and worldviews; and

WHEREAS Native American Heritage Month serves as an important reminder to reflect on the resilience of Native American and Alaska Native people, acknowledge their historical and ongoing struggles, and honor their profound impact on both our past and future, as well as their immeasurable contributions to the state of Michigan and beyond.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education, hereby proclaim the month of November as Native American Heritage Month at Royal Oak Schools.

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. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Ashley Phillips

2. Student Representatives to the Board
   Aiden Brock & Owen Krueger
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 $9,174,614.66, for the period of October 1, 2026, through October 31, 2026.
2. *German American Partnership Program (GAPP) trip
   Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves the request from Royal Oak High School's German American Partnership Program (GAPP) to travel to France and Germany from June 13–July 1, 2027.
3. *Appointment of a Royal Oak Representative to Oakland Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
   One of the appointed representatives to the Oakland School Special Education Parent Advisory Committee resigned her position, and this appointment reflects her replacement.

   Recommendation:

   Resolved, that the Board of Education appoints Brittany Moussa for the school years 2026-29 as a Royal Oak Schools representative to the Oakland Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).

9. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / ACTION

1. Superintendent
   John Tafelski

1. Updates and Remarks
2. First Reading of Revised/Replaced and/or Recommended Policies & Guidelines
   Our Board Policy, PO2412 does not comply with the law in that we are to provide services within *three (3)* school days of notification for both General Education and Special Education students. Currently, it states that we have *15 days* for special education students. This amendment will keep us compliant with the law.

   Recommendation:

   Resolved, that the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education approves a first reading of the policy being revised, as presented.

2. Curriculum & Instruction
   Joe Youanes

1. Update on Advanced Coursework at Royal Oak High School

3. Finance/Facilities and Bond
   Kathy Abela

1. Barton Malow GC's for Oakland Elementary Addition
   Recommended;

   Resolved, the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize and sign a contract with Barton Malow Builders for general conditions in the amount of $260,000 for previously approved construction work associated with the addition at Oakland Elementary.

2. Lockout Company Contract Award
   Recommendation,

   Resolved, the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to finalize and sign a contract with Lockout Co., LLC for $355,687.40. This purchase utilizes cooperative bid pricing through HPS.

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

    November 13, Vaccine Clinic @ ROMS—3:00–5:30pm (open to all)
    November 13–15, ROHS Fall Musical—7:00pm, 2:00pm on Sunday
    November 15, ROYA Bowl-a-thon—1:00–4:00pm @ Astro Lanes
    November 17, JEDI Council Meeting—6:30pm
    November 21, PTSA Craft Show—10:00am–4:00pm @ ROHS
    November 23, All City Vocal Music Festival (ROHS)—7:00pm
    November 25–27, Thanksgiving Break
    December 1, Health & Wellness Committee—5:30pm
    December 1, Communications Committee—7:00pm
    December 1, ROHS Winter Band Concert—7:00pm
    December 2, Finance & Facilities Meeting—6:00pm
    December 8, ROHS Winter Choir Concert—7:00pm
    December 10, School Board Meeting—6:30pm

12. ADJOURNMENT (approval by consensus)

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Anderson
Secretary, Board of Education