ROCKTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 140
Board of Education Meeting
September 21, 2026

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1. **Call to Order**
   President Lueshen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **Roll Call**
   Kelsey Lueshen, David Lombardo, Trisha Burgan, Derek Erwin, Anita Bond, Charlie Hart
   Absent: Brendan Caver
   Others Present: Daniel Phelps, Kindyl Etnyre, Megan Forsythe, Nicole Nelson, Justin Bonne, Heather Baker, Lindsey Tackeberry & Molly Parker-RTA, New Teachers, Kim Suedebeck, Lynn Gibson

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Additions/Corrections to Agenda**
   None
5. **Comments from the Community**
   None
6. **Correspondence**
   - Thank you card from SMMS for the treats provided at the start of the school year!
   - Thank you card from Lynn Gibson for the opportunity to mentor Daniel Phelps for his first year as a Superintendent.

7. **Strategic Plan Presentation**
   Dr's Gibson and Suedback presented on the strategic planning processes thus far, as well as what "next steps" will be coming over the next three years. Dr. Baker recapped our district's mission, vision, values, and commitments (BOE-approved back in June), and defined/showcased in detail the Portrait of a Learner, which was up for BOE-approval on this night. Mr. Phelps then presented on the district priorities, specific results, and action plans. Highlighted here were the administrative teams assigned to each priority, the dashboard for monitoring progress, and the need/desire for additional faculty input as the action plans are carried out.
8. **New Teacher Introductions**
   RTA co-presidents provided an activity for the BOE and administrators to learn more about our (8) new certified staff members. New faculty present this evening were Renee Laird, Courtney Thorne, and Julie Hustead.
9. **Executive Session**
   - appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)
   - Negotiations (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2)

   Derek Erwin motioned to move into Executive Session at 6:41pm, seconded by David Lombardo.

10. **Consent Items**
    Items recommended for the consent agenda are:
    - Financials: Approval of RSD #140 September 2026 bills $829,410.08, Approval of July and August's Payroll Vendor Liabilities Approval of Reports as follows: Cash Report,

Revenue Report, Expenditure Report, Cash & Investment Report, Operating Funds Summary, Fund Balance Report, Treasurer's Report, Check Register, Activity Check Register, Payroll Gross Earnings $1,499,751.00 (July & August), Payroll Liabilities Paid $914,806.04 (July & August)

- Approval of August 24, 2026 BOE Minutes
- Approval of September 8, 2026 Special Purpose Meeting Minutes
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative August 2026 Bills, Employment & Personnel Report
- Approval of WCSEC Cooperative August 2026 Financial Reports

Charlie Hart motioned to approve the above referenced consent items, seconded by Trisha Burgan.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen, Trisha Burgan, Derek Erwin, Anita Bond, Charlie Hart, David Lombardo
Motion Passed.

11. **Discussion and Approval of Dental Rates**

Charlie Hart motioned to approve the 6.5% percent increase in dental rates and an increase in the administrative fee that will be 5.6% increase on 1/1/2027, 3.7% increase on 1/1/2028 and 2.8% increase on 1/1/2029, seconded by Derek Erwin.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen, David Lombardo, Trisha Burgan, Derek Erwin, Anita Bond, Charlie Hart
Motion Passed.

12. **RSD#140 Budget Hearing**

Kelsey Lueshen opened the public hearing for the RSD#140 Budget Hearing at 6:57pm. Information detailing the 2027 budget was published in the Beloit Daily News. There was no public comment. Kelsey Lueshen closed the public hearing at 6:57pm.

13. **RSD#140 Budget Approval**

Approval is recommended for the FY27 RSD#140 Budget.
Derek Erwin moved to adopt the 2026/2027 Rockton School District #140 Budget presented, seconded by David Lombardo.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen, Trisha Burgan, Derek Erwin, Anita Bond, Charlie Hart, David Lombardo

14. **Approval of Strategic Plan: Portrait of a Learner**

Derek Erwin motioned to approve Strategic Plan: Portrait of a Learner, seconded by Trisha Burgan.

Roll Call: Anita Bond, Charlie Hart, David Lombardo, Kelsey Lueshen, Trisha Burgan, Derek Erwin
Motion Passed.

15. **Approval of September Personnel**
Non-Certified New Hire/ReHire/Transfer

Brenda Wulf, Head Para, RGS, Effective 8/17/2026
Veronica Carrillo Gallegos, RGS, Transfer From EL Para 3 days/week & 1:1 2 days/week to ELL 5 days/week, Effective 9/1/2026
Cassandra Thurman, RGS, ELL Para/1:1 Para, Effective 8/31/2026
Angelique Kennedy, SMMS, Para, Effective 9/28/2026

Non-Certified Resignation

Tino Rivera, SMMS, SPED Paraprofessional, Effective 9/4/2026
Alexandria Burns, SMMS, Paraprofessional, Effective 9/4/2026

Stipend Changes

Theresa Taylor, SMMS, Student Council Co-Advisor (Shared Position), Effective 26-27
Courtney Thorne, SMMS, Student Council Co-Advisor (Shared Position), Effective 26-27

Trisha Burgan motioned to approve 1 Non-Certified ReHire, 2 Non-Certified Transfers, 1 Non-Certified New Hires, 2 Non-Certified Resignations, 2 Stipend Changes, seconded by Derek Erwin.

Roll Call: Kelsey Lueshen, David Lombardo, Trisha Burgan, Derek Erwin, Anita Bond, Charlie Hart
Motion Passed.

16. **Old Business**
    - WPES Chiller Update
17. **New Business**
    - Working Cash Bond Option
18. **Administrative Reports**

BOE Admin Report
September 21, 2026

RGS Administrative Report

1. Etnyre

a. 'Ag in the Classroom' is back in session for kindergarten and first grade at RGS! The program shows students that agriculture is much more than 'cows and plows,' covering science, technology, economics and nutrition. All hands-on activities align to the Illinois Learning Standards.

b. RGS has completed their first round of MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) meetings of the school year. At these meetings, we identify and discuss interventions for students not progressing with tier 1 instruction. The reading and math interventionists are supporting 45 students and 26 students in first and second grades.

2. Hauser

a. First Grade will take their first field trip to Cody's Farm next week. At the beginning of October, kindergarten will head to the pumpkin patch and second grade will visit Wild Roots Nature Center (formally known as Severson Dells Nature Center).

b. PTO - The RGS/WP annual Fun Run is approaching soon - we are so excited for September 25th!

WPES Administrative Report
Forsythe

1. After receiving feedback from teachers at the end of last school year, we learned that most teachers felt there were so many interruptions throughout each school day with students being pulled for different interventions, support services, and other reasons. With that feedback, we created a schedule that identified "**Protected Instructional Time**" for both math and ELA. Each grade level now has an hour of essential learning time for math and an hour of essential learning time for ELA in which they cannot be pulled unless there is an emergency. So far, this set up has seemed to create much more focused instruction and learning time. And we no longer have to install revolving doors in our classrooms!
2. We have kicked off our second year of **WPES' Trusted Adult Program**! Students are now completing their Trusted Adult forms, where they identify any and all adults who they feel comfortable going to at WPES with anything they need during their school days. We will give every staff in our building - teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff, kitchen crew, maintenance staff, office team, admin - a list of 5-8 students who they will connect with in October to identify themselves as someone the student can come to if they ever need an adult during their school day and check in with them throughout the year. Looking forward to another successful year with this program - thank you to Amanda Mathews & Rachel Garbutt for putting in the time and effort to make this happen!

Nelson:

1. Planning for our 2nd Annual RSD Cultural Night is in full swing. I would like to give a big shout-out to our committee members: Megan Forsythe, Kindyl Etnyre, Whitney Hardin, Abi Krebs, Amanda Mathews, Aiesha Rice-Dainty, Jimmy Ivacic, and our PTO.
2. Student recognition is in full swing at WPES! We have had many signers in our Book of Success for academic achievements. You will see those smiling faces on Facebook. We are also celebrating every student again this year with our Warrior P.R.O.U.D Spotlight nominations. Every student will be nominated by a staff member for being polite, responsible, on-task, united, and/or determined.

SMMS Administrative Report

Bonne & Freeman

1. A big shoutout to our new Student Support Coordinator, Dan Baumgartner, who is already making a difference in this new role. At SMMS, Dan is working directly with students who may be struggling with behavior, attendance, organization, motivation, or other challenges. This role allows us to intervene early, provide targeted support, and work closely with students, teachers, and families before concerns become larger problems.
2. This year, Stephen Mack has implemented a new Collaborative Team process to make grade-level team time more focused and purposeful. Administrators join teams weekly, with conversations centered around celebrations and connections as well as focused collaboration on a specific topic. Last week, teams reflected on school climate—what we are doing well and where we can continue to grow. This structure is helping us strengthen collaboration while creating a more intentional approach to identifying and responding to student needs.

Teaching & Learning Report

1. Baker

Strategic Plan Work:

Ms. Forsythe and I will be overseeing the Teaching & Learning portion of the strategic plan! We met to discuss the necessary action steps for gathering information about our district's current practices and teachers' perspectives regarding professional development, MTSS, essential learning, and collaboration. We have developed a short survey for staff that will cover each of these areas and look forward to analyzing those results.

October SIP Day:

Our teachers have a school improvement day on 10/9. The schedule for that day includes time for team collaboration, including time for our district social workers, school psychologists, and school nurses. Our district nurses will work with Mr. Phelps and me to begin the Heart Safe Schools designation process. We will be hosting area EL teachers for collaboration on this day as well. The Project ADAM Heart Safe School Designation is a process that involves CPR training staff, creating a cardiac emergency response plan, and running a cardiac emergency response drill at each building. For more information about this free designation, you may visit projectadam.com/heart-safe-schools.

19. **Superintendent's Report**
    - Enrollment Numbers
20. **Members' Comments**
    None
21. **Adjournment**
    Anita Bond motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm, seconded by Charlie Hart.

Kelsey Lueshen, President

Trisha Burgan, Secretary