

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
Dec. 15, 2011

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on Dec. 15, 2011. This is an unofficial record. The official minutes of each board meeting are posted on the district web site at:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/mo/rpsd/Board.nsf/Public>

Strategic Planning Update

The board learned about current work in the areas of strategic planning, goal setting and revisions to the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). On Dec. 8 and 9, district leaders participated in two days of strategic planning. The group worked with Raina Knox, president of the Excellence in Missouri Foundation, to review feedback from focus group interviews and to begin to formulate goals and objectives for a five-year plan. Two board members – Leo Anderson and Ruth Johnson – participated in the sessions. Ruth said the experience was “eye-opening” and said she liked having the written feedback report. She also appreciated the attitude of principals and district department heads and their openness to change and improvement. Leo noted that the district has collected a lot of data, but added that there is a long way to go in developing and implementing a new strategic plan. He said he was encouraged by the candid discussion during the two-day session.

As this work continues, updates will be posted on the district web site at:

<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=586>

Action item

The John T. Belcher Scholarship

Three board members reviewed scholarship applications and recommended Amanda Johnson to represent the Ray-Pec School District in this scholarship competition. The board members are: Leo Anderson, Ruth Johnson, and Kim York. A \$750 scholarship is awarded annually to a winner in each of the 17 regions of the Missouri School Boards Association. From that group, a statewide winner is selected to receive an additional \$750.

Information items

City of Peculiar agreement

The board tabled discussion about an agreement with the City of Peculiar regarding development of a future park known as Peculiar Park. The city has worked with a consulting company to develop a master plan for this 66-acre future park. The future park is contiguous with property owned by the school district on Harper Road south of Route YY. The agreement was for an easement for the City to build a

road through the district's property to serve both the future park and the future development by the district. City officials asked for the agreement to be tabled while revisions were made to the agreement.

Guidance Program Review

(Each month, specific departments or programs review their programs for the Board.) Dr. David Ulrich, Director of Student Services, introduced four counselors who presented the report. Presenters were: Mary Schneider, counselor at Ray-Pec East Middle School, Piper Showen, counselor at Bridle Ridge Intermediate School; JoLynne Flanagan, counselor at Stonegate Elementary School; and Eric Sclesky, counselor at Ray-Pec High School.

Purpose of the program: To promote the academic development, career development, and personal/social development of each student. At the same time, the program assists students as they face issues and resolve problems that may hinder their healthy development.

Goal for 2011-2012: Elements of the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program Internal Improvement Review will be adopted to establish baseline measures. Five areas will be evaluated as part of the internal improvement review: Guidance Curriculum, Individual Planning, Responsive Services, and System Support.

The board also received documents detailing the duties of guidance counselors at the elementary, intermediate, middle school and high school levels.

You may read the entire program review report at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=756>

Student Interventions Program Review

(Each month, specific departments or programs review their programs for the Board.) Dr. David Ulrich, Director of Student Services, presented the report.

Purpose of the program: Student intervention is a district-wide framework for improving learning for all students. The framework is divided into two broad categories: academic and behavioral.

Intervention programs in the district include universal academic screening in fall, winter and spring and systematic progress monitoring. Ulrich also stressed the importance of data-driven decision making.

Ulrich explained that the district had begun to track the number of minutes/hours that students spend in the Focus Rooms. Ideally, students will spend a shorter amount of time in the Focus Room and return to the regular classroom more quickly.

Goals for 2011-2012:

- ◎ By spring, more than 82 percent of students will be proficient or advanced as measured by Acuity Predictive Math Assessments (2nd-10th grades).
- ◎ By spring, more than 82 percent of students will be proficient or advanced as measured by Acuity Predictive Communication Arts Assessments (2nd-10th grades).

- ⊙ By spring, more than 85 percent of students will be at proficient according to achievement percentages data (respective to grade level, 1st-8th grades) on AIMSweb Reading-Curriculum Based Measurement and MAZE.
- ⊙ RPHS 2012 graduates will achieve an ACT Composite score of 22.9 or higher.
- ⊙ The district will be in the top 10 percent on Adequate Yearly Progress of Missouri districts with a student population of 4,000 to 8,000.
- ⊙ Total number of hours students spend in the Focus Rooms will decrease by 5 percent.
- ⊙ Total number of hours accumulated by students out of the classroom for greater than one hour will decrease by 15 percent.

You may read the entire program review report and see the supporting documents at:

<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=757>

Tentative Agenda for Quarterly Work Sessions

The board has discussed the idea of scheduling quarterly work sessions on various topics.

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle suggested a budget work session for Tuesday, Feb. 7. Future dates and topics will be scheduled as the year progresses.

Superintendent comments

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle shared information on many topics:

- Dr. Kyle thanked Band Director John Wilson and three students for performing as a brass quartet and providing pre-meeting holiday music.
- Sophomore Logan Jungman was selected first chair Honorable Mention All-State Band. He is the first Ray-Pec student since 2006 to be selected for All-State Band. This equates to a ranking in the top 10 tuba players in the state.
- The high school's production of "The Foreigner" has been selected as a mainstage production at the Missouri State Thespian Festival. The show will be presented Jan. 6 at the festival on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield. The high school theatre department will present a special performance of the show at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at Ray-Pec High School. Tickets will be \$5 for students and \$6 for adults.
- He encouraged support for the Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for Special Olympics. The next Polar Plunge is scheduled for Jan. 28, 2012, at Longview Lake. Dr. Kyle will join more than 70 district students and employees in the fundraising effort.
- Dr. Kyle will be co-chair of the annual Walk for Health, scheduled for June 4, 2012. The walk is a fundraiser for the Research Belton Foundation and proceeds will specifically support the Cass County Dental Clinic. The clinic provides dental care to children who are uninsured or on Medicare. The clinic serves children in Cass County and Grandview. Dr. Kyle encouraged people to form teams for the walk or to provide financial support for the effort.

- An appreciation luncheon is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 19, for the district's food service employees. The Child Nutrition Department served more than 8,000 Thanksgiving lunches last month.
- Dr. Kyle shared information from a tax rate survey of metro area school districts. The survey ranks districts on operating levy, debt levy and total levy.
- A Student Climate survey was conducted this fall with students in grades 3-12. On Dec. 15, school principals reviewed the results and will use the information as they work on improvement plans for their schools. Dr. Kyle plans to provide copies of the survey results to board members this week. The survey results will be posted on the district web site next week.
- An online Patron survey was also conducted this fall. District administrators also reviewed and discussed the results from that survey, which asked patrons to rank certain programs and to provide feedback on the district's communication efforts. Dr. Kyle was disappointed that only 243 people responded to the survey, but said that the district would use the data in conjunction with feedback collected during the strategic planning process. The board will also receive copies of these survey results. The survey results will be posted on the district web site next week.

Other business

Consent agenda

The board approved 7-0 the consent agenda, which included the business report, personnel report (hirings and resignations), and minutes for the Oct. 19 Joint Cities meeting and the Nov. 17 Board of Education meeting. You may view these reports at:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/mo/rpsd/Board.nsf/Public>

Application for Early Graduation

As part of the consent agenda (listed above), the board also approved a list of students who have applied for early graduation. The students completed graduation requirements at Ray-Pec High School, Ray-Pec Academy or through the MO Options program. The students are: Destanie Brown, Ross Cook, Holly Downum, Kelsey Fairlie, Alex Geivett, Chase Harris, Sylvia Hensley, Kendall Hyatt, Randal January, Alicia Katchmarik, Karlie Kennedy, Melissa Mitchell, Kayline Reichman, Jessica Rupard, Cameron Searle, Brianna Shelton and Jordan Talley.

Invitation

High School Teacher Joe O'Neal, president of Ray-Pec NEA, invited the school board members and district administrators to attend the Greater Kansas City Area Legislator-Educator Brunch on Jan. 28.

Presentation

A presentation that was listed on the agenda under Public Comments did not take place, as the presenter was unable to attend the meeting.

Board member comments

- Because so many high school students were in attendance at the meeting, Leo Anderson asked for a student volunteer from the audience to explain their class assignment. A student said they were assigned to attend a meeting and write an opinion essay about the meeting.
- Board President Kyle Gillespie expressed appreciation for a party hosted by board member Kim York and for various cards and gifts. He also shared that he attended a meeting with Dr. Kyle and Assistant Superintendent Jay Harris about the closing of the Peculiar exit bridge over U.S. 71.
- David Crabtree attended and enjoyed the middle school Super Citizen Ceremony.
- Ruth Johnson attended a girls swim meet and expressed appreciation for the swim coaches. She was impressed when the Ray-Pec coach cheered and encouraged a girl from another team who was struggling.
- Dana Hille reminded fellow board members about an invitation to the high school band concert. She also encouraged all to attend the special performance of “The Foreigner” on Jan. 3.
- Kim York said that Jeanne Kuhlman, assistant principal at the high school, invited her and Leo Anderson to tour Wildcat Hour at a high school in Blue Springs. The purpose of the tour was to learn about a concept that Ray-Pec High School is considering for its schedule. Kim said she learned a lot on the tour. Kim also told of attending a meeting with Dr. Kyle of the Downtown Peculiar Arts and Culture District. The DPACD has been selected to receive consulting assistance in development of the downtown arts district.

Upcoming meetings

- The Joint Cities meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at Country Club Bank in Raymore. This is a quarterly meeting that includes representatives from the school district, the City of Peculiar, the City of Raymore, and Cass County.
- The next regular meeting of the Ray-Pec Board of Education is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.