

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
Jan. 26, 2012

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on Jan. 26, 2012. 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 the latest work in the areas of strategic planning, goal setting and revisions to the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Dr. Kevin Daniel, assistant superintendent of academic services, reported that the district has formed teams for eight areas of focus. The teams include district employees and members of the community. The teams will work to draft goals, objectives and action steps in each area. The work begins with a meeting on Feb. 13 for all goal team members.

The district is working with Raina Knox, president of the Excellence in Missouri Foundation, on the new strategic plan. To see a list of the goal team members, read about the work over the past year and see updates, go to the district web site at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=586>

Feedback from the fall Focus Group meetings is now posted on the web site as well.

Resignation of High School principal

The board approved the resignation of Ray-Pec High School Principal Sherri Miller, effective July 21, 2012. Dr. Miller is resigning her position as principal, but is not resigning as a district employee. Her resignation was included in the consent agenda, which the board approved 7-0.

Standards-referenced reporting

The board received an update on the district's work in the area of standards-referenced reporting and grading. Karen Hurst, Director of K-6 Curriculum and Assessment, reported that fifth grade teachers are meeting monthly to identify power standards and learning targets. This work will prepare for the use of standards-referenced reporting and grading for fifth graders during the 2012-2013 school year. Teachers in grades K-4 are also meeting monthly to discuss power standards and how to improve standards-referenced reporting on elementary school report cards. In addition, a large Standards-Referenced Reporting Committee (of more than 60 people) is meeting and has formed sub-committees in three areas: logistics, technology and communication. The sub-committees are brainstorming ideas and researching the use of standards-referenced reporting in other school district.

Hurst shared a long list of school districts that are investigating, beginning to implement or using standards-referenced reporting and grading. The list included Fort Osage, Grain Valley, Liberty, Park Hill, Rockwood and others in Missouri. In other states, the list included Omaha, Rockville, Md., and the entire state of Hawaii.

Board members shared feedback about standards-referenced reporting. Board member Dana Hille said she had received questions about the changes. Board member Joe Anthuis said that he had been asked if other districts were also changing their grading systems. "I said yes," he said. "I didn't know who, but now I know." Board member Kim York shared information that she read in the book "District Leadership that Works" by Robert Marzano, and said the work toward standards-referenced grading is a best practice that is research-based and recommended by leading experts in education.

During the discussion, it was again pointed out that the move toward standards-referenced reporting and grading at the high school level will be developed in conjunction with a system that allows for calculation of a grade point average. High school students will still be able to have information and transcripts needed for application for post-secondary education and scholarships.

To read more about standards-referenced reporting, go here:
<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=749>

Action items

Desktop computer bid

The board approved, 7-0, a bid of \$29,970 from Black Rock Technology for replacement computers in the AutoCAD lab at the high school. Although the district contacted multiple companies about the bid notice, Black Rock Technology was the only company that submitted a bid.

Series 2002 Bond Refunding

The board approved, 7-0, a resolution to redeem prior to maturity the final portion of the Series 2002 bond issue in the amount of \$1.25 million. In a memo to the board, Kendra Hutsell, chief financial officer, explained that, "As interest rates remain low, it makes economic sense to pre-pay outstanding general obligation bonds when the opportunity is available. Bonds totaling \$1,250,000, maturing on March 1, 2013, are subject to redemption prior to maturity at the option of the district, on March 1, 2012. The coupon payment on these bonds is 4.35 percent. The early payment will allow the district taxpayers to save an estimated \$53,125. The district has sufficient liquidity to make this early payment, and there are no fees associated."

Demographic Study proposal

The board approved, 7-0, hiring RSP and Associates of Overland Park, Kan., to conduct a demographic analysis student and enrollment projection for the school district. The district requested proposals and conducted interviews with three consulting firms. The estimated cost is \$19,500.

Easement agreement with West Peculiar Fire Protection District

The board approved, 7-0, an easement agreement with the West Peculiar Fire Protection District for the re-location, construction, placement, maintenance and operation of a storm warning and civil defense siren. The current siren, near Shull Elementary School and the district warehouse, has been disabled. The new siren will be installed off 211th Street near Shull Elementary School.

Information items

Student Registration Software

The district advertised for bids on software for student registration. Such software would allow the district to streamline the registration process for returning students by allowing much of the process to be conducted electronically. The bid opening was scheduled for Jan. 23. On the date of the bid opening, the district's provider of Student Information Services (SIS) informed the district that it is interested in developing such a software program. Ray-Pec could be in a pilot group with other school districts to use the new program. Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle told board members that the district wanted to gather additional information before coming to the board with a recommendation.

Board policies

The board had a first reading on changes proposed for three board policies. Formal approval of these revised policies will come at a future board meeting.

- Policy BDA: Board meetings
 - This policy will be updated to reflect the current regular meeting schedule of the school board on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.
- Policy DJF: Purchasing
 - This policy will be updated to change the dollar amount listed for competitive purchasing. The revision states that "Employees are expected to contact multiple providers before making a decision regarding purchases under \$5,000. Purchases of \$5,000 or more will be posted on the district's website and written proposals will be requested. Sealed bids will be required for purchases that may exceed \$15,000." Currently, the policy says that employees are expected to contact multiple providers before making a decision regarding purchases under \$3,000.
- Policy GBH: Staff/student relations
 - The Ray-Pec School District subscribes to a policy-updating service from the Missouri School Boards Association. According to MSBA, this policy was revised for clarity and to incorporate changes to the law made by Senate Bill 1 (2011, which was passed during the special legislative session in fall 2011 and repealed some (but not all) of the

- requirements in Senate Bill 54 (2011). The law changes received much media attention, especially regulations on electronic communication between school staff and students.
- The policy is based on the expectation that staff members will maintain a courteous and professional relationship with students.
 - The policy outlines absolute prohibitions in staff-student interaction. These include: caressing or fondling in a sexual or sexually intimate manner, dating a student or planning a future romantic or sexual relationship with a student, making sexual advances toward or engaging in a sexual relationship with a student, engaging in conduct that constitutes legal harassment or discrimination, or engaging in conduct that violates board policies, regulations or procedures or constitutes criminal behavior.
 - The policy provides an explanation of possible exceptions to the policy, but states that “under no circumstance will an educational or other purpose justify deviating from the ‘Absolute Prohibitions’ section of the policy.
 - The policy lists examples of situations where professional physical and emotional boundaries may be violated. These include being alone with a student with a locked door with the lights off, associating with students in a setting where students are provided alcohol, communicating with students about sexual topics, sponsoring parties for students unless part of an extracurricular activity appropriately supervised by additional staff members, and being present when students are fully or partially nude. (This is just a partial list.)
 - The policy provides guidelines for electronic communication with student, regardless of whether the communication methods are provided by the district or the staff members uses his or her own personal communication devices, accounts, webpages or other forms of communication.
 - The policy requires staff members with any knowledge or evidence of possible violations of the policy to make a report to the district’s administration.
 - The policy requires the district to provide training to district staff that includes current information on identifying signs of sexual abuse in children and potentially abusive relationships between children and adults.

Health Services Program Review

(Each month, specific departments or programs review their programs for the Board.) Jennifer Johnson, nurse supervisor for the district, presented the report.

The district employs 15 nurses to staff health rooms in 11 school buildings. (Some of the positions have job sharing.) All of the nurses are either licensed as practical nurses (LPNs) or as registered nurses (RNs).

Purpose of the program: To maintain and promote wellness and a positive learning environment in all educational settings. The program impacts students, faculty and general community. Health services directly impacts the everyday wellbeing and learning of each child in the district.

Goals for 2011-2012:

- 100 percent of nurses will be trained in the use of SIS and Missouri Immunization software. All nurses will implement the use of these tools during the 2011-2012 school year.
- All nurses will participate in professional development including new learning regarding immunization guidelines.
- Individual health plans will be created for students with appropriate indicators. Health plans will be maintained and updated bi-annually.

Johnson reported that the goals have been met for 2011-2012.

You may read the entire program review report at: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=72>

Superintendent comments

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle shared information on many topics:

- Dr. Kyle shared a letter from the Joplin School District thanking the Ray-Pec School District for a \$2,000 contribution to Bright Futures Joplin. The organization helps to connect community resources with students in need. This donation was in addition to funds raised at the Ray-Pec vs. Joplin football game.
- The Ray-Pec High School Symphonic Band is scheduled to perform Friday, Jan. 27, at the Missouri Music Educators Association conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort.
- Dr. Kyle said that the district is continuing to learn about and pursue the addition of an International Baccalaureate program at Ray-Pec High School. Some district representatives plan to attend a meeting in October 2012 in Minnesota.
- He encouraged support for the Polar Plunge, a fundraiser for Special Olympics. The Polar Plunge is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 28, at Longview Lake. Dr. Kyle will join more than 100 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.
- Dr. Kyle provided an update on legislation proposed or under consideration.

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 Dec. 15 Board of Education meeting. You may view these reports at: <http://www.boarddocs.com/mo/rpsd/Board.nsf/Public>

Budget adjustments

The board approved, 7-0, two adjustments to the 2011-2012 budget. The first adjustment increased one budget line by \$16,800 for athletic trainer services. The district in September 2011 approved a contract with Research Belton Hospital for athletic trainer services. The district had budgeted funds for athletic trainer services in a salary line. The money is now being paid from an account for contracted services. The second adjustment was an increase of \$4,119 for student supplies at Shull Elementary due to increased class sections at the school. The budget adjustments had been included in the consent agenda, but were pulled from that agenda for separate consideration at the request of Board Member Kim York.

Application for Early Graduation

As part of the consent agenda (listed above), the board also approved two students – Nina Smith and Christopher Holguin -- who had applied for early graduation. The students completed graduation requirements at Ray-Pec High School, Ray-Pec Academy or through the MO Options program.

Board member comments

- Board member Dana Hille commended the staff at Ray-Pec East Middle School for response earlier in the month when student Luke Swearingin collapsed and later died.
- Board member Kim York praised Chief Financial Officer Kendra Hutsell for her work to save district funds through the early repayment of bond funds. She reported on the great attendance at the first Winter Event holiday party hosted by the Special Services Department for children with disabilities and their families. She also was pleased to see the recent news articles about the middle school receiving LEED Gold certification. She pointed out that the implementation of many “green” features in the building could also save an estimated 37 percent of utility costs over the life of the building.
- Board member Ruth Johnson thanked Steve Meyers, Director of Facilities and Support Services, for the quick response to repair the scoreboard at Shull Elementary School.
- Board president Kyle Gillespie commended Dr. Kyle for being named the Raymore Chamber of Commerce 2011 Person of the Year.

Updates

- This week, Jan. 22-28, is School Board Recognition Week. Dr. Kyle read aloud a proclamation from Gov. Jay Nixon.
- The Missouri School Boards Association Region 4 meeting is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 31 in Jefferson City.
- A budget work session is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Administrative Services Center.
- Ray-Pec schools will dismiss early on Thursday, Feb. 16. School will not be in session on Friday, Feb. 17, to allow staff to participate in planned professional development activities. School will not be in session on Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents Day.
- The next regular meeting of the Ray-Pec Board of Education is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23. A closed session will begin at 6 p.m.