

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
July 19, 2012

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on July 19, 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>

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle to retire

In a heartfelt letter addressed to the students of the school district, Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle has announced his intent to retire at the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

Dr. Kyle began his career in education in 1982 as a music teacher. He has also served as an administrator in various school districts throughout Missouri. He came to Ray-Pec in 2005 as assistant superintendent and has served as Superintendent of Schools for the last six years. In his retirement letter, Dr. Kyle shared that he could not have asked for a better place to retire. His passion for children and dedication to their success were the hallmarks of his career in education.

After expressing its appreciation for his service to the school district, the Board of Education voted to accept Dr. Kyle's retirement letter during its closed meeting on Thursday, July 19. He sent an email to all district employees just minutes before his letter was presented to the Board of Education in a closed session on July 19.

Board President Kim York announced the retirement during the open board meeting.

In recounting Dr. Kyle's accomplishments, she said, "He has led Ray-Pec schools through several accomplishments including achieving and then maintaining the status of accredited with distinction for all six of those years, oversight of the construction of three new schools, enrollment growth of over 1,000 students, major curriculum implementations, and many other accomplishments."

"I think he would tell you that what means the most to him, what he views as his greatest accomplishment though, are not these big things, but the little things that positively impacted the life of a child. It's those moments that I know he will treasure and remember forever."

York also addressed comments directly to Dr. Kyle. "We appreciate your dedication and commitment to the students here at Ray-Pec. We appreciate all of the time and energy that you have devoted over the years. We appreciate everything you have done for Ray-Pec. Ray Pec is a great school district, a great place for kids, you should be proud of your accomplishments here."

Board member Kyle Gillespie also thanked Dr. Kyle for his service, noting that he was the only superintendent that Gillespie had worked with as a board member.

Board member Leo Anderson said, "I appreciate and admire your passion. Thank you for your service."

The board will begin its search for the next superintendent in September and intends to engage a search firm to assist in the process. The types of service a search firm will provide include:

- A needs assessment to identify desired characteristics stakeholders would like to see in a candidate.
- The board wants input from staff, parents, and community. The board plans to work with the search firm to identify the best process for obtaining this input.
- A firm will help with candidate recruitment
 - The search firm will present information to assist the board with candidate evaluation and screening.

To read Dr. Kyle's letter, follow the link:

<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/4522>

Other action items

Schedule tax levy hearing

The board scheduled the annual tax levy public hearing for 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23. The hearing will immediately precede the regular monthly meeting.

Information items

Summer School update

Dr. David Ulrich, Director of Student Services, presented a recap of Summer School, which took place June 5-29. This year, there were 189 students in grades 1-6, which was an increase of 17 students over 2011. There were 220 students in grades 7-12, which was an increase of 113 students over 2011. There were 223 students who participated in the summer fitness class to earn high school credit. Dr. Ulrich also shared information about reading and math improvement shown by students in grades 1-6.

To read the report, go here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/4524>

Child Nutrition Program Review

(Each month, specific departments or programs review their programs for the Board.) Colleen Johnston, Director of Child Nutrition, presented a report about the district's Child Nutrition program.

The program's goals are to: increase participation in school lunch; increase participation in school breakfast, provide healthy meals and snacks to Panther Pride; meet federal guidelines and nutritional standards; provide exceptional customer service; and maintain a responsible fiscal balance.

Johnston listed these opportunities for improvement: establish a plan for schools not operating efficiently; increase awareness about new USDA guidelines; and enter into partnerships for nutrition and wellness awareness.

In 2011-2012, the district served 671,542 lunch meals and 127,115 breakfast meals. This is an increase over 2011-2011, when the district served 662,614 lunch meals and 105,252 breakfast meals.

The Child Nutrition Department is planning a mini food show during registration to allow patrons to taste some of the products used in school meals. This will also provide an opportunity to explain the new federal guidelines to parents and students.

Some of the changes to be implemented during the new school year include:

- Increases in serving sizes for fruits and vegetables
- Decreases in the serving sizes for protein
- Increased whole grain products
- A weekly limit on calories

To review the complete report, go here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/4523>

Superintendent comments

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Kyle shared information on several topics:

- Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) results have arrived. Dr. Kevin Daniel said the district continues to see positive growth by students from grade level to grade level. He said the district is “pleased, but not satisfied” with the results.
- Registration for 2012-2013 will take place July 25-26 and Aug. 2. This year, online registration was introduced and has received positive comments.
- The first day of school is Aug. 15.
- The replacement of the Routes C and J bridge over U.S. 71 experienced a delay after a vehicle struck the structure.
- The Administrative Advance is scheduled for Friday, July 27. School board members are invited to attend from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the former freshman center.
- Dr. Kyle reminded everyone to study the significant election issues that will be on the ballot this year.

Board members comments

- Board member Ruth Johnson announced that she has a seat on the Legislative Advocacy Committee.
- Board member Kyle Gillespie noted that three students from Ray-Pec East Middle School participated in the All-State 7-8 Honor Choir on July 18. He said the performance was excellent. In addition, 10 intermediate school students participated in the 5-6 Honor Choir.

Other business

Consent agenda

The board approved the consent agenda, which included the business report, personnel report (hirings and resignations), and minutes for the June 19 board retreat and the June 27 regular monthly Board of Education meeting. The consent agenda also included a list of district contacts for state and federal programs. You may view these reports at: <http://www.boarddocs.com/mo/rpsd/Board.nsf/Public>

Cass County Dental Clinic

Dr. Kenny Southwick, retired superintendent from the Belton School District and member of the Research Belton Foundation Board of Directors, shared a presentation about the Cass County Dental Clinic.

The clinic, which opened in July 2011, serves youth in Cass County and Grandview who have no dental insurance or are covered by Medicaid. Dr. Southwick told about the Research Belton Foundation and its work to establish the dental clinic. Before the Foundation opened the clinic, it had worked with area dentists to provide care for needy children.

The Foundation, with the assistance of local dentists and volunteers, provides dental screenings and varnish treatments to students in specific grade levels in the Belton, Grandview and Ray-Pec school districts. Students who need dental work are referred for additional care.

The Foundation also provides scholarships to graduating seniors in the Belton, Grandview and Ray-Pec school districts who are pursuing degrees leading to careers in healthcare. In 2012, the Foundation awarded scholarships totaling \$39,750. Scholarships for nursing students are renewable.

The annual Walk for Health, scheduled for the first Saturday in June, is the primary fundraiser for the Foundation. It also receives revenue from grants, donations and bequests.

Dr. Southwick thanked the school board for the district's cooperation in scheduling the dental screenings and its support of the Walk for Health.

Updates

- Registration: July 25, July 26, and Aug. 2.
- Convocation: Aug. 10.
- Preview Day and Meet the Teacher Night: Aug. 13.
- First day of school: Aug. 15.