

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
Sept. 26, 2013

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on Sept. 26, 2013. 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>

Recognition

The school board on Sept. 26 recognized students who achieved top scores on the 2013 standardized tests. The board announced the names of six high school students who earned perfect scores on end-of-course exams, and nine students who earned the highest scores on Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests.

- Kanen Huff, Isaac Scott and Dustin Jones are fourth graders at Raymore Elementary. Last spring they achieved the highest scores on the advanced category of the 3rd grade math MAP test.
- Tyler Swift is a sixth grader at Eagle Glen. Last spring he achieved the highest score in the advanced category on the 5th grade math MAP test.
- Faith Swenson is a 7th grader. Last spring she achieved the highest score in the advanced category on the 6th grade English Language Arts MAP test.
- Laurana Mitchell and Lindsey Feuerborn are 7th graders. Last spring, they received the highest scores in the advanced category on the 6th grade math MAP test.
- Aaron Fuller and MacKenzie Kain are 8th graders. Last spring, they achieved the highest scores in the advanced category on the 7th grade math MAP test.
- Sophomore Brayden Roberts received a perfect score on the geometry end-of-course exam last spring.
- Juniors Thomas Davis and Connor Berry achieved perfect scores on the Algebra II end-of-course exam last spring.
- Senior Elizabeth Daugherty earned a perfect score on the Government end-of-course exam last spring.
- Sophomore Nicholas Lanza achieved a perfect score on the Biology end-of-course exam.
- Sophomore Dylan McLaughlin earned a perfect score on the American History end-of-course exam.

Action items

Board approves GovDeals

The school board on Sept. 26 took action to handle the disposal of surplus property in a new way. The board approved a memorandum of understanding with GovDeals to handle the sale of surplus property

through an online auction service similar to Ebay. Under the new process, surplus items will be sold on an ongoing basis, rather than once each year. Under the contract, GovDeals will collect the payments, and buyers will pay a 12.5 percent premium.

Jay Harris, assistant superintendent for administrative services, described the benefits in using GovDeals. The contract is expected to save many hours of staff time, increase the time period to accept bids, broaden the bidder pool, and to ultimately increase revenue from the sale of surplus items.

In past years, and including this year, the district schools and departments identified surplus property, which was then moved to a central location. District staff members were invited to view the property to identify items that could be used in other areas of the district. Items not selected for in-district transfer were available for sale to the public. The public had a specified time period to enter bids. After the school board approved the bids, the items were available for pick-up. The proceeds from the 2013 surplus sale were less than \$300.

In the new process, staff members will still have the opportunity to request in-district transfers prior to public bids.

Information items

Public Relations Program Review

(Each month, specific departments or programs review their programs for the Board.) Michele Stidham, Communication Director, presented a report about the district's public relations program.

Stidham recapped three themes from past presentations: the need to train people as back-up, the effort to measure the frequency of communication, and the need to gather data from employees and the public about the district's communication effort.

She noted that while monitoring the frequency of communication is informative, it does not measure the quality of the communication program. She also noted that last year's goals were based on surveys that did not take place due to a leadership transition in the district.

Stidham shared data showing the frequency of informing patrons about district programs, events and services. For example, from Sept. 14, 2011, through Sept. 13, 2012, the district sent out 132 RP Update email notices. From Sept. 14, 2012, through Sept. 13, 2013, the district sent out 126 RP Update messages. The number of text messages declined slightly when comparing the same time periods, but the numbers of press releases, Facebook posts, tweets and web site posts all increased.

She showed that the number of forms and documents available on the web site has increased. The number of subscribers to the district's RP Update newsletter and text messaging services has also increased. The district's use of social media – specifically, Facebook and Twitter – continues to grow.

Stidham outlined three goals for the upcoming year:

1. Creation of a procedure manual for basic public relations functions.
2. Develop and implement a systematic approach to publicizing the strategic plan.
3. Identify recurring/routine messages for internal and external audiences and establish the protocol for delivery. By planning for the routine messages, this allows more time for strategic communication.

Stidham told of the district's desire to select and target key messages to share in a variety of ways to showcase academic excellence and other district achievements.

To view the entire presentation, go here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/4979>

Buildings and Grounds Program Review

(Each month, specific departments or programs review their programs for the Board.) Jay Harris, assistant superintendent for administrative services, presented a report about the district's buildings and grounds program.

Harris provided an overview of the buildings and grounds department staff, which include a maintenance supervisor, custodial supervisor, administrative assistant, 63 custodians, three warehouse/delivery employees, one electrician, one plumber, one HVAC staff member, 4.5 general maintenance employees, three grounds crew and two contracted grounds crew members.

He shared these highlights:

- The department completed 2,551 work orders during the 2012-2013 school year.
- The department constructed baseball and softball dugouts.
- A survey showed that 93.1 percent of in-district staff completing the survey rated the cleanliness of Ray-Pec facilities as an A or B.
- Staff attendance for 2012-2013 was 96.67 percent, not including vacation or personal days. This exceeded the goal of 95 percent.
- All but 11 of the 66 custodial employees are trained in CPR and the use of an AED (automated external defibrillator). The department's goal is for all custodial staff to be trained in these areas.

He noted that the department is using a Work Order System for tracking and prioritizing work orders. He also noted that a new process will be implemented to improve the tracking of staff overtime.

Harris shared a model "scorecard" to be used to measure and monitor specific indicators of success. These indicators include staff attendance, a perception survey, loss of work time due to accident or injury, work order completion and energy cost savings.

To view the entire presentation, go here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/6559>

Committee reports

Board member Kyle Gillespie attended the first Team Ray-Pec meeting of the school year. Team Ray-Pec is a district-wide team of employees that discuss and make recommendations about quality of work life issues. He noted that the team discussed several topics, including the need to recruit some additional members.

Board President Kim York attended the exit interview with the district's auditor, who reviewed the district's recently completed audit. She said the report did not note any problems or issues of significance, but always includes some suggestions. She praised Chief Financial Officer Kendra Hutsell and her staff for a great job of preparation for the audit.

Superintendent comments

Dr. Monsees said that the district received a score of 130.5 out of 140 total points, for a 93.2 percent score, on its Annual Performance Report. The report was released the day after the August school board meeting. In addition to releasing the APR on each school district, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also released a score for each individual school. Dr. Monsees noted that each school in the Ray-Pec district scored at least 90 percent on the report.

Dr. Monsees provided follow-up to the board's action in August to approve a resolution regarding House Bill 253. The legislature passed HB 253, which included a variety of tax cut measures. Gov. Jay Nixon vetoed the bill. The bill was considered for override during the veto session, but did not garner enough votes. Concerns for future funding for education and other essential services in the state, which already has a low overall tax burden, were cited in the board resolution.

Dr. Monsees reminded the board about the upcoming Homecoming football game on Oct. 4. The Ray-Pec Public School Foundation has scheduled an alumni tailgate before the game on Oct. 4.

Dr. Monsees said that as of Sept. 26, there were 6,013 students enrolled K-12, and another 150 students in Early Childhood. This is an increase of about 35 students (K-12) from last year.

Board member comments

Board member Kyle Gillespie commented that the high school cross country team performed well at a meet in Iowa, and that the team was headed to compete in Minnesota.

Other business

Consent agenda

The board approved the consent agenda, which included the business report, personnel report (hirings and resignations), and minutes for the Aug. 1 board retreat, Aug. 21 Joint Cities meeting and Aug. 22 tax

levy hearing and regular monthly Board of Education meeting. You may view these reports at:
<http://www.boarddocs.com/mo/rpsd/Board.nsf/Public>

Updates

- Missouri School Boards Association Conference, Oct. 3-6.
- MSBA Region 4 meeting, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 23, Independence School District Central Office
- Regular school board meeting, 6 p.m. closed and 7 p.m. open session, Oct. 24, at the Ray-Pec Administrative Services Center.