

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
Nov. 19, 2015

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on Nov. 19, 2015. 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>

Board selects architectural firm

The Board selected an architectural firm to provide design services. The action brings the District closer to addressing its space needs over the next eight to 10 years.

The Board on Nov. 19 approved incite Design Studio to provide design services for projects identified in the Long Range Facility Plan. The District's Architectural Services Selection Committee, which included employees and patrons, reviewed proposals from 11 companies and interviewed four firms before recommending incite Design Studio.

The Long Range Facility Plan includes constructing an addition onto the south high school to accommodate all students in grades 9-12. Construction and reconfiguration will provide additional space for grades K-8 and the Early Childhood Program.

Completing the outlined improvements will require a \$27 million general obligation bond issue in April 2016, but will not require an increase in the tax levy. Hiring an architectural firm now allows the District to begin the design work needed for the planned projects.

Read more: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=981>

Municipal Advisor

Also during the Nov. 19 meeting, the Board approved George K. Baum as the District's Municipal Advisor for three years. A municipal advisor monitors the proper time to call, refinance, or refund outstanding bonds and to advise the District for any new issue bonds.

Recognition

The School Board recognized Junior Callie Martin for being named to the Second Team All-State Softball Team by the Missouri High School Fast Pitch Coaches Association. Callie is a catcher for the Ray-Pec High School Panthers.

The Board recognized Chase Schaeffer for earning All-State Honorable Mention honors by finishing ninth place in the 100 breaststroke at the state swim meet.

The Board also recognized the Ray-Pec High School varsity cheerleaders for winning the Missouri State Cheerleading Championship in the Co-Ed Small Division. In addition, McKenna Miller, Alyson Van Winkle, and Taylor Moore were selected as All-State Cheerleaders.

Annual Performance Report

Superintendent Dr. Kari Monsees reported about the Annual Performance Report. Each year, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education issues an Annual Performance Report for each school district. The APR plays an important role in accreditation under the Missouri School Improvement Program. Ray-Pec is a fully accredited District.

For 2015, Ray-Pec earned 138 out of the possible 140 points, or 98.6 percent, on the APR. This is the second highest rating among districts in the Kansas City metro area. This is an improvement from the 96.1 percent earned in 2014 and the 93.2 percent earned in 2013. In addition, each school in the District earned at least 94 percent of the possible points on their building APR. This marks the third consecutive year that all schools have scored above 90 percent. Read more:

<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=75>

Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

Dr. Al Voelker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, and Dr. Kristel Barr, Director of Secondary Education, shared information about Project Lead the Way (PLTW), which is a program of study in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. PLTW has course offerings in a variety of fields, including engineering, computer science, and biomedical studies.

Voelker and Barr described a multi-year process to phase-in the addition of such courses at the middle school and high school levels. The proposed middle school courses for 2016-2017 would replace the existing exploratory courses of Industrial Technology and Computer Applications. The first step in the process is to add the proposed 2016-2017 courses to the course guide for the upcoming enrollment process. Adding further courses will be decided on an annual basis.

Child Nutrition Program Review

Each month, the Board hears a review about a particular department or program. This month, Sarah Chellberg, Director of Child Nutrition, provided an update about the Child Nutrition program.

Chellberg manages a staff of more than 60 people, including kitchen managers, cooks, delivery drivers, and office personnel.

During the 2014-2015 school year, the District:

- Served 590,012 reimbursable lunch meals; 217,369 of those at a free or reduced cost
- Served 136,375 reimbursable breakfast meals; 92,926 of those at a free or reduced cost
- Served 14,111 reimbursable snacks; 3,279 of those at a free or reduced cost (Panther Pride)

She noted that 27.1 percent of the District's students had been approved for Free or Reduced Price Meals. Chellberg said the department received a successful Administrative Review by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in March 2015. She told about the District's National School Breakfast Week celebration, which included Chewy (the Panther mascot) and local celebrities. She also pointed out that additional fresh fruit and vegetable options and standards were implemented.

Chellberg provided historical statistics on the number of meals served, along with budget information. She also reported that a staff survey providing perceptions on the performance of the Child Nutrition Department showed that more than 80 percent of respondents scored the Child Nutrition Department at meets or exceeds expectations on eight out of 14 of the performance-related questions.

Read more: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9021>

Surplus property

The Board declared a list of items, including computer carts, overhead projectors, a VCR, youth baseball gloves, and wipe off boards, as surplus. These items will be made available for bids through Gov Deals as part of the surplus property procedure. The Board approved bids on a list of surplus items, including a water fountain, musical instruments, a concrete mixer, a TV/VCR combo, and books, for a total of \$4,530. You can view the list of items and bids here:

<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9025>

Legislative Priorities

The Board approved a list of legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The priorities are listed in four broad categories: Funding, Local Control, Accountability, and Student Transfers.

The list was developed in collaboration with other Cass County school districts, operating under the name "Cass County Kids First." Last year was the first time for the county school districts to collaborate on a list of legislative priorities in a collective effort to support public education in Cass County. This year, the priorities have been reviewed and revised. Once approved, they will be shared with local legislators during the 2016 session.

The priorities include:

- Make significant progress to fully fund the current Formula
- No diversion of public funds to non-public schools or organizations.
- Increase support for Transportation.
- Increase support for Parents as Teachers and Early Childhood Education.
- Increase support for the A+ Scholarship program.
- Maintain local control of teacher evaluation.
- Maintain local control of curriculum.
- Support struggling school districts rather than punishing them.

- Reduce the reliance on standardized tests.
- Allow local school districts to determine capacity and tuition rates.

Board Vice President Ruth Johnson has helped organize the group's efforts for the coming year.

To read the entire list of priorities, go here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9022>

Ridership report

The Board approved the October student ridership report. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education requires school districts to provide student transportation data to the state. The report includes the number of students transported on each bus route. The report also provides the number of students transported within a mile of their respective schools due to the designation of hazardous zones. To determine hazardous zones, these factors are considered: grade of pupil, location of walkway in relation to roadway, speed of traffic, volume of traffic, and road crossing areas.

Committee reports

Board Member Barbara Boucher attended the Math Curriculum Review Committee meeting. She was impressed with the teachers' dedication and enthusiasm. Board Member Kim York also attended the meeting. She said she appreciated the hard work and effort of the group.

Board Member Ryan Wescoat said that the Policy Review Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee meetings were well attended with members providing much input.

Board Member Joe Anhuis said he was impressed with the size of Team Ray-Pec and the amount of information communications. He also noted that the Innovation Committee was brainstorming ideas.

Board Vice President Ruth Johnson said the Innovation Committee discussion included ideas from teachers and administrators.

Superintendent comments

Dr. Monsees commended the schools for the Veterans Day programs throughout the District. They honored veteran guests and were educational to our students. He also thanked the Child Nutrition department for serving more than 2,500 guests at the various Thanksgiving lunches at the elementary and intermediate schools.

Dr. Monsees noted that Nov. 16-20 was American Education Week, and that staff was recognized during the week as a thank you for all of their efforts so support our students. He also noted that Congress has reached a compromise bill that will likely replace No Child Left Behind, shifting more control over education back to the state level.

Board member comments

Board Member Barbara Boucher attended the Peculiar Chamber of Commerce meeting. She said the Ray-Pec Robotics Team gave an articulate and enthusiastic presentation. The City of Peculiar presented its promotional video, and noted that it's important for the District to maintain the quality of education.

Board Member Ryan Wescoat serves on the Education Committee for the National Association of Counties. He said the committee is listing local control as a priority. He expressed an interest in the addition of culinary courses to the Family and Consumer Sciences program. He also said that the idea of Driver's Education was being reviewed by the Innovation Committee.

Board Vice President Ruth Johnson attended the Creekmoor Elementary School Veterans Day presentation. She also shared that she heard from a patron who was appreciative of a return call from the Superintendent.

Board Member Kim York noted that the City of Peculiar promotional video was shared at the Joint Cities meeting. She also thanked District staff for help with the Thanksgiving lunches.

Board President Leo Anderson pointed out the enhancement to Board meetings through the addition of audio and video recording.

Public comment

Two patrons addressed the Board. Melinda Houdyshell shared concerns about Standards Referenced Reporting. Melinda Lucas shared concerns about academic deficiencies.

Consent agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included the business report, and minutes for the Oct. 8 work session and the Oct. 15 regular monthly Board of Education meeting. You may view these reports at: <http://www.boarddocs.com/mo/rpsd/Board.nsf/Public>

To view the personnel report (hirings, resignations and retirements), go here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=1031>. These items are considered during the closed session of the meeting, and made public afterward.

Early graduates

As part of the consent agenda, the Board approved a list of students for early graduation. Ray-Pec High School early graduates: Eleanor Bybee, Alden Buckley, Courtney Finegan, Brian Freeman, Auhnna Harding, Amina Nagama-Washington, Jasmine Raines, Hanna Rogers, Kylie Russell, Rainey Stoll, Sarah Wescoat, and Mikayla Zellers. Ray-Pec Academy: Samantha Miller, Rashell Cartwright, Stacie Smith, and Braiden Dunham. Missouri Options: Alyssa Rash, Kortney Parrish, Ashley Enyeart, Haley Russell, Noah Hylton, James Forester, Jonah Barrera, Orlando Summerville, Michael Hollingsworth, Joseph Gott, Haley More, and Aaron Kirk.

Board policies

The Board reviewed these policies and affirmed them without changes:

Policy CH – Policy Implementation and Dissemination

CHCA – Handbooks

DJB – Petty Cash Accounts

FB – Facilities Planning

JFCH – Student Alcohol/Drug Abuse

KBA – Public’s Right to Know

The Board approved these policies:

BBBA – Board Member Qualifications

BBF – Board Member Ethics

EBAC – Integrated Pest Management

GCI – Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers

GDI – Support Staff Assignments and Transfers

These policies were presented for a first reading:

BBB – School Board Elections

BHA – Board Training and Development

IGDF – Student Fundraising

JHDA – Surveying, Analyzing, or Evaluating Students

To review these or any other Board policy, go here:

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/PolicyOverview.aspx?S=80000&Sch=80000>

Updates

- Regular school board meeting, 6 p.m. closed and 7 p.m. open session, Dec. 17, at the Ray-Pec Administrative Services Center.