

**Ray-Pec School Board Update**  
**Regular monthly meeting**  
**Dec. 17, 2015**

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on Dec. 17, 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 votes to place bond issue on April ballot**

Ray-Pec voters on April 5, 2016, will consider a \$27 million no-tax-rate-increase bond issue to address space needs throughout the District. The plan includes constructing an addition onto the south high school to accommodate all students in grades 9-12 in one school.

The Board on Dec. 17 unanimously approved placing the bond issue on the ballot. The general obligation bond issue is necessary to fund the improvements outlined in the District's Long Range Facility Plan. In introducing the measure, Superintendent Dr. Kari Monsees emphasized that the bond issue will not require an increase in the tax levy.

In addition to the high school expansion, other elements of the plan include:

- North high school building becomes second middle school
- Modifications to Bridle Ridge and Eagle Glen to serve grades K-5
- Convert Shull Elementary into an Early Childhood Center
- Maintenance projects throughout the District

The plan includes the most aggressive timeline possible to resolve the two-building high school situation. Read more: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=1035>

**High School grading and reporting update**

Dr. Al Voelker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, provided an update on grading and reporting at Ray-Pec High School.

As part of a multi-year process to improve grading and reporting practices, the District implemented standards referenced reporting in grades K-4. The practice was then extended to grades 5-8.

Voelker reported that the high school grading and reporting work group team, after an extensive review, has decided to focus on consistent grading practices and consistent communication between teachers and parents.

The traditional 100-point system with averaging will continue to be the method used to calculate grades. The 4-3-2-1 scoring system will not be a required method of scoring at the High School.

Grading and reporting goals for Ray-Pec High School include:

1. Monitor and provide feedback in a timely and consistent manner regarding a student's mastery of learning. This includes regular grade updates in the online grade book.
2. Implement best practices in grading and reporting. (For example, remove non-learning attributes, and do not offer extra credit.) Develop consistent department retake policies and common grade calculation percentages.
3. Record an overall course grade to represent a student's performance and proficiency in relationship to expectations.

Voelker outlined the next steps:

- Continue development of grading and reporting action steps as a process of continual improvement at the high school.
- Communicate grading and reporting changes to parents and the community.
- Reflect upon and refine current practices at Ray-Pec East Middle School.

### **Recognition**

The School Board recognized the Ray-Pec High School girls cross country team for placing second at the state meet. Girls who ran at the state meet were: Kiley Deain, Kami Tabor, Jamie Wharton, Miranda Dick, Breanna Birkett, Makenzie Stucker, and Ali Gillespie.

The Board recognized four cross country runners for receiving All State honors. From the girls race: Kiley Deain, ninth place; Kami Tabor, 13<sup>th</sup> place; and Jamie Wharton, 24<sup>th</sup> place. Tyler Musgrave placed 21<sup>st</sup> in the boys race. The Board also recognized Jay Johnson, head coach of the girls cross country team, for being named 2015 Cross Country Coach of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Cross Country Coaches Association.

### **Special Education Program Review**

Each month, the Board hears a review about a particular department or program. This month, Linda Bass, Director of Special Education, provided an update about the Special Education program.

The Special Services Department includes 40 teachers, 50 paraprofessionals, seven process coordinators, a lead elementary coordinator, a lead secondary coordinator, administrative assistance, and personnel to provide specialized services in the areas of speech therapy, occupational therapy, interpreters for the hearing impaired, psychological examiners, behavior interventionists, and a certified nursing assistant.

The department serves 517 students who meet eligibility criteria for one of the 13 categories of disability as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (ACT) and the state and local compliance plan.

Bass touched on some highlights from the past year:

- The 2014 state compliance file review was 100 percent accurate.
- Ray-Pec provided professional development for more than 150 paraprofessionals from five districts.
- The District provided disability-specific training for staff.
- A total of 279 people, from 65 families, attended the third annual winter event.

She outlined the department goals:

- By June 2017, parent survey results will indicate a minimum of 80 percent satisfaction in the strongly agree category with the following statement: information at the meeting was presented in terms I could understand.
- At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, human resource records will show that the average years of experience at Raymore-Peculiar of special education teachers is eight years.
- By December 2017, the percent of students with IEPs who are inside the regular education class 80 percent or more each day will increase by 5 percent.
- By June 2017, the percentage of students with IEPs who meet or exceed lexile growth rate (SRI) for grades 4-10 will increase by 10 percent.

When discussing opportunities for improvement, she noted that the department wants to expand the workforce opportunities in the community for students who are 18 to 21 years old.

Read the entire report here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9057>

### **Technology infrastructure**

The Board authorized the District to obtain bids for technology capital improvements. The improvements include network switches for the Administrative Services Center and Academy buildings to improve the technology infrastructure, and the next generation firewall to protect the District-wide network. The District will also submit bid requests to renew the fiber lease for Creekmoor Elementary School and Bridle Ridge Intermediate School. The District will not proceed with any of the projects until the board approves final bids.

### **Surplus property**

The Board declared a list of items, including a water heater, wall mount water fountains, televisions, and a roll of outdoor carpet, 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 library books, overhead projectors, wipe off boards, and youth baseball gloves. Because of a refund for a flat screen TV, the net total to the District was \$16.52. You can view the list of items and bids here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=8>

### **John T. Belcher scholarship**

The Board approved Senior Cade Rogge as the District's representative in the John T. Belcher scholarship program. One winner is selected from each of the 17 regions of the Missouri School Boards Association to receive a \$750 scholarship. The statewide winner is awarded a \$1,750 scholarship.

### **Committee reports**

Board Member Barbara Boucher attended the Professional Development Committee meeting. She said it was very fruitful and positive.

Board Vice President Ruth Johnson said that she and Board President Leo Anderson attended the Strategic Planning Committee meeting. She reported that the District is continuing to work on its goal scorecard and benchmarking.

### **Superintendent comments**

Dr. Monsees noted the number of special activities around the end of the semester and the holiday season. He thanked teachers, coaches, sponsors, and other staff who work with students on events including concerts, assemblies and other events.

He said that all 10 public school districts in Cass County have approved a common list of legislative priorities. The districts work together under the umbrella organization of "Cass County Kids First" to share those priorities with legislators.

He encouraged support for the Polar Plunge, which is scheduled for Jan. 30 at Longview Lake. Many Ray-Pec students and staff participate in this annual event to raise money for Special Olympics.

He thanked everyone who assisted with adopt-a-family events throughout the District.

### **Board member comments**

Board Vice President Ruth Johnson thanked staff and administrators for their hard work this school year.

Board Member Barbara Boucher attended the Cass County Youth Court graduation ceremony and was proud to see that 26 of the 33 students were from the Ray-Pec School District. Seven students received perfect scores on their bar exams, and of these, five were from Ray-Pec. She commended the students and was pleased to see the program emphasized the character traits of integrity and hard work.

Board Member Ryan Wescoat asked if it was possible to model the youth court program at the high school for minor offenses. He asked for a report on the possibility of adding Driver's Education instruction. This was a topic he raised at an earlier meeting. He also challenged fellow Board members to participate in the Polar Plunge.

### **Public comment**

High School Teacher Joe O'Neal invited Board members and Dr. Monsees to attend the Jan. 23 Legislator-Educator Brunch, sponsored by the Missouri NEA. He also shared concerns about additional duties for which teachers are not compensated.

## **Consent agenda**

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included the business report, and minutes for the Nov. 12 work session, Nov. 18 Joint Cities meeting, and the Nov. 19 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=1036>. These items are considered during the closed session of the meeting, and made public afterward.

## **Board policies**

The Board reviewed these policies and affirmed them without changes:

Policy BCE – Board Committees/Advisory Committees to the Board  
GCPC – Retirement of Professional Staff Members  
GDPC – Retirement of Support Staff Members  
IGBG – Homebound Instruction  
KH – Public Gifts to the Schools

The Board approved these policies:

BBB – School Board Elections  
BHA – Board Training and Development  
IGDF – Student Fundraising  
JHDA – Surveying, Analyzing, or Evaluating Students

These policies were presented for a first reading:

BBC – Board Member Resignation  
BHD – Board Member Compensation and Expenses  
DGA – Authorized Signatures  
DLC – Expense Requirements  
DLCA – Travel Expenses  
JFH – Student Complaints and Grievances  
KL – Public Concerns and Complaints

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

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

## **Updates**

- Winter Break, Dec. 23-Jan. 4.
- Work session, 6 p.m., Jan. 14, at the Ray-Pec Administrative Services Center.
- Regular school board meeting, 6 p.m. closed and 7 p.m. open session, Jan. 28, at the Ray-Pec Administrative Services Center.