

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
Feb. 25, 2016

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>

The Board on Feb. 25 heard reports about transportation, energy management, the gifted program, and summer school 2016.

Recognition

The School Board recognized eighth grader Mikinzi Gilliam for having her drawing selected for the 2016 Senate Art Exhibit at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. Each Missouri Senator selected one piece to represent his or her District. Sen. Ed Emery selected Mikinzi's piece to represent Senate District 31. A copy of Mikinzi's piece, along with those representing the other senatorial districts, is hanging in the Senate Parking Hallway at the Capitol. Kris Dillon is Mikinzi's art teacher at Ray-Pec East Middle School. Mikinzi and Ms. Dillon will be recognized on Fine Arts Education Day, Thursday, March 31, in Jefferson City. They will also be recognized at the Missouri Art Education Association spring conference awards reception on April 8 in St. Louis.

The Board also recognized seventh grader Joel Miles for winning the Ray-Pec School District Spelling Bee for the third consecutive year. He is pictured with Board Member Maria Davies. On March 2, Joel will defend his title as two-time winner of the Cass County Spelling Bee. The winner of the county Bee receives a trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Energy Management report

Since its inception, the District's Energy Management program has exceeded \$4 million in energy savings and cost avoidance. Van McLain, Energy Manager, provided an update to the School Board on Feb. 25. The program began in 2006, when the District entered into a four-year contract with Energy Education, Inc. After the contract ended, the District continued implementing the program.

Each month, McLain logs the District's utility bills for electricity, gas, water and sewer. After adjustments for variables such as changes in weather, equipment, schedules, occupancy, and rates, the usage is compared to the base year. Using these calculations, the District would have been expected to spend nearly \$13 million on energy expenses since inception of the program. Actual energy expenditures over the 10 years have been about \$8.9 million, or a savings of 31.3 percent. Read more: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?nid=379>

Read the Energy Management Cost Savings Report:

<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9135>

Auditing services

The Board approved a proposal from Westbrook & Co. for auditing services for fiscal year 2015-2016 and four one-year renewal options.

Mowing services

The Board voted to reject all bids for mowing services. In January 2016, the District advertised to accept proposals for contracted mowing services. The District received 10 responses, but also received questions indicating there was confusion in the interpretation of the specifications. The District plans to refine the specifications and advertise again for mowing services.

Summer School 2016

Summer School 2016 is shaping up to be similar to the program offered in 2015. Tentative dates are June 6-30, 2016. Dr. Al Voelker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, shared an update on the plans with the School Board on Feb. 25.

For grades K-8, science, technology, engineering, arts, and math topics will be integrated into the courses.

- Kindergarten-8th grade Summer School will be four days per week (Monday-Thursday).
- Kindergarten-8th grade students may choose to attend one session of two weeks, or two sessions to total four weeks.
- Transportation will be available to students in grades K-8.
- For students in grades K-6, fee-based Panther Pride child care will be offered (before and after school care and/or Friday, as needed).

Students in grades 9-12 will have options for remediation or for enrichment. Students may attend 19 days of Summer School to earn one-half credit in a core class for credit recovery. Students may also enroll to earn one-half credit in health, physical education, or personal finance. Some elective credits, such as history or Spanish enrichment are planned. In addition, the District is exploring offering an option for driver's education. The dates of attendance will vary based on the course offering.

Summer School sites, class times, and course offerings are still being developed. Information will be shared soon, and enrollment is expected to begin in mid- to late-March.

Read Dr. Voelker's overview of Summer School 2016:

<http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9157>

Gifted program review

Dr. Kristel Barr, Director of Secondary Education, and Dr. Michelle Hofmann, Director of Elementary Education, presented a report about LEAP, the District's program for gifted students. LEAP stands for Logic, Enrichment, and Academic Pursuit. The LEAP program serves students in grades 2-8, and this year, advisory opportunities are available for high school students.

An average of 135 students in grades 2-8 have been served annually by the program. This year, 149 students are currently enrolled in LEAP. These include 31 elementary students, 62 intermediate students, and 56 middle school students.

Barr and Hofmann shared information about past program goals, and a scorecard to measure the program. They also shared these current goals:

- Goal 1: By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the percent of 2nd grade elementary gifted students completing creative thinking “exploratory” activities at the top 2 levels of Bloom’s Thinking Taxonomy will increase 15 percent.
- Goal 2: By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the percentage of parents indicating that participation in the gifted program provides their child with opportunities to learn to cope with common social and emotional concerns of gifted students will increase from 68 percent to 73 percent.
- Goal 3: By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the percentage of students indicating that participation in the gifted program helps them learn how to handle when things feel tough or when they have problems with peers will increase from 53 percent to 63 percent.
- Goal 4: By the end of the 2016-2017 school year, the percentage of students indicating that the gifted program provides them choice in what they learn will increase from 66 percent to 76 percent.

They also outlined these opportunities for improvement:

- Continue to work on developing high school advisory services.
- Continue to focus on extension opportunities.
- Explore robotics opportunities.
- Review programming for profoundly gifted.

Read entire report: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9155>

Transportation report

Jay Harris, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, presented a report about the District’s transportation program.

The District contracts with Apple Bus Company to provide transportation services. This is the fourth year of the current five-year contract. Apple Bus operates 57 daily bus routes that run regular transportation and 29 daily special education routes. There are 12 daily shuttles for LEAP (gifted program), vocational, and tutoring routes.

Harris shared data about discipline reports, accidents, and bus inspections. He said that the District and Apple Bus work together to ensure a safe and positive ride experience for students. Routes are created

with a goal of a maximum route time of 45 minutes and an average route time of 30 minutes. Harris explained that due to the geographic size of the District, some bus routes exceed these times.

He shared information about the efficiency of the transportation program. Ray-Pec's cost per mile of \$257 for regular routes is much lower than the average cost per mile of \$5.77 for regular routes among Districts with which the District regularly compares itself.

In an effort to improve customer service, the District uses School Messenger to contact families of students riding specific buses when necessary. Apple Bus and the District have changed the process to request a change in service, and representatives from Apple Bus are now attending a monthly administration meeting at the District.

Read the entire transportation report: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9156>

Surplus property

The Board declared a list of eight items, including a handicap shower base, snow plow attachment, and power tools, 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 outdoor carpet, a Chevy Suburban, and projectors, for a total of \$3,327. You can view the list of items and bids here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=8>

Committee reports

Board Vice President Ruth Johnson said that she attended the Innovation Committee meeting, and a state legislative forum. She said she attended an MSBA meeting at which they selected a candidate for the John T. Belcher scholarship.

Board Member Kim York reported on meetings of the Curriculum Committee. She said that a meeting about Spanish curriculum included a review about the sequencing of courses.

Superintendent comments

Dr. Monsees reported on the success of the Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics. The Ray-Pec School District was the top fundraising school team at the event.

He told of the success of the Gala event for the Ray-Pec Public School Foundation. He also introduced a video which showed students using materials or programs funded through Foundation grants.

Board member comments

Board Member Kim York said that the Foundation Gala was very successful and raised about \$20,000. She also said that the Foundation Prize Patrol was fun. A group representing the Foundation visits schools to surprise staff members with grant awards.

Board Member Ryan Wescoat said that he traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of his work on the Human Services and Education Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties. One of the

issues discussed was drug use in Cass County. He also told of his participation in the Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics.

Board Member Barbara Boucher shared that she attended a fundraiser breakfast for Project Grad and an open house for the Ray-Pec Robotics Team.

Public comment

Clay Kohler of Pleasant Hill addressed the Board about the mowing bids.

Amy McKinley spoke about reading intervention.

Consent agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included the business report, minutes for the Jan. 14 work session and the Jan. 28 regular monthly Board of Education meeting, and Board Policies. 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=1042>. These items are considered during the closed session of the meeting, and made public afterward.

Board policies

The Board approved these policies:

DC – Taxing and Borrowing Authority/Limitations
IGBH – Programs for English Language Learners

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

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

Updates

- March 2: Cass County Spelling Bee, 10:30 a.m., Administrative Services Center
- March 10: Work session, 6 p.m.
- March 17: Regular board meeting, 6 p.m. closed; 7 p.m. open
- March 21-25: Spring Break