

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
May 26, 2016

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on May 26, 2016. 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 May 26 The School Board on Thursday night approved the sale of \$27 million in bonds to finance projects outlined in the Long Range Facility Plan. The Board also approved the purchase of resources for English Language Arts and approved bids for desktop computers, Chromebooks, Chromebook cases, and MacBook Air computers. In addition, the Board heard reports about Professional Development and Wellness.

You can view the Board meeting online: <https://youtu.be/g78SDhS2V-U>

Recognition

The Board on May 26 recognized Song Waltz and Nick Schneider for receiving a "1" rating for their vocal solos at the state music festival.

The Board also recognized band students for receiving a "1" rating at the state music festival. Congratulations to Matt Crotty, Cassidy Elrod, Katie Hatfield, Brooke Hord, Doug Adolphson, Hannah Marxer, Carter Wilhite, Tammy Yang, Adeline Wright, Jordan Crane, Blake Jungman, Nick Lanza, Cameron Leonard, Will Dickerson, Preston Misemer, Cole Graf, You Xing Yang, and Miles Goodwin.

Sale of bonds

The Board also approved the sale of \$27 million in bonds to finance projects identified in the Long Range Facility Plan. The bonds were priced through a competitive bid process, with bids opened earlier in the day on May 26. The Board approved the bid from Citigroup at an average interest rate of 2.44 percent.

School Road easement

The Board approved easements along School Road to the City of Peculiar as part of the final phase of the School Road improvement project. The section between 203rd Street and 211th Street is targeted for construction shortly after the 2016-2017 school year. The Board authorized easements along the front of the north high school campus and along the front of the south high school campus.

KCP&L easement at RPEMS

The Board approved an expanded easement to KCP&L at the Ray-Pec East Middle School campus. The project to improve the turn lane at the school will require the relocation of several power poles along M-58.

Greenhouse material

The Board approved the quote of \$16,279.19 from Stuppy Greenhouse, Inc., for the purchase and installation of new polycarbonate siding and ventilation system for the greenhouse. The greenhouse at the south high school must be removed from its current location due to the site work for the bond issue project. The District plans to relocate the structure and install a smaller version of the greenhouse at the north high school site. The greenhouse can be used by the botany classes during the 2016-2017 school year, and then by middle school classes in future years. A concrete pad and infrastructure for a new greenhouse at the south high school is included in the addition at the south high school as part of the bond issue improvements.

English Language Arts resources

The Board approved the purchase of these resources for English Language Arts instruction in the District:

- Write Steps as the writing resource for grades K-5 at a cost of \$68,148, which includes professional development for staff.
- Step Up to Writing as the writing resource for grades 6-10 at a cost of \$25,631.75, with an additional \$5,000 for professional development.
- Additional titles for leveled resource kits used by Reading Interventionists
- Bedford text for AP Language for use with the Advanced Placement Language Arts classes

In the past, resource adoption consisted of textbooks and workbooks. Such resources also now include digital and online components.

Dr. Al Voelker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services; Dr. Kristel Barr, Director of Secondary Education; and Dr. Michelle Hofmann, Director of Elementary Education; presented information about the ELA resources. The resource review is the final step in the District's Curriculum Review Process. The District conducted its formal review of the ELA content area during the 2014-2015 school year, culminating with Board approval. The ELA Curriculum Review Team met during the 2015-2016 school year to assess current resources, determine if those resources were aligned with Ray-Pec standards, review resource options, and select resources for the District. After a process that included staff input, the team determined that writing and grammar resources were the greatest need. Vendors were invited to present resources to the team, which then used a scoring rubric to rank the options and develop its recommendation.

English Language Arts and Math assessments

The Board approved purchasing the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) assessment for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math for grades K-8 at a cost of \$62,650, which includes professional development for staff. The NWEA replaces an assessment the District no longer uses. In addition, the District intends to remove two current K-8 assessments from the District plan once the NWEA is fully implemented.

Desktop computer bids

The Board approved the purchase of 365 desktop computers from Dell Computer Company for \$201,460. Of the total, 315 computers will be used in District classrooms at Peculiar Elementary School, Eagle Glen Intermediate School, and Ray-Pec East Middle School. The computers will replace aging devices and maintain the District's replacement cycle. The remaining 50 computers will support the Project Lead the Way program additions at the middle school and high school.

Google Chromebook bids

The Board approved the purchase of 1,100 Acer Chromebook computers from CDW for \$338,250. The devices will be used by students in classrooms and as take-home devices. All devices are covered under a four-year accidental device protection warranty.

Chromebook case bids

The Board approved the purchase of 925 Brenthaven "always on" Chromebook cases for \$21,275. The case was selected based on an extensive trial by elementary and intermediate LEAP students, price, durability, and recommendations from other school districts.

MacBook Air bids

The Board approved the purchase of 50 MacBook Air (13-inch model) computers from Apple Computer Company for \$55,600. These computers will be used by District teachers.

Bank bid

The Board approved a contract for banking services with UMB from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017, with the option to renew at the same terms for up to four additional years.

Professional Development program review

Dr. Al Voelker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, and Karmin Ricker, Coordinator of 7-12 Curriculum and Assessment, presented a report about the District's Professional Development program. Each school is represented on the District's Professional Development Committee, which also includes Board Member Barbara Boucher.

Highlights of the program over the past year:

- Mentoring 91 teachers with less than 5 years of experience
- Offering 230 hours of Professional Development onsite
- Planning and implementing the "Whatever It Takes" Conference, during which staff presented 98 sessions
- Presentations at regional, staff, and national conferences

Read the report: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/9487>

Wellness update

Kate Zeysing, District wellness coordinator, along with Kristin Grace and Nicole Osborn from CBIZ, the District's insurance broker, presented an update on employee wellness.

Zeysing said that 654 employees are covered through the District's health insurance plan. Of those, 99 percent participated in the health screening and health risk assessment offered by the District. A total of 239 employees accessed the Employee Assistance Program, and 188 employees participated in one or more wellness program offerings. Overall, District employees are healthy. The most common risk factors are overweight/obesity, low physical activity, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol. The number of tobacco users has declined, and the number of employees with five or more risk factors also declined.

Grace and Osborn reported that the District's claim history has improved, resulting in this year's health insurance renewals with no increase in the premium.

Surplus property

The Board declared a list of 13 items, including kitchen equipment, metal shelving, and library books, 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 for a total of \$805.40. You can view the list of items and bids here: <http://www.raypec.k12.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=8>

Committee reports

Board Member Ryan Wescoat thanked members of the Policy Review Committee for their time and effort in bringing the policy review process up to date.

Board President Kim York noted that the Finance Committee was involved in the process for the banking services bid.

Board Member Barb Boucher noted that the Professional Development Committee's latest work was represented during the program review earlier in the meeting.

Superintendent comments

Dr. Monsees congratulated the 424 seniors in the Class of 2016 and thanked the high school staff for its work on the graduation ceremony.

He noted that a groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 24 at Ray-Pec High School, and that construction is underway on the campus.

He announced that Dr. Bryan Pettengill will be replacing Jay Harris as Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. Dr. Pettengill is currently the principal at Clinton High School in Clinton, Mo.

He congratulated the high school Theatre Department for its showing at the Blue Star Awards Ceremony, where Ray-Pec was honored with five awards, including Outstanding Overall Production. He also noted that the high school qualified 18 events to the state track and field meet.

He announced that Summer School will begin on June 6.

Board member comments

Board Member Ryan Wescoat said he thought the graduation ceremony went well.

Board Member Barbara Boucher said that she and her husband attended the Baccalaureate ceremony.

Board Member Kim Bailey noted that a statement was made at graduation about the perception of financial support for various student activities. She asked that the topic be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Consent agenda

The Board approved the consent agenda, which included the business report, minutes for the April 19 reorganization meeting and the April 28 regular monthly Board of Education meeting, Board Policies, and an agreement with the Missouri School Boards' Association for maintenance of District 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=1052>. These items are considered during the closed session of the meeting, and made public afterward.

Board policies

The Board approved these policies:

- EDC – Use of School Owned Equipment
- EHB – Technology Usage
- GCL – Professional Staff Development Opportunities
- IGBB – Programs for Gifted Education
- JFCF – Hazing and Bullying
- JFG – Interrogations, Interviews, and Searches
- JG-R1 – Student Discipline
- KG – Community Use of School Facilities
- KNAG – Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

The Board had a first reading of these policies:

- BCA – Board Organizational Meeting
- BCCA – MSBA Delegate and Alternate
- EBAB – Hazardous Materials
- EBAC – Integrated Pest Management
- GB – Part-time and Substitute Employment
- GBEA – Worker's Compensation
- GBEBC – Criminal Background Checks
- GCBA-R1 – Professional Staff Salary Schedules

GCBDA – Professional Staff Short-Term Leaves
GCPC – Retirement of Professional Staff Members
GDBDA – Support Staff Leaves
GDPC – Retirement of Support State Members
IGAEB – Teaching About Human Sexuality
JECA – Admission of Students
JECC – Assignment of Students to Grade Levels/Classes
JHCB – Immunization of Students
JHG – Reporting and Investigating Child Abuse/Neglect
KKB – Audio and Visual Recording

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

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

Updates

- June 8: Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City annual meeting, 5:45 p.m., Independence School District hosting
- June 13: School Board retreat, 8 a.m., Ray-Pec Academy
- June 23: Regular board meeting, 6 p.m. closed session, 7 p.m. open session