

Ray-Pec School Board Update
Regular monthly meeting
Sept. 20, 2018

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on Sept. 20, 2018. This is an unofficial record. The official minutes of each board meeting are posted at:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/mo/rpsd/Board.nsf/Public>

The Board heard a report on the District's Public Relations program. The Board also approved dates for special meetings to select and interview candidates to fill a Board vacancy, and approved pilot participation in a new Education Court program.

Public Relations program

Communication Director Michele Stidham provided the annual report about the District's public relations program. Over the past year, communication efforts included two major initiatives: development of a new Strategic Plan and the Prop R-P Levy Campaign.

The Strategic Planning process began in fall 2017 and resulted in a new plan approved by the board in December 2017. Rather than listing Communication as a separate focus area, the new plan has communication embedded throughout the action steps and strategies.

Sharing information about the Prop R-P operating levy issue required a concerted communication effort involving community outreach and including the work of a citizens committee. The levy issue passed in April 2018.

Stidham shared results from the spring 2018 stakeholder survey. The survey indicator with the greatest improvement from the previous year was "The district will achieve a score of 4.0 or higher on a 5.0 scale on the annual survey regarding transparency of the district in financial actions." She said she believed this improved rating was related to the quality and quantity of financial information shared during the Strategic Planning process and the Prop R-P levy campaign.

She shared other survey results that showed improvements in the perception of stakeholders related to the quality of communication coming from the District and the District's efforts to report its plans and progress. She also noted other high scoring indicators from the survey. For the current school year, Stidham plans to emphasize the role of the Board and District Administration in supporting student achievement. She also plans to focus on community partnerships, which is a strategy in the Strategic Plan.

Stidham shared analytic statistics about the District web site and YouTube channels. She also reported on the distribution and open rates for the weekly newsletter. Ray-Pec has an open rate that is higher than the average for primary and secondary education organizations. The District has 3,315 subscribers for text messaging; 6,991 followers on Facebook; and 3,564 followers on Twitter.

Review the entire [Public Relations report](#).

Education Court

The Board approved participation in a new Education Court as a pilot program at Eagle Glen Elementary School.

Dr. Al Voelker, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services, told the Board about a new program from Presiding Circuit Judge William Collins and Associate Circuit Judge Stacey Lett, in collaboration with the Cass County Juvenile Office.

The focus of the program is to improve attendance for students in kindergarten through sixth grade by reaching out to families and providing services on an informal basis. The program is scheduled to launch at a few pilot sites at schools throughout Cass County during the fall semester 2018. With the Ray-Pec School Board's approval, Eagle Glen Elementary will be one site considered for inclusion in the pilot program.

In his presentation to the Board, Dr. Voelker said the program is designed for students of elementary students with chronic attendance problems. The judges wish to hold meetings with families to address the underlying issues that are preventing students from attending school on a more regular basis. Dr. Voelker said that during the 2017-2018 school year, Eagle Glen Elementary had 13 students with attendance below 85 percent. This equates to missing 26 or more days of school. He noted that some students may have higher numbers of absences due to health or medical reasons. The District would review individual information in determining which families might most benefit from Education Court.

Dr. Voelker explained the current process the schools use to communicate with parents about absences, and answered Board member questions about the program. [Education Court](#)

Board vacancy process

The Board scheduled two special meetings to conduct the process of selecting a candidate to fill the vacated seat of Kim Bailey. Members of the community are invited to submit a letter of interest. The Board scheduled a special meeting for 6 p.m. Oct. 9 to review the candidates and select finalists. The Board scheduled a special meeting for 6 p.m. Oct. 30 to interview the finalists.

Superintendent comments

Dr. Kari Monsees said that he attended the State Board of Education meeting to see Kim Bailey sworn in as a new board member. He said that MAP results from last spring will be delayed as state officials review the result categories for the new tests. He congratulated Shara Brice and Danielle George on being selected as the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. He commented that Homecoming activities went well. He also reported that Districtwide enrollment is at an all-time high at about 6,200 students in grades K-12.

Board member comments/committee reports

(Here is a summary of comments by Board members)

Board Member Ruth Johnson said that she will be voting as a delegate at the Missouri School Boards' Association meeting. She is seeking Board member feedback on the MSBA platform. She said that she and Board Member Kim York also attended the swearing-in ceremony for Kim Bailey. She said she attended the first Team Ray-Pec meeting for the year. As the Team prepares for its work, there was also a reminder to be sure all staff knew about access to the Employee Assistance Program.

Board Member Paul Coffman said that the Wellness Committee was offering staff the opportunity to participate in challenges to increase physical activity. The committee will distribute Fitbits to employees who wish to participate and do not have an activity tracker. He reported on an all-staff workout, and provided dates and times for the next staff workouts. He also said the Board would be attending the Missouri School Boards' Association meeting the following week. He praised the Board for its high level of participation and attendance at MSBA meetings.

Consent agenda

The Board approved the [consent agenda](#), which included the finance report, contract approval, surplus bid report, and minutes for the Aug. 15 Joint Cities and Aug. 23 regular monthly meeting.

View the [personnel report](#) (hirings, resignations and retirements). These items are considered during the closed session of the meeting, and made public afterward.

Updates

- Board work session, 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at the Administrative Services Center.
- Regular school board meeting, 6 p.m. closed and 7 p.m. open session, Thursday, Oct. 18, at the Administrative Services Center. The meeting is open to the public.