

## **Ray-Pec School Board Update**

### **Special meeting**

### **Nov. 8, 2018**

This is a summary of the Ray-Pec Board of Education meeting on Nov. 8, 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 reorganized after new Board Member Bill Lowe took the oath of office. School Board members also discussed possible program expansions and additions. These include Project Lead the Way, elementary modern language, strings/orchestra, mental health supports, and community partnerships.

#### **Oath of Office**

New School Board Member Bill Lowe took the oath of office during the Nov. 8 special meeting of the Board. He was selected to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Kim Bailey, who was appointed to the Missouri State Board of Education. At the time of her resignation, Bailey was serving as Board President. Since her departure, Vice President Paul Coffman had been serving as Interim President. Lowe will serve until the April 2019 election.

#### **Reorganization**

After Lowe was sworn in, the Board reorganized and elected Ruth Johnson to serve as president; and Paul Coffman as vice president. Pam Steele continues as secretary; and Cynthia Byous continues as treasurer. Lowe was appointed to serve until the next School Board election in April 2019.

#### **Project Lead the Way Expansion**

The Board learned about current and proposed course offerings for Project Lead the Way. Expanding PLTW courses at all grade levels is listed in the Strategic Plan.

At the elementary level, one fifth grade module, "Infection Detection," was implemented this fall. At each school, the Digital Learning Teacher and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher are working together to teach the unit. For the 2019-2020 school year, the District proposed implementing two modules for Kindergarten and first grade, and a second module for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. For the 2020-2021 school year, the District proposed implementing two modules in each remaining grade level, 2-4. [Elementary PLTW Expansion with Launch](#)

At the secondary level, there are three major PLTW pathways: engineering, biomedical, and computer science. At the middle schools, Ray-Pec offers full course loads in each pathway. The District proposes expanding the course offerings at the high school by adding: Engineering Design and Development (2019-2020), Medical Interventions (2019-2020), Biomedical Innovations (2020-2021), Computer Science Principles (2020-2021), and Computer Science A (2021-2022). [Secondary PLTW Expansion](#)

## **Elementary Modern Language**

The Board heard about options for increasing collaboration time for elementary school teachers and possibly adding foreign language instruction at the elementary school level.

- Option 1: Hire 3.5 modern language teachers, and offer modern language for 35 minutes every fourth days for students in grades 205. (The Digital Learning Teacher and Library Media Specialist would alternate with the Modern Language Teacher as part of the fourth prong of the daily specials rotation. This plan increases core teacher collaboration/plan time by 15 minutes daily (70 minutes weekly). Under this option, students in kindergarten and first grade maintain a three-day rotation of specials (art, music, and physical education).
- Option 2: Strategically schedule technology, library, and counseling lesson times to allow core teachers an opportunity for extended collaboration every other week. Special rotation/teacher collaboration and plan time remain the same. Extend core teacher collaboration/plan time by 70 to 90 minutes every other week. No modern language is offered in this option.

## [Elementary Modern Language and Collaboration Possibilities](#)

### **Strings/Orchestra**

The Board reviewed a draft plan to implement a strings program, starting in the 2019-2020 school year. The District proposes hiring a certified teacher to begin to implement a strings program at the middle school with the potential to expand the program to the high school. [Draft strings program implementation plan](#)

Implementation of an orchestra/strings program was suggested in community feedback during the Strategic Planning process. The action falls under Strategy 1.2: Expand STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) opportunities for all students. Action Step 1.2.2: Expand STEAM co-curricular opportunities throughout all grade levels.

### **Mental Health Supports**

Expanding mental health supports for students and staff is also a focus in the District's Strategic Plan. The Board discussed a plan to expand the area of mental health support:

1. Enter into a memorandum of understanding with Compass Health Network to provide direct therapy services to students who qualify. The services would take place at schools.
2. Re-allocate a Behavior Interventionist position (currently vacant) and hire a School Psychologist for the 2019-2020 school year.

### **Community Partnerships**

Superintendent Dr. Kari Monsees told of efforts to increase community partnerships and enhance communication with stakeholders. Identifying community partners to support schools and programs is also included in the District's Strategic Plan.

Through the creation of a new staff position, or the re-allocation of existing staff, a Community Partnership position would require a person with exceptional marketing and/or community skills (Bachelor's degree or higher). Some of the key job duties might include: developing a robust, formalized community partnership structure, working with buildings and departments to identify and fill partnership needs; managing volunteer engagement efforts; recruiting career pathway partners for internships, career days, field trips, etc.; assisting with high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory committees; training staff on external communication skills/strategies; and assisting with the development of marketing plans.