



# Rochester CUSD #3A

4 Rocket Drive Rochester, Illinois 62563-9282, United States

## Superintendent's Report

**To:** Board of Education

**From:** Dan W. Cox, Superintendent of Schools

**Date:** October 24, 2024

### **Gratitudes and Celebrations**

In our District, we strive to build upon an enriching learning environment and a positive working environment. I'm pleased to report that our first district-wide "Stay Interview" concluded earlier this month. One of the results of the first "Stay Interview" was the desire for recognition for the work done by our outstanding staff members.

As you know each year the District holds a "Those Who Excel" ceremony. This event allows us to highlight outstanding staff members for their inspiring contributions to our students and families. To further that mission of recognition we also submitted our District award winners as nominees for the Illinois State Board of Education's 2025 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards. While we are just in the nomination process, we're excited to bring more attention to our fantastic staff and the outstanding work they do every day.

We believe recognizing our staff is key to building a positive culture. By nominating our District award winners for the Illinois 2025 Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards, we're proud to highlight the exceptional work happening every day. This is just the start as we continue finding new ways to celebrate and support our dedicated team, ensuring a place where both students and staff can thrive.

### **Recent Actions & Highlights**

#### **Construction Update**



The opening of the new tennis courts has been a successful milestone in our broader facilities improvement plan. It signals the start of many exciting upgrades to come, reinforcing our dedication



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to making Rochester Schools the best place to teach, learn, and raise a family.

Construction has officially begun at the soccer field and demolition at RHS. In a special moment, a small group of students had the opportunity to witness and participate in this milestone, making their involvement in this transformation particularly meaningful. Once demolition is complete, a formal groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled. We appreciate the ongoing support as we continue with these important improvements.



## **Strategic Blueprint Update**

Writing teams have continued their collaboration with Battelle for Kids, focusing on the development of the first draft of their individual pillars. Teams are finalizing their drafts, which will be presented to stakeholders in November for review and feedback. After gathering input during the November session, revisions will be made in preparation for a presentation to the Board of Education, where members will have the opportunity to provide feedback prior to any formal action.

## **District Spotlight**

Our district takes great pride in its “Tradition of Excellence,” a value that is vividly reflected in our exceptional staff. Each day, our dedicated team goes above and beyond to help students overcome barriers, achieve new heights, and selflessly invest their time in the success of our learners. Notably, among our staff are more than 40 individuals who not only teach and work within our district but also grew up as students in Rochester Schools.

Recently, a feature on WICS News Channel 20 spotlighted these remarkable educators. While the segment couldn't capture the stories of each of the 40-plus staff members, it effectively showcased the deep loyalty and pride they have for our schools. We are incredibly proud to have so many educators who not only chose a career in education but also returned to their hometown to inspire the next generation of Rockets. Their commitment to our community exemplifies the spirit of our District and reinforces the foundation of excellence that defines us.



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<https://newschannel20.com/features/mommy-matters/generations-of-rochester-rockets-continue-to-teach-in-their-hometown-community#>

*It's a great day to be a Rocket!!! 🚀*

*"A Tradition of Excellence!"*