



Rochester CUSD 3A

Communication, Empathy, Critical Thinking, Perseverance, Adaptability, Leadership

Superintendent's Report

To: Board of Education
From: Dan W. Cox, Superintendent of Schools
Date: May 15, 2024

Gratitude & Celebrations

This time of every school year is bittersweet for all of us. It's the time of year when we see many of our goals and objectives come to fruition. Our students start to wrap up end-of-year testing and prepare for the next step in life. Each student's achievement is remarkable in its own way and we get to watch each while they write a story that is unique and which will have a generational impact. It is sweet to see that happen but it is also bitter as we bid farewell to the outgoing group of seniors.

This group leaving our hallways has done remarkable things and has carried on our district's "Tradition of Excellence" in an exemplary way. We learned that this year's graduating class received 131 scholarships totaling \$6,348,310. That remarkable achievement is only a fraction of the successes this class has had throughout their education.

Watching these young Rockets reach this milestone is what education is all about. All of our work, worry, laughter, and tears over the years happen in the hope that we have helped prepare the next generation to lead. I want to celebrate and express my gratitude for all of the students graduating this year as well as the countless men and women who have taught them to aim high and never give up. Each student who will receive their diploma is a representation of the work of dozens of teachers, administrators, and support personnel.

The future is bright and it makes each day we spend with our students a great day to be a Rocket.

Since We Last Met

District Audit and Annual Financial Report AFR and Bids

The District has received notification from its current audit firm regarding their inability to conduct the audit due to labor shortages. In response, the District has initiated both a Request



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for Proposals (RFP) and bid requests for audit services to ensure the continuation of essential financial oversight.

Following the receipt of submissions, a finance committee meeting will be scheduled to review the proposals, potentially including presentations from prospective firms. A final recommendation will be presented to the Board for consideration following the review process.

This proactive approach underscores the District's commitment to maintaining the integrity and thoroughness of its financial reporting processes.

Rochester High School Athletic Complex and Science Wing Construction:

The construction project at RHS is advancing steadily, demonstrating notable progress and momentum. Continuous planning meetings involving teachers, coaches, and administrators are actively underway, ensuring thorough coordination and alignment of project objectives.

Exciting developments are on the horizon, with the ground-breaking for the new tennis courts slated to commence in June, with completion planned before the fall season. Additionally, the release of bids for scoreboards is scheduled for early June, marking a pivotal step towards enhancing the athletic facilities at RHS.

Furthermore, the project's overall progress is scheduled for significant advancements, with bids for the comprehensive construction project expected to be released in late June.

In line with comprehensive planning, a recent meeting was convened to initiate discussions regarding traffic flow management around the fall zone of the science wing and the District office. This proactive approach underscores our commitment to addressing logistical considerations and ensuring the seamless integration of the new facilities into the school environment.

District Spotlight

This month we were pleased to learn that the Rochester High School was named the '2nd Best High School in the Springfield Metro Area. The recognition was given by [U.S. News & World Report](#) which evaluates





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schools across the country based on state-required tests, graduation, and how well our high school prepares students for college. It is a great honor to receive this national recognition.



As a District, we're excited to have our second activity bus. This bus can carry 14 passengers and now brings our total to 28 between the two activity buses. The new bus has several additional safety features including over-the-shoulder seat belts, no child left on board safety system, and a backup camera to name a few. Our transportation is also now more reliable because a district-approved staff member with a valid class D driver's license can drive these buses

[The Rochester School district was highlighted in SchoolCEO's spring 2024 edition](#) for it's work to improve communication. This issue focused on communications in school districts and the growing call for improved communications. This article highlights how hiring a communications director can enhance district communications.





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In times of trial, I'm always amazed at the response and support that our staff show toward one another, even if it's not our school district. After a tragedy at South East High School our students and staff wanted to help support them during this difficult time for their school. This turned into a coordinated effort between staff and students where students cooked all of the food under the supervision of Mrs. Leonard. Then our staff woke up early to go to South East and serve them breakfast before coming to work.

Meeting at a Glance

The upcoming board meeting on May 15th, 2024, focuses on key matters vital to Rochester Community Unit School District #3A. Following the roll call, Dr. Magoulas will guide the board through the approval of the consent agenda, touching upon essential financial reports presented by Mr. Cox. Of particular interest is the amended District Budget FY24, reflecting updated projections and crucial adjustments for stakeholder review.

Subsequent segments will showcase detailed reports from administrators, directors, principals, and Superintendent Cox, presenting a comprehensive Year-End School Report for the 2023-2024 academic year. This presentation will highlight achievements, challenges, and strategic initiatives across the district.

Transitioning to old business, Mr. Cox will lead discussions on transportation services, including updates on staffing, route audits, and fleet planning. The approval of Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up Location Procedures, emphasizing safety and efficiency, will be a pivotal point.

Under new business, critical decisions will be made, including the approval of bids for the food services contract and registration fees for the 2024-2025 academic year. Moreover, technological contractual services and health insurance renewal discussions underscore the district's commitment to operational efficiency and employee well-being.

The meeting will conclude with closed sessions on personnel matters, student discipline, and other confidential issues, followed by action on items discussed therein.



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In conclusion, the May 15th board meeting promises a comprehensive overview of financial, operational, and educational matters crucial to the district's continued success, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement.

Positive Launch

We are happy to have fresh farm-to-table food now being offered to Rochester students. Gregurich Farms is teaming up with our food provider Aramark to provide nutritious food for our students and staff. Gregurich Farms is locally owned and operated by a 4th generation of the Gregurich family. All of the beef provided by their company is locally and sustainably raised.



Be the Difference,

Dan W. Cox

Superintendent of Schools

*It's a great day to be a Rocket!!! 🚀
"A Tradition of Excellence!"*