

MEMO

To: Rochester Board of Education
From: Suzanne Keller, Acting Superintendent/
Director of Educational Services
Subject: Board Report
Date: March 19, 2025



District Vacancies

The current vacancies for the district include:

2024-2025

- Blastoff Kids Academy Assistants (District)
- Pre-K Aides (RES EC-1)
- Science Teacher (RJHS)
- Elementary Teacher
- Summer Work Program Job Coaches
- Director of Transportation (District)
- Bus Mechanic
- Permanent Substitute Teacher
- Literacy Aide (RIS)
- Part-time Literacy Aide (RES)
- Part-time Library Aide (RES)
- Special Education Aides
- Supervisory Aides (RJHS, RIS)
- Recess Supervisors (RES EC-3)
- Bus Monitor
- Bus Driver/Substitute Bus Driver
- Van Driver
- Substitute Nurse (District)
- After Prom Sponsor (2 Positions/Split Stipend)

2025-2026

- Business Teacher (RHS)
- Science Teacher (RHS)
- Sixth Grade Teacher (RIS)
- Physical Education Teacher (RES)
- Special Education Teachers
- Life Skills Teachers
- School Psychologist
- Library Aide (RHS)
- Head Cheerleading Coach (RHS)
- Assistant Cheerleading Coach, Basketball (RHS)
- Assistant Baseball Coach (RHS)
- Seventh Grade Girls Basketball Coach (RJHS)
- Assistant Girls Track Coach (RJHS)

Committee Meetings

A Finance Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2025. This meeting included a presentation by Ms. Lindsey Fish from Sikich of the District Audit and Annual Financial Report. Dr. Kahler reviewed the action already taken by the district in response to the audit and recommendations made. He also shared information with the committee regarding County-Wide Sales Tax Project Funding.

Strategic Planning

Rochester School District held a Strategic Plan Work Session during the Special Session Board of Education Meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2025. During the work session background related to the District Strategic Planning process was shared, as well as work conducted by District Writing Teams for the five identified pillars. These pillars include: Communications, Community Engagement, Finance/Facility Management, Staff Support/Development, and Student Achievement.

Writing Team Leads reviewed their drafted goals and why the goals are important. Stakeholder groups participated in reviewing the drafted goals, timelines, measures, strategies, and activities for each goal and were able to submit their feedback. Participants were sent a form to reflect upon the following questions.

- What connections are you making to the ideas in the plan and your current work/stakeholder role?
- What challenges do you foresee?
- What might be some ways we could report on our progress?

This feedback and that from the work session will be reviewed and reflected upon to finalize the District Strategic Plan prior to it being presented to the Board of Education.

I cannot thank the writing teams, school board members, students, educators, and community members enough for participating in this very meaningful and important event. The work that was completed, the thoughtful conversations, and the information shared is greatly valued.

5Essentials Survey

The Illinois State Board of Education's 5Essentials online survey window opened on February 18, 2025 and will remain open through March 28, 2025. Teachers will have access through March 31, 2025. Rochester families and staff, as well as students in grades 4-12 have the opportunity to participate.

ISBE outlines that “this survey is based on the Five Essentials for School Success, an evidence-based framework developed by the University of Chicago. This framework identifies how school performance on five factors or “essentials” can lead to important student outcomes, including improved attendance and larger test score gains.” The five essentials include:

- Effective Leaders
- Collaborative Teachers
- Involved Families
- Supportive Environment
- Ambitious Instruction

Curriculum and Instruction Council

The Curriculum and Instruction Council is scheduled to meet on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Construction

Please see the construction information below which was reviewed during our Owner-Architect-Contractor (OAC) Meeting on March 12, 2025.

Upcoming Milestones

- RHS Building Addition: Start Roofing
- Football Complex: Start Turf
- Soccer Complex: Substantial Completion

3-Week Lookahead

- RHS Building Addition
 - Structural Steel Decking
 - Exterior wall framing. Interior wall layout to follow.
 - Set interior door jambs.
 - Install MEP Roof sleeves, curbs, and drains
- Football Complex
 - Track and Field

- Exterior curb, scoreboard installation, geobase and concrete, and turf
- Baseball Colonnade
 - Backfill piers/foundations
 - Electrical Underground Rough-Ins
- Entrance Plaza and Locker Room
 - Foundations, U/G Rough in, Slab Pour, CMU
 - Frame and sheet plaza roof, install metal roof, gutters and downspouts
- Soccer Complex
 - Punch list
 - Substantial Completion March 11, 2025

Weather

- Total Days during March: 2 days
- Total Days as of March 12, 2025: 25 days

Village of Rochester, Joint Review Board

On March 12, 2025 I participated in the Village of Rochester, Joint Review Board meeting for the Rochester Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. During the meeting the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report was reviewed. The meeting included the following:

Financial Update, Review Sources of Funds and Expenditures, Review Projects Undertaken, and Discuss Current and Future Projects.