

REACH OUT RAPID RIVER

Rapid River Public School's Newsletter

March 2010

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

At our February 15 Board of Education meeting, the Board made a very difficult decision. Based upon my recommendation, they approved moving the superintendent's position from full-time to part-time. It was a tough decision, but with declining enrollment, inadequate funding from the State and rising costs in all areas, it was the right thing to do. Making this difficult decision in February, allows us time over the next few months to plan a budget for 2010/11 that will give our kids the best programming we can offer considering our financial resources.

The Board gave me the option to stay as a part-time superintendent, but at this time in my life I'm not ready to retire and work part-time. My mother is 85 and still works 3 - 4 days a week with kids at a special education school in Grand Rapids. I hope I can be that lucky to have the energy and zest for life and still be able to positively impact kids when I'm that age. It's been a great experience to be a Rocket and it's not over yet. We still have much work to do in the months to come. I was encouraged by the discussion at our February meeting that we can all work together to do what's best for kids. We all have our own children so we know how important school is (or was) to them - the staff, the learning environment, and the activities. If we can continue to

remember that Rapid River kids are counting on us to do what's best, then we will have done our job and given our students the future they deserve.

Working together to solve the challenges that we face will make a difference. I grew up in a non-athletic family, but after almost 36 years of being married to a coach, I have come to love and appreciate the lessons we can all learn from athletics (especially football). I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from Vince Lombardi (for you non-football fans, he is the late great coach for the Packers during their golden years). This quote sums up what I believe we need to do to not only survive these tough times, but to thrive:

Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.

My years at Rapid River as a teacher and now as superintendent have been very rewarding. I know that whatever school district I am superintendent for next year, I will always remember the great foundation that Rapid River Public Schools gave me. I will always cherish the memories of the people and students I have been privileged to know over the years.

Please encourage our legislators to make equity and adequacy in funding education their top priority. They need to hear from all of us, but especially students, parents, and the community that education should be the number one priority in Michigan's economic recovery plan.

Let's stay positive, work together, and remember that every day is a good day when you are a Rocket.

Go Rockets!

Terri Mileski, Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 - PTC mtg., 6:30 p.m. in the library.

March 2 - School Board work session, 6:00 p.m. in the library.

March 3 - Fan Club mtg., 5:30 p.m. in the elementary office.

March 15 - School Board mtg., 6:00 p.m. in the library.

March 29 - April 2

NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

SCHOOL CLOSED

There will be no school March 29 - April 2 for Spring Break.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for children who will be 5 by December 1, 2010 will be held on April 16, from 8:00 - 3:00. New Young 5's should also register. The screening process will take approximately one hour.

Parents need to bring their child, legal birth certificate, social security card, and shot record. To make an appointment call 474-6411, ext. 507.

MARCH READING MONTH

Please come and join the K-5 students and staff for breakfast from 7:15 - 8:00 a.m. on March 2nd to kick off reading month.

SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Special Mtg., January 27, 2010

Board member Larry Sundling provided those present with information regarding the Athletic Focus Group. It was noted that the Golf outing fundraiser date was changed to June 24, 2010 at the Gladstone Golf Course.

Eliminating athletic transportation for events that are less than 50 miles away was discussed. Reducing athletic transportation would create a savings of approximately \$6,500. These two items are endorsed by the Athletic Focus Group and are being done to avoid the cutting of any of the sports.

Superintendent Mileski explained that exchanging Physics and Advanced Math classes to Mid Pen students for transportation they provide for our I.S.D. students should occur next year. Timing needs to be worked out, but it is felt this is possible.

Compensating substitute teachers through a 3rd party employer will begin this spring. This is estimated to save approximately \$1,500 annually.

The band/music program was discussed. Board members felt that other reductions should be made first and this should be the last reduction made if necessary.

Principal Bill Warning updated board members that he met with the special education teachers. Special education teaching time will be dependent upon the I.E.P.'s. This will not be known until we get closer to the next fiscal year.

The Master Schedule was discussed. Declining enrollment should allow for 2 or 3 classes to be eliminated from the schedule which will be a savings to the district.

There was discussion regarding the following: reducing one hour of work time from the food service department due to declining enrollment, changing the annual election to November should save approximately \$2,000, that board members not be compensated and the possibility of all staff giving up one day of pay. It was noted that all employees of the district should make concessions in this time of financial crisis.

The Great Start Readiness Program revenue can flow through from the Headstart program to our district this year only which is a revenue enhancement of \$6,800.

Board member Larry Sundling wants the administrators notified within the 90 day timeframe that their contracts will be opened. Board treasurer Dawn Gustafson pointed out that the administrative contracts are reviewed annually.

There was further discussion regarding athletics including the possibility of reducing coaching time and ways to change the Technology Consultant contract to create a savings.

Superintendent Mileski brought up the option of the Superintendent position being a part time position. This would mean she would look elsewhere for a position and the district would contract part time with a retired superintendent. She asked that board members make a decision regarding this at the February regular board meeting.

Consolidation of business services with Gladstone for the period from February 1 – June 30, 2010 was discussed at length. There was concern regarding the short timeframe, but this is a unique situation that could help us judge if this could continue into the next year.

During Audience Communications: Bus driver Martha Beaver wondered why bus driver time could just be cut without discussion and the food service reduction has been discussed and questioned so much, Sandy Sauve felt that the teaching staff has had to do more so everyone should have to do so and Chris Quinn posed a question regarding the current snowplowing arrangement versus how it was done in the past.

Regular Mtg., February 15, 2010

Superintendent Terri Mileski updated board members on the following:

- Governor Granholm's Executive Budget proposal for 2010/11.

- The Race To The Top grant and governor's proposed changes to the retirement system are hot topics right now.

- Enrollment continues to decrease which seriously reduces revenue to the General Fund budget.

- Scheduled a board work session for March 2, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

- Reported on the Delta Schoolcraft I.S.D. Superintendent's Roundtable meeting.

Kate Ignat, Karen Lundquist, and Debbie Pajnich reported on the Delta Schoolcraft I.S.D. annual school board dinner meeting held February 10.

Mike Koster, Superintendent of the Delta Schoolcraft I.S.D. presented information to board members regarding collaboration and sharing of services taking place in our Intermediate School District.

President Kate Ignat appointed Karen Lundquist to the Finance Committee and the Policy & Personnel Committee.

The Senior Class Trip was discussed briefly. The Seniors will bring their itinerary to the March 15, 2010 board meeting to be reviewed.

The annual Key Club Convention to be held in Green Bay, Wisconsin March 5-7, 2010 was discussed. The Key Club members will bring more information regarding the trip to the March 2, 2010 Work Session.

During Audience Communications Flo Kuehl had a question regarding Algebra being taught at the Intermediate School District and Roxanne Soderstrom inquired about the success of the recent health fair.

Motion made and approved:

-to elect Larry Sundling as Vice President of the Rapid River Board of Education.

-to accept the notifications of intent to retire from Shireen McLaughlin and Mary Knoch.

-to accept the \$100 donation from the Relic Riders for the junior high football program and \$200 from the Rapid River Lions' Club for the Reading Buddies program.

-to regretfully reconfigure the superintendent's position to a part time position for 2010/11.

For complete minutes go to our website at

www.rapidriver.k12.mi.us.

4TH & 5TH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS 2ND QUARTER

4th grade – A-B's – Luke Gustafson, Gavin Harris, Daren Landis, Cassidy Micheau, Levi Miller, Lauren Norberg, Joseph Pilon, Wyatt Schwartz, Sydney Siirila; **Bug Award (Improved one grade without dropping in any other area)** – Aleece Paulin, Wyatt Schwartz, Khody Smith, Samantha Wilson; **Perfect Attendance** – David Alvarado, Clay Cole, Logan Hardwick, Clayton Kennedy, Daren Landis, Levi Miller, Brianna Moss, Lauren Norberg, Richelle

Vandeville; **5th grade – All A's** - Jared Anderson, Mason Berglund, Caitlyn Gimler, Rhiley Hubert, Ashlynn Pryal; **A-B's** - Adrianna Breault, Maggie Cox, Chad Doneau, Sean Harris, Robert Salka, Alexandria Viau, Nicholas Zar; **Bug Award** – No Bug Awards this quarter; **Perfect Attendance** - Mason Berglund, Maggie Cox, Chad Doneau, Sean Harris, Rhiley Hubert, Bryce Lippold, Maddy Moss, Ashlynn Pryal, Alexandria Viau, Erica Rubick, Nicholas Zar

FUNDRAISERS

All Night Graduation Party

Pop Can Drive –

March 21 & April 25

Class of 2012

Easter Eggs/Saykilly's Candy
March 8 – 19

BOOSTER BUCKS WINNERS

February 3, 2010

\$100-Barb Piaget, Gladstone

\$50-Wallen Godlewski, Cornell

\$25-Patti Monticello, Rapid River

\$25-Rob Randall, Wells

February 17, 2010

\$100-Jackie Augustine, Rapid River

\$50-Arnie Harris, Escanaba

\$25-Kevin Schimke, Rapid River

\$25-Darlene Person, Rapid River

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Boys' JV & Varsity Basketball

March

4 Carney Away *7:00

*Central Time

PTC NEWS

The PTC Book Fair will run from February 25th to March 9th on the stage in the elementary gym. Look for flyers to come home with your child or go to the Rapid River website to get the dates and times the Book Fair

will be open. Profits from the Book Fair will go for new library books and accelerated reading books for the Rapid River students.

Please join the K-5 elementary students on Tuesday, March 2nd for breakfast from 7:15 – 8:00 a.m. to kick off March Reading Month!

GIRL SCOUT'S CAN DRIVE

The Girl Scouts will have their annual can food drive March 8th – 12th. The class that collects the most canned food in the elementary and high school will win a doughnut party.

REACH OUT SURVEY

Due to the tough economic times schools are currently facing, we are exploring all ways to reduce expenses. We would like your opinion regarding the Reach Out Rapid River newsletter. Currently the newsletter is inserted in the Action and available on our school website. Should we continue to do both? Should we have it available on the website only? Should we eliminate it entirely? Please call the elementary office at 474-3507 or mail your preference to Rapid River Public School, Attn: Elementary Office, PO Box 68, Rapid River, MI 49878

YEARBOOK

Yearbooks are on sale now for \$40.00. Order your 2009/2010 yearbook today by picking up an order form in the high school office or calling (906)399-3170.

Seniors – Start picking out your favorite baby picture. Please use vertical pictures if possible. The deadline to turn in your baby and senior picture to the high school office is March 15, 2010. If you have any questions call Chelsea Dalgord, Yearbook Advisor at (906)399-3170.

KEY CLUB NEWS

The Key Club has been working very hard this past month preparing for our annual district convention in Green Bay, WI. We have been busy fundraising. We have also been working on our governor's project with George Reinwand.

Our annual health fair was a huge success. We would like to thank everyone who attended and our participating vendors.

INDIAN EDUCATION TUTORING:

Contact our office at 474-3572 if you'd like your son/daughter to be tutored. Please don't wait until your child is too far behind to seek out help.

FUZZBUSTER GAME

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 6th when the high school seniors will be taking on the Delta County law enforcement officers in a hilarious game of basketball. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with the game at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds go to fund the alcohol free All Night Graduation Party.

SPRING PLAY

The High School Drama group will perform "Northwoods Nonsense". The performances will be Saturday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 21, 2:00 p.m. The play will be directed by Jean Nicholson.

SECOND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

6th grade – 4.00 to 3.70 – Daniel Blair, Reinna Blair, Shannon Gould, Alec Miller, Dominique Pavlat, Brody Schroeder, Brandon Sundstrom; 3.69 to 3.30 – Zoie

Berg, Riley Gustafson, Michael Larsen, Craig Martin, James Moore, Shane Norberg, Erika Schwartz, Paige Schwartz; 3.29 to 3.00 – Austin Boris, Hayley Brockway, Victoria Hagman, Hannah Kanyuh, John Stropich, Tessa Sundling; **7th grade** – 4.00 to 3.70 – Lucas Bero, Aslynn Brockway, Chloe Cox, Kendyl Miller, Benjamin Rubick, Valerie Viau, Laurel Zar; 3.69 to 3.30 – Taylor Hedges, David Hough, Alexandra Williams; 3.29 to 3.00 – Lydia Froberg, Halie Hardwick, Emily Hickman, Caitlin LaRock, Elizabeth Veatch, Paige Vietzke; **8th grade** – 4.00 to 3.70 – Victoria Brunette, Cassidy Gould, Cheyene Linder, Josephine Miller; 3.69 to 3.30 – Michael Boyer, Rachel Hileman; 3.29 to 3.00 – Hayden Hardwick, Steven Lippold, Jacob Pearson; **9th grade** – 4.00 to 3.70 – Neena Brockway, Emma Hagman, Mia Hill, Kristy Kerstner, Rikki Stropich; 3.69 to 3.30 – Haley Gould, Katrina Pavlat, Sidonie Scizak; 3.29 to 3.00 – Averie Kanyuh, Tyler McGuigan, Riley Pajnich, Alex Person, Tracie Soderman; **10th grade** – 4.00 to 3.70 – Travis Froberg, Taylor Hileman, Ashley Hough, Darrell Kohli, Panyapat Nitikitpaiboon, Brandi Norman, Jordan Schwartz; 3.69 to 3.30 – Zachary Anderson, Jacob Berglund, Brett Bryant, Haley Gustafson, Dylan Holzenkamp, Audrey Larsen, Heather Sanderson, Kyra Wallace, Tyler Wicklund, Shannon Wolf; 3.29 to 3.00 – Kaylee Judson, Danyelle Keenan, Zachary Pavlat; **11th grade** – 4.00 to 3.70 – Noah Hagman, Vincent Hagman; 3.69 to 3.30 – Christian Harris, Derek Pistulka; 3.29 to 3.00 – John Geils, Cassandra Martin, Marcus Mleczewski, Kyle Stone; **12th grade** – 4.00 to 3.70 – Peter Behnke, Jordan Dalgord, Miranda Kohli, Kayla Shope; 3.69 to 3.30 –

Derek Berglund, Amber Froberg, Kelsey Gustafson, Keefe Ignat, Cassidy Larsen, Rikki Prescott; 3.29 to 3.00 – Kathleen Lang, Caitlin Moberg, Alex Pajnich, Heidi Pfiester

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Junior High and High School Science Olympiad teams competed at Northern Michigan University on February 13th. Out of 12 junior high teams competing Rapid River was 5th. The following Junior High team members earned medals in their individual events:

2nd place - Solar System - Alisha Hirn and Laurel Zar

2nd place - Trajectory - Tyler McGuigan and John Johnson

3rd place - Can't Judge a Powder - Laurel Zar and Josie Miller

Out of 13 high school teams competing, the Rapid River High School team was 6th. The following High School team members earned medals in their events:

1st Place - Mission Possible - Noah Hagman and Emma Hagman

2nd Place - Forensics - Jordan Dalgord and Faith Scheeneman

2nd Place - Anatomy and Physiology - Faith Scheeneman and Miranda Kohli

3rd Place - Fossils - Emma Hagman and Sidonie Scizak

3rd Place - Ecology - Taylor Hileman

Members of each team are as follows: Junior High – Tyler McGuigan, John Johnson, Josie Miller, Rachel Hileman, Cassidy Gould, Lydia Person, Steven Lippold, Alisha Hirn, Laurel Zar, Emily Hickman and Kendyl Miller. High School – Miranda Kohli, Ben Swanson, Heidi Pfiester, Dustin Berg, Jordan Dalgord, Faith Scheeneman, Kody Kerstner, Noah Hagman, Vinnie Hagman, Taylor Hileman, Emma Hagman, Sidonie Scizak, Lydia Ortiz, Kristy Kerstner, and Katrina Pavlat.

