

REACH OUT RAPID RIVER

Rapid River Public School's Newsletter

March/April 2013

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

HELP! We need your support. On February 26, the Rapid River Public Schools will be asking our community to go to the polls and support a millage election. Here's the most important piece...it will NOT RAISE ANY TAXES!

The purpose of this millage election is to enable the school district to update, repair, or replace a long list of items in and around our building, like roofs, boilers, carpets, and buses. These are some of the needed improvements that we were not able to accomplish during the 2007 renovation.

The amazing thing is that we are able to take advantage of the most attractive bond market in recent history and leverage the equity we have established in our current debt. The result is that we can generate the needed funds for these improvements [1] without adding any time to our current debt, and [2] actually lowering our debt levy by .35 mill in the first year.

I realize this sounds too good to be true, but we can assure you that this WIN-WIN opportunity is real. Please make sure to vote on February 26 and enable the school district to take care of our facilities and lower your taxes at the same time.

Dr. Jay Kulbertis
Superintendent

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball

February

18	N. Dickinson	Home	6:00
19	CFFP	Away	*5:30
21	Munising	Home	6:00

Boys' JV & Varsity Basketball

February

19	Big Bay	Home	6:00
22	N. Dickinson	Away	*5:30
26	Republic	Home	6:00
28	Carney	Home	6:00

*Central Time

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18 – No School – President's Day

February 22 – No School – In-Service

March 4 – PTC mtg., 5:30 p.m. in the elementary teacher's lounge.

March 6 – Rapid River Sports Boosters mtg., 5:30 p.m. in the library.

March 11 – School Board mtg., 6:30 p.m. in the library.

March 29 – No School – Good Friday

April 1 to 5 – No School – Spring Break

April 8 – PTC mtg., 5:30 p.m. in the elementary teacher's lounge.

April 8 – School Board mtg., 6:30 p.m. in the library.

April 10 – Rapid River Sports Boosters mtg., 5:30 p.m. in the library.

MARCH READING MONTH

Please come and join the K-5 students and staff for breakfast from 7:15 to 8:00 a.m. on March 1st to kick off reading month.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for children who will be 5 by November 1, 2013 will be held on April 12, 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, and shot record. To make an appointment call 474-6411, ext. 507.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Please be advised that we are required by law to run a variety of safety drills randomly throughout the school year. We will be practicing the following drills: fire, tornado, and lock down. We may practice an evacuation to the school buses in case we need to leave the school grounds in an emergency.

We do our very best to assure children that they are safe, and that we will not know if it is a drill or not. We also try to address questions that students have after a drill. If you have additional questions concerning the required drills that we run each year, please contact Bill Warning, Principal or Jay Kulbertis, Superintendent at 906-474-6411.

REPORT CARDS

Third quarter report cards for grades 6-12 will be given out on Thursday, March 28.



INDIAN ED

Now that report cards have been out, please don't hesitate to encourage your son/daughter to seek out some extra help from our program if their grades so indicate. You can also ask the teacher(s) to have Mr. Pilon work with your student or call our office directly at 474-3572. Our program is here to help students do their best.

Our annual family tubing party will be scheduled soon. Notices will be sent home with students.

SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Mtg., Dec 10, 2012

Superintendent Jay Kulbertis updated board members on the following:

- reported that a \$2,500 Hannahville 2% grant was received for the purchase of two portable document cameras for elementary teaching staff.
- gave an extensive legislative update.

The donation of \$2,338.44 from the Lions' Club fund raising dinner was acknowledged. President Lundquist thanked the Lions' Club for their generous donation.

Motion made and approved:

- to approve the Resolution Calling the Special February 26, 2013 Bond Election.
- to hire Amanda Spreitzer as part time Title I Aide.
- to accept the Intent to Retire on June 5, 2013 notification from Julie Olson, special education teacher.

Regular Mtg., Jan. 14, 2013

The following officers were elected: President – Karen Lundquist; Vice President – Sally Guay; Secretary – Edwin LaCosse; Treasurer – Ryan Bruursema.

Motion made and approved:

- to accept the Legal Reference Note for the organization of the 2013 School Board of Education.
- to designate the Administrative Assistant or designee as the School District Election Coordinator; to assume specified responsibilities of the Treasurer and Electronic Transfer Officer; and as Recording Secretary for the Board of Education.
- to designate Baybank, Michigan School District Liquid Asset Fund and 1st Bank as depositories for the General Fund, General Fund Payroll Account, Food Service Fund, Athletic Fund and Activities Fund; Northern Michigan Bank as depository for the Energy Bond Fund and Wells Fargo as depository for the 2007 and 2012 Debt Retirement Funds.
- to authorize Jay Kulbertis or William Warning and Sandra Deneau or Diane Kuchan as signatories on all central office accounts with the district, other than the General Checking and Payroll accounts that are with Baybank and require the facsimile signatures of the board president and treasurer; and to authorize William Warning or Jay Kulbertis and Mary Anderson or Sandra Deneau as signatories on the High School Activities and Athletic Fund Account.
- to authorize the Superintendent or designee to sign contracts and agreements that do not require board action.
- to authorize administrators William Warning, Kevin Beaver, and Jay Kulbertis to sign purchase orders.
- to hold the regular monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Tri-Township School Library.
- to retain Thrun Law Firm as legal counsel at a cost of \$1,600 for 2013.
- to approve the Best Practices Incentive Resolution.

- to approve the Key Club Convention Trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin March 1st – 3rd, 2013 contingent upon all overnight trip requirements being met.

- to appoint Albert Wickham to the school board until the 2014 election.

President Lundquist appointed the following committees:

Transportation – Edwin LaCosse, Ryan Bruursema, Albert Wickham

Finance – Ryan Bruursema, Karen Lundquist, Wayne Christoff

Building & Grounds – Edwin LaCosse, Albert Wickham, Wayne Christoff

Policy & Personnel – Karen Lundquist, Sally Guay, Michelle Denkins

Superintendent Jay Kulbertis recognized and thanked school board members for their service to the district.

For complete minutes go to our website at www.rapidriver.k12.mi.us.

SECOND QUARTER 4TH & 5TH GRADE ACADEMIC AWARDS

4th grade – All A's – Allison Gustafson, Cecilia Pilon; **A-B's** – Natalie Belanger, Hannah Casey, Griffin Flath, Emma Lambert, Ahna Larson, Myah Pearson, Matthew Salka; **Bug Award (Improved one grade without dropping in any other areas)** Griffin Flath, Mason Kudlick; **Perfect Attendance** – Belicia Brown, Riley Edwardsen, Bryce Lundquist, Cecilia Pilon, Matthew Salka

5th grade – All A's – Avery Closs, Lucas Gendron, Brooke Lancour, Brooke Landis, Braydon Moss, Garrett Novak; **A-B's** – Noah Sefcik, Payton Siirila; **Bug Award** – Cierra Carignan; **Perfect Attendance** – Lucas Gendron, Kristin Goodacre, Brooke Lancour, Vincent Micheau, Garrett Novak, Paige Raspor

Technology

- Wireless Network
- Wireless Servers
- New Computers for Labs and Classrooms
- Smart Boards for Computer Labs

Energy Conservation

- Additional Lighting Occupancy Sensors
- Replace Gymnasium Lighting
- Replace Boilers
- Replace Water Maker
- New Site Lighting
- Replace Exhaust Fans

Life Safety and Security

- Security Doors at Middle and Elementary Schools
- Replace Exterior Wall Lights
- Additional Emergency Egress Lighting
- Additional Security Cameras
- Additional Identification Signage
- New Buses
- Grandstand ADA Upgrades

Rapid River



Public Schools

The Proposal

- Approve the Sale of \$3,060,000 in Bonds
- Decrease Tax Levy from 7.00 mills to 6.65 mills
- NO Extension of Current Debt Payoff Timeframe

For More Information Visit:

www.rapidriver.k12.mi.us

VOTE

Tuesday

February 26, 2013

Building Upgrades

- Roof Replacement Throughout Facility
- New Elementary Entrance Canopy
- Modify Attic Ventilation at Pitched Roof
- Remodel Auxiliary Gym Restrooms
- Replace High School Lockers
- New Flooring at Team Locker Rooms and Support Spaces
- Repair Exterior Masonry Walls
- Weatherproof Upper Masonry Walls
- Refinish Kindergarten Coat Cubicles
- Upgrade Clock System
- Replace Select Equipment and Furnishings

Site Improvements

- New Well System
- Athletic Storage Building
- Fencing at Football Field
- Playground and Landscaping Upgrades
- Address Site Drainage at Bus Garage

LIBRARY NEWS

A huge **thank you** to the alumnus who gave \$1,000 to our library, but who wishes to remain anonymous. The money is being used to update many of our selections at all levels. The library is very grateful for his generous donation.

Please make sure your child returns library books each week so other children get a chance to check them out, too. Younger children need adults to help them with this. Please put the book(s) in their backpack so they get to school. Teachers are very good at helping the kids go through their backpacks in search of items. Thank you!

TALENT SHOW

The Rapid River Talent Show will be Sunday, March 24th at 2 p.m. It will be held in the Elementary Gym. Performances need to be two minutes or less. Performers need to contact Ms. Larson at 474-3542 with performers names, contact number, and type of performance. Last year's show featured vocal acts, magic, dance performances, guitar performances, a drum performance and piano performances.

ELEMENTARY NEWS

We are proud of our kindergarten through fifth grade who have been helping our local community in many generous ways.

In November, classes donated their spare change to help our Foster Grandparent Program. The money raised went to a great cause.

The fourth and fifth grades gave their traditional Christmas

Program preview to our friends at the Omni Center, who enjoyed the sing-a-long. All the classes have been happy to have music class again with Mr. Rinne as the new teacher once a week. They sang beautifully for families and the community on December 20th at our School Christmas Program.

December was the elementary food can drive and each class collected canned and boxed food for our local pantries. Thanks to our parents, too, for all their generous donations!

Our fifth grade practices social skills each day by reading the announcements and starting the pledge. They have been doing an excellent job! They are also our "Recycling Elves" each week. They use their recess time to collect paper for recycling and then bring it to our library where friends at the Rapid River American Legion take care of it. The Legion then donates back to our school a portion of the money they receive.

In November, Mrs. Sauve's fourth grade studied Michigan history. They wrote tall tale stories and dressed up as their character when giving their reports. They topped it off by making delicious pumpkin bread.

After reading Jumanji, Mrs. Wolf had her fourth graders make up their own board games about school and recess. They turned out terrific!

The third graders have been sharpening their science skills by working with Mr. Spreitzer's high school class. The older students do experiments (such as making ice cream), with the younger kids, so both classes learn! Also a big thank you goes to Mr. Spreitzer who came to our elementary to surprise us with a scary, but fun learning experience on Halloween. Did your kids tell you about the pumpkin explosion?

Second grade has been busy with

all kinds of projects such as learning about Christmas around the World. Then they got to make and eat edible turkey treats and edible dreidels. Each Thursday they enjoy having their Reading Buddy come and give each child some special attention while at the same time reading and working on skills together.

First grade has been doing a fabulous job learning to read! Some are even taking reading tests on the computer with our Accelerated Reading Program. They had the fifth graders come in and help them write letters to Santa Claus.

If you've ever visited our Kindergarten room, then you know how busy they've been! They are learning to read right along with learning their letters, sounds, and counting. Center time is when they get to choose from several different activities that help them with their social and academic skills. They made and decorated sugar cookies and made calendars for their families as gifts.

Students and staff are very grateful to our faithful volunteers. We have parents who help with fund-raising, classroom projects, reading activities, class trips, and many other valuable activities. Our small school couldn't do it without you! Thanks so much!

ROCKET RACK

The Rocket Rack is in need of gently used clothing. This would be a great time to go through your closets/drawers and do some spring cleaning. If you have clothing that you no longer wear or need and would like to donate, please drop off at the high school office. We are looking for junior high and high school sizes only, no children's.

The Rocket Rack is open Tuesday's at 11:00 a.m. with gently used clothing free of charge to students.