Superintendent’s Weekly Board UPDATE
Dr. Robert Willis
August 11, 2012

This week I debut some standing features, including Accountability Department News; Around Town, which highlights one or more of my meetings the past week; and Committee Reports, which will give the board members who can’t attend every committee meeting a summary. In subsequent weeks, you will see From the Desk of Directors, a look inside at the work that goes on in this building you might not know about.

You won’t have to read the UPDATE as a separate attachment, but I will continue to include attachments for other documents. As always, please let me know what additional information you may want me to include.

--Bob

ACCOUNTABILITY DEPARTMENT NEWS
From Dan Woestman, Executive Director of Accountability

SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL ISAT REPORT
Below this Update are the unofficial ISAT results. They aren’t official until the state releases the scores, but these are what principals were given last week. Teachers will be seeing these in the first week of school as well. I included the two most recent years for some comparison. Once the graduation rate corrections are complete (Aug. 17) – you should expect to get a packet with each school’s AYP report, graduation rate, attendance rate, score breakdown by race, etc.

HEAD START/RPS PRE-K
Woestman’s department this week finished a comparison of student performance in RPS Pre-K to HeadStart Pre-K.
The Discovery Education Assessment (DEA) puts students into four tiers. We took students who were in our district last year in grades K-2, marked those who had received Pre-K services through either RPS or HeadStart, and compared last year’s DEA data.

Woestman’s analysis: “Students receiving an RPS preschool experience outperform their peers who received a HeadStart preschool experience in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. The sample from kindergarten and second grade had more students scoring in the top 2 tiers by 16 to 20 percentage points. The first grade sample had almost twice that many. However, to see if the gap was closing for any of the cohorts as they progress, we will have to look at more than one year’s worth of data; this is just a snapshot of where they were last year. We would have to look at the 2nd graders and see where they were in 1st grade two years ago, and where they were in Kindergarten three years ago.”

### Percentage of students in top two tiers of Discovery Education Assessment

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* less than 5 students in sample subgroup

**REGISTRATION REPORT**

Wednesday was a big day for parents and the Parent and Community Empowerment (PACE) Department as early childhood and elementary schools held registration for the 2012-13 school year. Registration began at 7 a.m.; hours were extended to 7 p.m. this year. PACE employees were at 22 schools for registration (including Haskell, which held registration July 18 to accommodate its earlier start). Help from the 5-person PACE staff ranged from recruiting parents for PTO or special programs, to answering questions about the Parent Portal or http://rpsarchive.rps205.net/PrintMessage.aspx?CheckSums=a7c18d79-f94b-ad50-513f-41... 5/28/2015
school zones, to sitting at the registration tables, greeting and directing parents. Aside from some confusion with the extended hours of registration (several schools had scheduled their volunteers until 5 p.m. instead of the later time) things went smoothly. “It was like a well-oiled machine everywhere I went,” Marsha Sisney, Parent and Community Empowerment specialist, said.

The PACE department consists of parent liaisons Amy Ekstrom, Nicole Bergren, Carmita Blake and Meredith McKay, supervised by Sisney. A list of the schools they are assigned is attached. However, each of the liaisons has programs and initiatives in various schools. Each person in the department is responsible for taking the lead and being a point person for those specific programs.

For a list of the PTO contacts in each of the schools, follow this link to the rps205.com Web site. The list is updated continuously, so check back as the school year progresses.

*Note:* Registration for middle school and high school students will be 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 14, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 15.

**FAST FACTS**

Attached is a Fast Facts sheet, courtesy of CFO Cedric Lewis. Cedric wanted to make sure all of you have the same numbers that have been shared with the Referendum Committee. The information comes in handy for anyone who is regularly asked questions about the district, our tax rate, the city or its major employers.

A sample of interesting information: The district has 10,000 computers and 900 Smart Boards. At 3,730 employees, we are the second largest employer in the Rockford region only exceeded by Chrysler once they added their third shift. Rockford Health Systems is the third largest employer at 3,000.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Education Committee, Aug. 6*

Diana Alt, Executive Director for Learning, reported on progress toward the electronic grade book for the elementary grades, which I previewed in my Update last week. This year for the first time, the grade book will feed into the Parent Portal, a Web tool that parents can use to check their child’s records, grades and other information online. (Parent Portal is already available for the middle and high schools.) Jude Makulec, chairperson, asked how often teachers will update the information. Alt said it will be up to principals to set expectations and go back to teachers if parents complain.

Angela Hite-Carter, Executive Director of Student Services & Alternative Learning, described Gateway to College, in which high school dropouts can finish work toward their high school diploma while receiving Rockford Valley College credit. The program would be funded in its first three years with a grant. Education Committee member Anqunette Parham asked why the program would succeed when a similar program at RVC had failed to attract enough eligible students. The committee decided to delay recommending the program to the full board (and delay applying for the grant).

Tyler Fagan updated the committee on options to combine outsourcing and RPS 205 instruction for drivers’ education. Fagan is AP Curriculum-Physical Education/ Health/ Wellness/ Drivers Education. The committee
recommended Option 3, which requires a waiver from the ISBE. Fagan will begin that process. The option includes four part-time driver education teachers (one at each high school) to teach classrooms. The waiver will allow the district to contract for behind-the-wheel instruction with a private company.

Operations Committee, Aug. 7
Director of Nutrition Services Renita Weiskircher reviewed the district's recycling efforts. Although each school has bins for recycling, regular waste and yard waste, they are not used to their full potential. She met with Veolia and the company agreed to put "toters" (large bins with holes in the top for plastic bottles) and dumpsters at stadiums for use at sports events. She also said Nutrition Services has new trays made of recycled material that have proved equally as absorbent, sturdy and cheaper. Custodians and building principals promise to reinforce the message on recycling. COO Todd Schmidt said a district wide "road show" on energy conservation and recycling is planned within the next two months.

Mary Fisher, Health Services supervisor, presented a plan for a school-based health center, run by Crusader Community Health and housed at Kennedy Middle School. The location was picked because of proximity to 3,000 primarily low-income students at Auburn High School, Kennedy, McIntosh and Wilson ASPIRE. Health services would include school physicals, immunizations and simple labs. Partners would be Primary Eyecare Center, which would offer vision exams and glasses, and Rosecrance, which would offer behavioral and emotional assessment and care. The proposal hinges on whether the district receives a $500,000 federal grant. The district already has in hand a $50,000 grant from ISBE.

AROUND TOWN
I met this week with Mayor Morrissey, County Board Chairman Scott Christiansen, State's Attorney Joe Bruscato and Police Chief Chet Epperson. We discussed the desperate need for more alternative strategies to help prevent children from entering the juvenile justice system. We focused on the concepts of a program run by the RPS Special Ed department in the mid 1990s. It was for 14- to 21-year-old students and used funds under the federal Job Training and Partnership Act. Students signed a contract to be on time, on task, dressed appropriately and respectful of coworkers and staff. Any time a student violated the contract, his or her pay would be docked. I have scheduled another meeting of the group in two weeks to continue to brainstorm; at that time, Assistant Superintendent Matt Vosberg will join us and share his vision for providing services to this very needy population.

FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTORS: A LOOK AHEAD
In the next update, I will report on some exciting work that Tiffany Agustin, our new Director of Research and Evaluation, has done just in her first week of work. As part of her process mapping project, she has uncovered hundreds of dollars of savings as we bulk order paper products.

COMING SOON
Dan Woestman and I think it might be useful for you to have a timeline as part of the weekly UPDATE. I plan to incorporate this as a standing feature. As with the housing report, which comes out in September, there are predictable cycles of the work we do as educators. Having a heads up can only be helpful for you and us.
**ISAT Meets/Exceeds Unofficial Results**

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Interim Superintendent  
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Ph 815-966-3101 / Fx 815-972-3404

http://rpsarchive.rps205.net/PrintMessage.aspx?CheckSums=a7c18d79-f94b-ad50-513f-41...  5/28/2015
Superintendent’s Weekly Board UPDATE
Dr. Ehren Jarrett
Oct. 25, 2013

From the Superintendent
Oct. 25, 2013

I have attached the Report Log. This will be a working document to reflect requests for information from board members. Please let me know how we can improve the document and/or the process.

Year 2 of Discovery Education
Dr. Travis Woulfe, Executive Director, Improvement and Innovation

We are in the second year of our five-year Literacy and Learning in the 21st Century partnership with Discovery Education. The program includes the DE Assessment, which serves these purposes:

1. Mandated Universal Screener and formative assessment for instructional refinements for students in Kindergarten through Eighth grade
2. Streaming+, which is a wide-ranging collection of digital resources for K-12 students
3. Science TechBook, which is a digital “textbook” for supplementing our K-8 science curriculum

We also provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to refine instruction to better meet students' needs while implementing classroom environments that are digitally transformed to meet 21st century learners in a “native” format.

Students have completed “Test A” of the DEA. Our Curriculum Deans, administrators, and teacher Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are analyzing data and designing lessons to help students master necessary, grade-level Learning Standards. DE professional development specialists are working with teachers and administrators to improve practice. Usage reports will be reviewed at the end of each semester.

We have also started working with DE specialists on our CAMP to the Future II instructional plan. The program proposal will be brought to the Board of Education in mid-December to mid-January. We are also developing more training and opportunities for our community partners and parents to utilize the resources students have at their free disposal from any computer that can access the Internet.

On a different note: The U.S. Department of Education has posted the 15-page long list of applicants for Race to
the Top during this current round. There are six applications from Illinois districts. Chicago and Rockford Public Schools are the only two districts with more than 7,500 students that submitted an application. In order to submit an application, district administration and the local teachers' union had to both agree and sign. I think it is a great testament to our District and the REA that we submitted an application. We stand alone as an applicant as a district with between 7,500 and 425,000 students throughout Illinois!

**Sharefest payback:** We will finally get the $130,000 from a grant we wrote in spring 2012. This is money to reimburse the Facilities Department for expenses incurred during Sharefest 2012.

**From the Accountability Department**  
_Dan Woestman, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability_

**Value stream mapping event next week**

The Office of Accountability, along with IMEC, will be conducting a three day registration/enrollment value stream mapping event next week at the Student Assignment Center. The team consists of staff with various roles and responsibilities, including Student Assignment Center staff, school building clerical, and a member from the communications department. First, the team will go through a lean process simulation, which will introduce the concept of eliminating waste in the work environment. Then, a current process map will be created. While creating the current process, the team will identify many hurdles and setbacks, which will help the team create action items to get to the desired process. When creating the future process map, the team will look at online enrollment options for parents and students, improving timeliness of data entry, communicating the necessity of proper documentation, etc. Each team member will be assigned action plans to get from the current process to the desired process. Other VSM events that have occurred in the District are purchasing, professional development, and the discipline documentation process.

**Updates on AYP**

I have attached an updated copy of our AYP/meets&exceeds report, which was released to the media this week. The original attachment showed 3-year trend data, so results for Froberg and Marshall were omitted. Their scores are attached now, but we cannot show trend data as we don't have scores for them as far back.

**News from the Curriculum Department**  
_Ankhe Bradley, Assistant Superintendent of Training/Development and Diversity_

I asked my deans and assistant principals to provide updates on their curriculum areas. We will split up their reports over the next three weeks:

- **Week One:** elementary reading and math;
- **Week Two:** secondary reading and math; and
- **Week Three:** K-12 science and social studies, PE and fine arts

**Elementary Math**  
_Diane Fischer, Assistant Principal of Math (Elementary)_

Strategies to help students learn basic math facts are being implemented by many teachers at the elementary level this year. One strategy is to decompose numbers to help them add or subtract. For example, $28 + 37$ can be found by decomposing numbers:

Breaking apart factors in multiplication helps students connect harder facts to ones they know well. Students who struggle with their 7's facts can break them apart into groups of 5's and 2's to help them find the product. For example:

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These strategies help out students become more successful with addition and multiplication. The teachers are learning new ways to help students understand mathematics.

**Elementary Reading**  
*Jen Jump, Assistant Principal of Literacy (Elementary)*

Teachers are looking for new ways to ask students to compare and contrast texts in order to meet the Common Core State Standards of integrating information and ideas. Teachers have been using paired texts to look at different types of text about the same or similar topic. Whether it is a fiction pair, non-fiction pair, or one of each, students are making connections between the texts. They are asking questions, finding similarities, and taking the text apart. Teachers are able to find paired text in a variety of locations, including our anthology text, supplemental resources, and from online resources.

**Construction update**  
*Todd Schmidt, Chief Operations Officer*

Most of our ongoing construction projects (additions at Johnson, Conklin, Lathrop, McIntosh and Spring Creek) are either right on schedule or ahead of schedule. At Froberg, the precast panels – or walls (see pictures) – were installed Saturday and some concrete was poured. At all our schools receiving additions, the envelope of the additions (walls, windows and ceilings) are complete. Mechanical work is underway, drop ceilings are being installed and painting is in the works. The sister schools (Johnson, Conklin and Lathrop) might even be completed ahead of schedule.

**Coming up at the Nov. 5 Operations Committee meeting:** The committee will be asked to finalize hiring a landscape designer. The board will be asked to approve the administration’s recommendation Nov. 12.

Six firms submitted bids for asbestos abatement, and the administration will recommend one to the committee. Asbestos abatement is needed across the district, especially in the next handful of years as we replace old boilers and pipe insulation. We’re offering a three-year contract with two one-year extension options. A firm will also be recommended Nov. 5 for testing services – such as structural steel, concrete, welding, etc.

**Upcoming RFQs:** The administration will put out a package on auditorium renovations for East, Guilford and Jefferson high schools. Other RFQs coming up:

- locker renovations for our secondary schools
- window removal and replacement over the next two years at West, Lincoln, Washington, Flinn and Kennedy
- renovations at Jefferson High School for a security vestibule and gymnasium (flooring, lighting, bleachers)

We hope to have those RFQs ready for the December Operations Committee meeting and for board approval in December, as well.

**What’s happening on the Front Porch**  
*Mat Parker, Director of Athletic Activities and Program Development*  
*LuAnn Widergren, Director of Fine Arts*

**Athletics**

We held another successful event last weekend with the second *Basketball Coaches Clinic* at Auburn High School. The event had a diverse audience with 62 basketball coaches in attendance from various levels, locations, ethnicities and ages. Northern Illinois University men’s basketball coach Mark Montgomery (*pictured below*) started the day with a presentation, "Moving up in the Coaching Ranks." Rock Valley College men’s coach Craig Doty, RVC women’s coach and athletic director Misty Opat, and Auburn boys coach Bryan Ott all brought in
players to demonstrate drills. Carl Armato, Rockford Public Schools Director of Basketball Operations, also spoke to the group. Schiro's and Pepsi provided lunch for all the coaches and presenters, and Aim High Hoops and BSN Sports generously donated gifts for the attendees.

Rockford Public Schools and Guilford High School will host the first All-Star Volleyball Showcase on Saturday, Nov. 23, at Guilford High School. The event is sponsored by Club Fusion Volleyball and will feature three matches between the top senior players in northern Illinois. The day will end with an all-star area team vs. all-star NIC-10 team.

Before the matches, Club Fusion coaches will hold a one-hour clinic for all Rockford Public Schools fifth- through eighth-grade players, boys and girls. One of the top volleyball clubs in the country, Club Fusion will address skills in passing, serving and attacking.

The clinic is open to the first 80 students who register. Cost is $10 includes clinic, T-shirt and admission to the all-star matches. Regular admission will be good for all three matches at $5 for 18 and older, $3 for students and free for 3 and under.

For more information, contact Emily Tropp at emily.tropp@rps205.com or 815-966-8960.

Emily also wrote a blog item for the Rockford Register Star to update the public on the schools-parks collaboration. You may read it by clicking here.

Fine Arts

We should be very proud that our successful application for a $1.2 million arts integration grant from the Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement received national press. It was mentioned in the Oct. 24 edition of School Business Daily. Click here to read.

Another reason to be proud: We have at least 27 middle and high school students selected for the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) District 8 band and chorus. IMEA is a great opportunity for our music students, as they get experience with auditioning, performing with young musicians from other schools and performing on a bigger stage. In addition, the students have the opportunity to participate in the IMEA All-State Festival Jan. 22-25 in Peoria.

Here’s how the numbers break down: Marshall: 3; Eisenhower: 5; West: 1; East: 1; Auburn: 15; and Guilford: 2.

My Calendar/Your Calendar

In this feature I recap the week and take a look ahead so we might be able to sync our calendars on a few events I consider particularly important or interesting. A reminder that if you want to join me, please call or email Laura Fromm so she can post a Notice of Quorum if needed.

Week in review

Monday—Met with REA Communications Council at the union's new headquarters at 7029 Rote Road

Tuesday – Town hall meeting at Student Assignment Center

Wednesday – Meeting with CEANCI for the regional career training proposal Advance Now. (CEANCI stands for Partners in Career Education Associates of North Central Illinois.)

Thursday – Site visit to Jefferson High School. Spoke to Rockford Woman's Club. In the evening, I was one of four panelists for the “Superintendents Summit: The State of our Schools from a Leadership Perspective,” at Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, Northern Illinois University.

Friday – News conference at 2:15 p.m. in the West Middle School Cafeteria to announce a partnership with the Rockford IceHogs. (You would have received the release Wednesday via email.)

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**A look ahead:**

Oct. 28 – Matt Vosberg and I will meet with **State Superintendent Christopher Koch** about College for All

Oct. 29 – Breakfast and talk at Severson Dells Nature Center

Oct. 30 – Site visit to **Conklin Elementary School**. Speaking to **BPAC**, the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee

Nov. 1 – At the **Regional Office of Education** for the monthly meeting of superintendents. Also, I will visit a **Jefferson High School leadership class**. The students have been interviewing community members about philosophies of leadership. The students are also eager to share 1) their latest survey on school climate; and 2) the kick-off of a Kindness Campaign they are starting at Jefferson in November.

Nov. 5 – Meet at 7:30 a.m. with the **Workforce Investment Board (WIB)**, at the Regional Design Center, 315 N. Main.

--END--
Email

From: Roberta Edwards
To: board members
CC: Superintendent's Cabinet
Subject: AYP 2013.xls

Attachments may contain viruses that are harmful to your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

On behalf of Dan Woestman, at Mike Connor's request, attached you will find a spreadsheet reflecting Adequate Yearly Progress % Meets/Exceeds for Rockford Public Schools.

Roberta Edwards
Executive Coordinator to the Superintendent
Rockford Public Schools
501 7th Street
Rockford, IL 61107
O: 815.966.3102 / C: 815.209.1907
F: 815.972.3404
edwardr@rps205.com
AYP % Meets/Exceeds

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Superintendent's Weekly Board UPDATE
Dr. Ehren Jarrett
Oct. 25, 2013

From the Superintendent

I have attached the Report Log. This will be a working document to reflect requests for information from board members. Please let me know how we can improve the document and/or the process.

Year 2 of Discovery Education
Dr. Travis Woulfe, Executive Director, Improvement and Innovation

We are in the second year of our five-year Literacy and Learning in the 21st Century partnership with Discovery Education. The program includes the DE Assessment, which serves these purposes:

1. Mandated Universal Screener and formative assessment for instructional refinements for students in Kindergarten through Eighth grade
2. Streaming+, which is a wide-ranging collection of digital resources for K-12 students
3. Science TechBook, which is a digital "textbook" for supplementing our K-8 science curriculum

We also provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to refine instruction to better meet students' needs while implementing classroom environments that are digitally transformed to meet 21st century learners in a "native" format.

Students have completed "Test A" of the DEA. Our Curriculum Deans, administrators, and teacher Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are analyzing data and designing lessons to help students master necessary, grade-level Learning Standards. DE professional development specialists are working with teachers and administrators to improve practice. Usage reports will be reviewed at the end of each semester.

We have also started working with DE specialists on our CAMP to the Future II instructional plan. The program proposal will be brought to the Board of Education in mid-December to mid-January. We are also developing more training and opportunities for our community partners and parents to utilize the resources students have at their free disposal from any computer that can access the Internet.

On a different note: The U.S. Department of Education has posted the 15-page long list of applicants for Race to
the Top during this current round. There are six applications from Illinois districts. Chicago and Rockford Public Schools are the only two districts with more than 7,500 students that submitted an application. In order to submit an application, district administration and the local teachers’ union had to both agree and sign. I think it is a great testament to our District and the REA that we submitted an application. We stand alone as an applicant as a district with between 7,500 and 425,000 students throughout Illinois!

Sharefest payback: We will finally get the $130,000 from a grant we wrote in spring 2012. This is money to reimburse the Facilities Department for expenses incurred during Sharefest 2012.

From the Accountability Department
Dan Woestman, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability

Value stream mapping event next week

The Office of Accountability, along with IMEC, will be conducting a three day registration/enrollment value stream mapping event next week at the Student Assignment Center. The team consists of staff with various roles and responsibilities, including Student Assignment Center staff, school building clerical, and a member from the communications department. First, the team will go through a lean process simulation, which will introduce the concept of eliminating waste in the work environment. Then, a current process map will be created. While creating the current process, the team will identify many hurdles and setbacks, which will help the team create action items to get to the desired process. When creating the future process map, the team will look at online enrollment options for parents and students, improving timeliness of data entry, communicating the necessity of proper documentation, etc. Each team member will be assigned action plans to get from the current process to the desired process. Other VSM events that have occurred in the District are purchasing, professional development, and the discipline documentation process.

Updates on AYP

I have attached an updated copy of our AYP/meets&exceeds report, which was released to the media this week. The original attachment showed 3-year trend data, so results for Froberg and Marshall were omitted. Their scores are attached now, but we cannot show trend data as we don’t have scores for them as far back.

News from the Curriculum Department
Ankhe Bradley, Assistant Superintendent of Training/Development and Diversity

I asked my deans and assistant principals to provide updates on their curriculum areas. We will split up their reports over the next three weeks:

Week One: elementary reading and math;
Week Two: secondary reading and math; and
Week Three: K-12 science and social studies, PE and fine arts

Elementary Math
Diane Fischer, Assistant Principal of Math (Elementary)

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Most of our ongoing construction projects (additions at Johnson, Conklin, Lathrop, McIntosh and Spring Creek) are either right on schedule or ahead of schedule. At Froberg, the precast panels – or walls (see pictures) – were installed Saturday and some concrete was poured. At all our schools receiving additions, the envelope of the additions (walls, windows and ceilings) are complete. Mechanical work is underway, drop ceilings are being installed and painting is in the works. The sister schools (Johnson, Conklin and Lathrop) might even be completed ahead of schedule.

**Coming up at the Nov. 5 Operations Committee meeting:** The committee will be asked to finalize hiring a landscape designer. The board will be asked to approve the administration’s recommendation Nov. 12.

Six firms submitted bids for asbestos abatement, and the administration will recommend one to the committee. Asbestos abatement is needed across the district, especially in the next handful of years as we replace old boilers and pipe insulation. We’re offering a three-year contract with two one-year extension options. A firm will also be recommended Nov. 5 for testing services – such as structural steel, concrete, welding, etc.

**Upcoming RFQs:** The administration will put out a package on auditorium renovations for East, Guilford and Jefferson high schools. Other RFQs coming up:

- locker renovations for our secondary schools
- window removal and replacement over the next two years at West, Lincoln, Washington, Flinn and Kennedy
- renovations at Jefferson High School for a security vestibule and gymnasium (flooring, lighting, bleachers)

We hope to have those RFQs ready for the December Operations Committee meeting and for board approval in December, as well.

**What’s happening on the Front Porch**
*Mat Parker, Director of Athletic Activities and Program Development*
*LuAnn Widgren, Director of Fine Arts*

**Athletics**

We held another successful event last weekend with the second **Basketball Coaches Clinic** at Auburn High School. The event had a diverse audience with 62 basketball coaches in attendance from various levels, locations, ethnicities and ages. Northern Illinois University men’s basketball coach Mark Montgomery (*pictured below*) started the day with a presentation, "Moving up in the Coaching Ranks." Rock Valley College men’s coach Craig Doty, RVC women’s coach and athletic director Misty Opat, and Auburn boys coach Bryan Ott all brought in

http://rpsarchive.rps205.net/PrintMessage.aspx?CheckSums=4035b654-0e21-20da-bbb0-4... 5/28/2015
players to demonstrate drills. Carl Armato, Rockford Public Schools Director of Basketball Operations, also spoke to the group. Schiro’s and Pepsi provided lunch for all the coaches and presenters, and Aim High Hoops and BSN Sports generously donated gifts for the attendees.

Rockford Public Schools and Guilford High School will host the first All-Star Volleyball Showcase on Saturday, Nov. 23, at Guilford High School. The event is sponsored by Club Fusion Volleyball and will feature three matches between the top senior players in northern Illinois. The day will end with an all-star area team vs. all-star NIC-10 team.

Before the matches, Club Fusion coaches will hold a one-hour clinic for all Rockford Public Schools fifth–through eighth-grade players, boys and girls. One of the top volleyball clubs in the country, Club Fusion will address skills in passing, serving and attacking.

The clinic is open to the first 80 students who register. Cost is $10 includes clinic, T-shirt and admission to the all-star matches. Regular admission will be good for all three matches at $5 for 18 and older, $3 for students and free for 3 and under.

For more information, contact Emily Tropp at emily.tropp@rps205.com or 815-966-8960.

Emily also wrote a blog item for the Rockford Register Star to update the public on the schools-parks collaboration. You may read it by clicking here.

Fine Arts

We should be very proud that our successful application for a $1.2 million arts integration grant from the Department of Education’s Office of Innovation and Improvement received national press. It was mentioned in the Oct. 24 edition of School Business Daily. Click here to read.

Another reason to be proud: We have at least 27 middle and high school students selected for the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) District 8 band and chorus. IMEA is a great opportunity for our music students, as they get experience with auditioning, performing with young musicians from other schools and performing on a bigger stage. In addition, the students have the opportunity to participate in the IMEA All-State Festival Jan. 22-25 in Peoria.

Here’s how the numbers break down: Marshall: 3; Eisenhower: 5; West: 1; East: 1; Auburn: 15; and Guilford: 2.

My Calendar/Your Calendar

In this feature I recap the week and take a look ahead so we might be able to sync our calendars on a few events I consider particularly important or interesting. A reminder that if you want to join me, please call or email Laura Fromm so she can post a Notice of Quorum if needed.

Week in review

Monday—Met with REA Communications Council at the union’s new headquarters at 7029 Rote Road
Tuesday – Town hall meeting at Student Assignment Center
Wednesday – Meeting with CEANCI for the regional career training proposal Advance Now. (CEANCI stands for Partners in Career Education Associates of North Central Illinois.)
Thursday – Site visit to Jefferson High School. Spoke to Rockford Woman’s Club. In the evening, I was one of four panelists for the “Superintendents Summit: The State of our Schools from a Leadership Perspective,” at Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, Northern Illinois University.
Friday – News conference at 2:15 p.m. in the West Middle School Cafeteria to announce a partnership with the Rockford IceHogs. (You would have received the release Wednesday via email.)
A look ahead:

Oct. 28 – Matt Vosberg and I will meet with State Superintendent Christopher Koch about College for All

Oct. 29 – Breakfast and talk at Severson Dells Nature Center

Oct. 30 – Site visit to Conklin Elementary School. Speaking to BPAC, the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee

Nov. 1 – At the Regional Office of Education for the monthly meeting of superintendents. Also, I will visit a Jefferson High School leadership class. The students have been interviewing community members about philosophies of leadership. The students are also eager to share 1) their latest survey on school climate; and 2) the kick-off of a Kindness Campaign they are starting at Jefferson in November.

Nov. 5 – Meet at 7:30 a.m. with the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), at the Regional Design Center, 315 N. Main.

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Superintendent’s Weekly Board UPDATE
Dr. Ehren Jarrett
April 11, 2014

Progress report on Board priorities for 2013-2014

2. Employability Readiness through development of 21st Century soft skills

From Dan Woestman—Attached is the latest copy of the district’s K-12 benchmarks, which provide the district with a reference for what skills and experiences students are gaining in addition to traditional reading, writing, and arithmetic. These K-12 benchmarks were first given to the board in the fall. Since then, we have finalized the targets and added K-5 indicators. Dr. Jarrett will be presenting this at the upcoming board retreat.

6. Support of 21st Century technology

From Dan Woestman—Last week I explained one of the prioritized suggestions from the IT Audit: develop a cloud computing strategy that addresses disaster recovery and business continuity. An extensive portion of the audit identified a second priority finding, which was to implement specific strategies to increase the utility level of the network. The trend towards cloud computing—coupled with the increase in number of devices on any given network—requires the network to be robust, redundant, and resilient. PDS identified key steps that will guide work to increase the utility level of the network.

From the Finance Department
Cedric Lewis, Chief Financial Officer

The implementation of SunGard has realized major savings in money and processing time. The Request for Leave (RFL) system is now automated through the SunGard system. As a result, we are seeing reduced time for approval and more timely notification to staff as to the status of leave requests. This is another huge win for time tracking for both Payroll and Human Resources. The request for leave system has also been process-flowed digitally to the travel reimbursement process for professional leaves, which results in quicker travel reimbursements for employees.

Finance has also implemented an ePay system with 91 vendors, which reduces the cost of handling, postage and check printing. Spending through ePay year-to-date is $489,934, and both PNC Bank and the administration expect this number to grow exponentially over the next year. New vendors to the district are being encouraged to participate in the program because of the cost savings to the district, and the expedience it offers in paying vendors more quickly. Because vendor payment records are stored digitally, the Finance department has realized
a reduction of approximately 1,500 copies per month. A summary of copier usage is as follows for both Purchasing (which increased efficiency through digital process flow of purchasing requisitions) and Finance:

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At the end of January, 5,442 W-2s were issued to RPS205 employees with only 3 requiring modifications because of inaccurate information. This reflects a 99.95% accuracy rate, which validates the excellent internal controls and solid SunGard system design. Any new system install is arduous, time-consuming and, at times, a headache. The investment and time spent working through the normal kinks and getting the SunGard system functional has served RPS and her many partners extremely well.

We are just starting to tap the innovative solutions the new system offers. There are other opportunities to grow our efficiencies and build stronger internal controls, and we will proceed with deliberate action to realize them.

**From the Accountability Department**

*Dan Woestman, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability*

### PARCC field test held

Today is the final day for the first round of PARCC field testing. More than 300,000 tests have been taken throughout the country in the past weeks. RPS teachers, the assessment department and the technology services department have been working hard to get the best understanding possible of how PARCC works during the field test. Common issues we have seen arise in buildings include:

1. **Java software not working with the test.** The software company Oracle provided an update to Java in March that is not compatible with the PARCC testing software. Java has consistently been an issue throughout the field test, and PARCC has issued multiple tech bulletins to try to address the Java difficulties that are happening throughout the country.

2. **Keyboards not working with iPads.** There are only 2 large distributors of wired keyboards for iPads: Logitech and Belkin. Belkin hasn't had inventory all year (we hear it's because LA bought all of them), and the Logitech keyboards have consistently not worked with the PARCC App throughout testing. Students have mostly resorted to using the on-screen keyboard, which will not be an option next year.

3. **Error Codes are plentiful.** The PARCC software manual has 20 pages of possible error codes. It has been difficult working with the errors that the software gives us in high-stakes testing environments.

Mr. Woestman coordinated an area school technology coordinators meeting before PARCC as part of the preparation, and that group is scheduled to meet again to review issues together after the 2nd round, which begins May 6.

### Discipline process evaluated for efficiencies

The Accountability Department continues to improve processes and eliminate wastes throughout the District. This
week the department, along with IMEC, facilitated a value stream mapping project for the discipline process. Objectives of the project include:

- Reducing unnecessary paperwork
- Identifying work systems and processes that are not adding appropriate value
- Streamlining system with current resources
- Creating plan to process student packets within 10 day window
- Determining process times for packets to determine occasional needs for supplemental staff

The team identified wastes, which include issues with expulsion packet compliance and scheduling hearings, printing paperwork and redacting. A follow-up meeting will take place at the end of the month to finish mapping the current and future processes and assign action items.

**Illinois Center for School Improvement report**

*Ankhe Bradley, Assistant Superintendent of Training/Development and Diversity*

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) established Illinois CSI to provide high-quality, coordinated, and consistent support to the Illinois statewide system of support (SSoS). Resources and services through Illinois CSI will ensure that districts and schools receive expert, timely, and relevant assistance to increase district capacity, improve student performance, and close achievement gaps. Illinois CSI will advance ISBE's commitment to continue SSoS partnerships through the state's established regional delivery system.

Illinois CSI support and coordination of SSoS is defined by five key functions:

1. Provide oversight and management to SSoS.
2. Maintain alignment with ISBE's vision and reform initiatives.
3. Work with identified school districts.
4. Increase district-level capacity to improve teaching and learning.
5. Evaluate system-wide processes.

The state has identified five priority schools in our district. Illinois CSI will be conducting needs assessment visits to those buildings within the next few weeks. Here is the schedule for the upcoming visits:

- Kennedy Middle School- 4/14 and 4/15
- West Middle School 4/16 and 4/16
- CICS Jackson- 4/22
- Beyer 4/28
- Kishwaukee 4/29

**Marshall School unveils Oceania mural**

Thurgood Marshall School students, staff, friends and family have worked for a year on a 2,200-tile mosaic that was officially installed in the school's foyer Thursday, April 10. The mural is based on art and science integration. Nearly 1,000 people offered tile contributions, and the arts education project was made possible in part through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. Two community artists who worked on the mural also are involved in our math-arts integration project at Kennedy and Flinn, for which we received a $1.2 million federal grant in fall 2013. For more about the Oceania mural, see this [video](http://rpsarchive.rps205.net/PrintMessage.aspx?CheckSums=ce311b95-f814-8e2a-8cc7-02... 5/28/2015) produced at Marshall last year.
Job shadowing update  
Earl Dotson Jr., Chief of Communications and Community Empowerment

The next meeting for the clearinghouse (or selection committee) for job shadowing applicants is next Wednesday, April 16. I received a status report this week from Mike Williams, executive director of Rock River Training Corp. He wrote in an email:

As of this morning we have 28 applications on file. There are 7 female and 21 male applicants. There is 1 applicant that has no driver’s license or vehicle, and is therefore ineligible. We are processing criminal background checks, but have not yet received any results from the State Police. We are now checking the sex offender registry. Ineligible candidates will be told the reason they are will not be chosen for job shadowing, and will be advised of other job training and/or employment opportunities through the RRTC WIA Adult program.

Mr. Williams will provide me Monday with a spreadsheet listing the applicants and their status for discussion at the Wednesday selection committee meeting.

From the College and Career Readiness Department  
Dave Carson, Executive Director

Woodward is considering doubling the number of students it sponsors in the Summer Manufacturing Program through Rock Valley College. The program is from June 9-Aug. 14 at the Woodward Tech Center on the RVC campus. The classes prepare the students to take two certification tests from the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). Students would be in class four days a week (M-Th) in two sessions, morning and afternoon. Students would also job-shadow one half-day per week and receive career coaching during three Friday sessions. Takeaways from the program for students:

- Employability readiness: Students will craft resumes and do mock interviews. Human resource professionals from manufacturing companies will provide an authentic audience, reviewing the resumes;
- Scholarship, college readiness skills: Students will go through the RVC catalog. The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois will offer instruction in finding local scholarships. Also new this year, the students will take a trip to Northern Illinois University.

At the end of the training, if students pass the certification exams, they are eligible to interview for a job as a CNC operator. Twelve graduating seniors qualified for the summer training program last school year; if Woodward approves the expansion, 24 students could participate this year. Ten RPS graduates landed jobs in the manufacturing field after completing the program.

What’s happening on the Front Porch  

Fine Arts
LuAnn Widergren, Director of Fine Arts

The CAPA/Auburn Art Show is May 2-4, in conjunction with CAPA Dance and Choir performances on those dates. See poster. Our Advanced Placement Studio Art 2D Design and Drawing students will curate their own display boards with their AP work. This is first year AP Studio Art students will submit their portfolios for examination from Auburn. Leslie Arbetman of Auburn is encouraging people to attend, saying the students “would love to have support that week.”

Sign ups for the RPS-Rockford Symphony Orchestra music camp in June are continuing. Already, we have more people signed up than attended last year.

The Traveling Drum for the Bandwagon 2 campaign made $200 during the week it was at Barbour. This week, it is at Eisenhower; from April 14-17, it will be at Flinn. The program supports the district’s middle school music program. RPS and the Community Foundation have each pledged $100,000; we both have challenged the
community to raise an additional $100,000.

Athletics

Mat Parker, Director of Athletic Activities & Program Development

About 100 student-athletes are involved in our IHSAn-sanctioned boys volleyball program at the high schools. The addition of the program shows the importance of co-curriculars. Many of these students are involved in a spring sport for the first time because of volleyball. The games are drawing great crowds and getting media coverage. Click here to read a story in the Register Star about the Jefferson vs. Guilford game April 3: "Whoever said that this community needed five years to compete against the suburban teams, should have come out and watch(ed) tonight," Jefferson coach Derek Papich said. Watch Nik Butenhoff, our East boys volleyball coach, do a dance on the sidelines in this video.

The Golf Scramble is Friday, July 25, at Aldeen. The brochure is being edited and will be ready for the printer next week.

From the Parent and Community Empowerment Department

Earl Dotson Jr., Chief of Communications and Community Empowerment

At least 150 seventh and eighth grade students in RPS will participate in the Emerging Young Leaders STEM Summit from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. this Friday, April 11, at Rock Valley College. The event is sponsored by the Pi Gamma Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the district and RVC. This is for students -- identified by their principals, counselors and teachers -- who would not ordinarily be exposed to careers in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. The event will include a panel discussion with business and community leaders working in STEM careers, interactive workshops and a meet-and-greet with an astronaut from UTC Aerospace Systems.

Winnebago County State's Attorney Joe Bruscato continues his anti-bullying presentations Wednesday, April 30, at Kishwaukee and Friday, May 23, at Brookview. He spoke Friday, April 4, at Walker. He was at McIntosh and West View this past winter.

A reminder about the 2014 Volunteer Recognition Reception: It will be from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, May 9, at the Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and cash bar will be available.

PACE by the numbers:
Total volunteers: 2,950
Volunteer hours: 33,094

My Calendar/Your Calendar

Before I get to my calendar, I thought I would share end-of-year dates you might find useful.

RPS Academic All-Stars: 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 22, Coronado

Graduations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilson ASPIRE</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Kennedy auditorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>Coronado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>BMO Harris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://rpsarchive.rps205.net/PrintMessage.aspx?CheckSums=ce311b95-f814-8e2a-8cc7-02...  5/28/2015
Guilford 2 p.m. Wednesday May 28 Bank Center
Auburn 10 a.m. Thursday May 29 BMO
Jefferson 2 p.m. Thursday May 29 BMO
Roosevelt adults 7 p.m. Thursday May 29 Roosevelt

RPS retirement dinner: 5:30 p.m. social hour, 6:30 p.m. dinner, Friday, May 30, at Giovanni’s

Regarding my calendar below: A reminder that if you want to join me, please call or email Laura Fromm so she can post a Notice of Quorum if needed.

Week in review
Tuesday - CEANCI breakfast meeting, Anderson Gardens; College and Career Readiness Department town hall
Wednesday - State of the City Address
Thursday - West View, Flinn faculty visits
Friday - Alpha Kappa Alpha STEM Summit at RVC

A look ahead:

April 16 - CEANCI special board meeting, Regional Office of Education
April 24 - Register Star Editorial Board to discuss facilities plan; Those Who Excel Awards banquet
April 26 - Board retreat
May 2 - Golden Apple Awards banquet

---30---

http://rpsarchive.rps205.net/PrintMessage.aspx?CheckSums=ce311b95-f814-8e2a-8cc7-02... 5/28/2015
August 19, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends Kennedy which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2012-2013 school year, Kennedy did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child's school is in restructuring which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for at least 5 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity being taken over by the state, and implementing any other major restructuring of the schools governance.

Our district's 2013 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child's school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child's school and the Rockford Public Schools Administration Building.

Your child's school has been identified because the following subgroup(s) did not make the proficiency target of 92.5% in Reading: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged nor did the following subgroup(s) make the 92.5% proficiency target in Mathematics: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

- All teachers will use research-based instructional strategies in reading and math.
- Digital resources have been added in reading, math, and science to better engage students.
- Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
- Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
- Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child's school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child's school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child's principal to discuss the school's improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family events through the Parent/Community Empowerment Department. Please contact Marsha Sisney, Supervisor at 815-966-3271 for more information.

The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, at this time we do not have a school within the district to which your child can transfer. We have contacted neighboring districts to request that they provide us with a school(s) we can offer you as an option. No school district has agreed to do so this school year.

Please call the Improvement and Innovation Department, Laura Palacios, Compliance Officer at 815-489-7277, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 501 7th St. Admin building, 3rd floor. A public meeting will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to help you with any questions you might have regarding NCLB-Choice.

Para información en su idioma favor de llamar al departamento bilingüe, الاتصال بالطاقم اللغوي، Двухязычных домов Informacje kontaktowe, Song ngữ Bổ Thống tin liên hệ 815-966-3195

Sincerely,

Ehren Jarrett
Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools
August 10, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends Kennedy which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2011-2012 school year, Kennedy did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child’s school is in restructuring which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for at least 5 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity being taken over by the state, and implementing any other major restructuring of the schools governance.

Our district’s 2012 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child’s school and the Rockford Public Schools Administration Building.

Your child’s school has been identified because the following subgroup(s) did not make the proficiency target of 92.5% in Reading: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged nor did the following subgroup(s) make the 92.5% proficiency target in Mathematics: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

- All teachers will use research-based instructional strategies in reading and math.
- Digital resources have been added in reading, math, and science to better engage students.
- Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
- Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
- Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child’s school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child’s school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child’s principal to discuss the school’s improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family events through the Parent/Community Empowerment Department. Please contact Marsha Sisney, Supervisor at 815-966-3271 for more information.

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Please call the Improvement and Innovation Department, Laura Palacios, Compliance Officer at 815-489-7277, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Wednesday, August 14, 2012 at 501 7th St. Admin building, 3rd floor. A public meeting will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.to help you with any questions you might have regarding NCLB-Choice.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ehren Jarrett
Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools
August 16, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends Kennedy Middle School, which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2010-2011 school year, the school did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child’s school is in restructuring, which means the school has failed to make AYP for at least 5 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity, being taken over by the state and implementing any other major restructuring of the school’s governance.

Our district’s 2011 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child’s school and the district administration building.

Your child’s school has been identified because the reading and math scores were below the state’s target of 85%. The all, white, black, hispanic, students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged subgroups did not make the target of 85% proficient in reading or math. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

- All teachers will use Best Practice Instructional strategies in reading and math.
- A new reading instructional program has been adopted by the district for all schools.
- Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
- Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
- Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support as an intervention.
The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child's school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child's school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child's principal to discuss the school's improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family reading/math nights and other family involvement events throughout the year.

The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, at this time we do not have a school within the district to which your child can transfer. We have contacted neighboring districts to request that they provide us with a school(s) we can offer you as an option. No school district has agreed to do so this school year.

Please call Sherrie L. Bias, NCLB Officer at 815-489-7288, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Tuesday August 23rd, 2011 at RESA Middle School (1800 Ogilby Road, Rockford, IL 61102) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to help you decide what is best for your child.

Thank you,

Robert H. Willis, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent
August 8, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends Kennedy Middle School, which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2010-2011 school year, the school did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child’s school is in restructuring, which means the school has failed to make AYP for at least 5 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity, being taken over by the state and implementing any other major restructuring of the school’s governance.

Our district’s 2011 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child’s school and the district administration building.

Your child’s school has been identified because the reading and math scores were below the state’s target of 85%. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

- All teachers will use Best Practice Instructional strategies in reading and math.
- A new reading instructional program has been adopted by the district for all schools.
- Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
- Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
- Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support as an intervention.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child’s school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child’s school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child’s principal to discuss the school’s improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family reading/math nights and other family involvement events throughout the year.
The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, at this time we do not have a school within the district to which your child can transfer. We have contacted neighboring districts to request that they provide us with a school(s) we can offer you as an option. No school district has agreed to do so this school year.

Please call Sherrie L. Bias, NCLB Officer at 815-489-7288, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Thursday, August 11th, 2011 at RESA Middle School (1800 Ogilby Road, Rockford, IL 61102) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to help you decide what is best for your child.

Thank you,

Robert H. Willis, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent
August 9, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school District.

Your child attends King Elementary School which receives Federal Title I funds to provide additional opportunities for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2007-08 school year, the school did not meet the adequate yearly progress (AYP) targets in reading. The school is currently in Academic Watch Status which means that your child was eligible for public school choice and supplemental educational services (SES).

While we do not have the AYP results for the 2008-2009 school year, we do know that students attending King Elementary School will be eligible for public school choice and SES.

For the 2009-2010 school year, your child continues to be eligible for public school choice. You may make a decision about your option for public school choice by choosing one of the following for your child:

1. **Remain at King School** and continue to receive the benefits of Title I academic services. If your family meets the low-income guidelines, you will receive additional information about Supplemental Educational Services in a letter.

2. **Transfer** to one of the following schools:
   - a. Bloom Elementary School
   - b. Brookview Elementary School
   - c. Cherry Valley Elementary School (3-5)
   - d. Froberg Elementary School (K-2)
   - e. Gregory Elementary School
   - f. Johnson Elementary School (3-5)
   - g. New Milford Elementary School (3-5)
   - h. Riverdahl Elementary School (K-2)
   - i. Rolling Green Elementary School
   - j. Thompson Elementary School (K-5)
   - k. Welsh Elementary School
   - l. White Swan Elementary School (K-2)

These schools are making AYP targets for the 2008-09 school year. To transfer your child to one of the above schools, you must complete the Student Transfer form attached and return to the Title I Office (Roosevelt Learning Center, 978 Haskell Avenue, 3rd Floor, Rockford, IL 61103) on or before September 11, 2009. This will be your only enrollment opportunity for the upcoming school year. **Enrollment is for a period beginning August 7, 2009 and ending September 11, 2009.**

If you have questions or need assistance with this application, please contact Lisa Wentland at 815-965-3484 or Sherrie Bias at 815-966-3250 ext. 4507. Thank you for your continued interest in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Dr. LaVonne M. Sheffield, Superintendent

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Bloom Elementary School</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Brookview Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Cherry Valley Elementary School (3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Froberg Elementary School (K-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Gregory Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Johnson Elementary School (3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. New Milford Elementary School (3-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Riverdahl Elementary School (K-2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Thompson Elementary School (K-5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Welsh Elementary School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. White Swan Elementary School (K-2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With transportation provided by the school district. If demand for transportation exceeds funds available, priority will be given to the lowest-achieving students from low-income families.
INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you DO NOT wish to transfer your child from his/her current school, check the NO box, sign the form, and return it to the Title I Office on or before September 11, 2009. Tear off form, fold, and mail, OR personally bring the form to the Title I Office, 978 Haskell Avenue, Rockford, IL 61103.

2. If you DO wish to request a transfer for your child from his/her school, check the YES box on the return form.

3. List your THREE (3) schools in order of preference (1, 2, 3), from the selections below.

Please refer to Illinois State Report Cards for schools you are considering. Student performance and achievement levels can be reviewed to assist in your decision-making process. Report cards can be obtained at the Family Resource Center or by visiting Quick Links at www.rps205.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>2007-08 Illinois I-SAT test scores, grades 3 and 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloom Elementary School</td>
<td>2912 Brendenwood Rd. 61107</td>
<td>65.3% Reading 74.4% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookview Elementary School</td>
<td>1750 Madron Rd. 61107</td>
<td>77.6% Reading 92.8% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Valley Elementary School (3-5)</td>
<td>619 E. State St., Cherry Valley 61016</td>
<td>74.3% Reading 88.5% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Froberg Elementary School (K-2)</td>
<td>4555 Twentieth St. 61109</td>
<td>—Not applicable—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Elementary School</td>
<td>4820 Carol Ct. 61108</td>
<td>66.2% Reading 94.8% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson Elementary School (3-5)</td>
<td>3805 Rural Ave. 61107</td>
<td>80.6% Reading 84.9% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Milford Elementary School (3-5)</td>
<td>2128 New Milford Rd. 61109</td>
<td>69.7% Reading 83.6% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverdahl Elementary School (K-2)*</td>
<td>3520 Kishwaukee St. 61109</td>
<td>—Not applicable—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Green Elementary School</td>
<td>2128 New Milford Rd. 61109</td>
<td>64.6% Reading 82.7% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson Elementary School (K-5)</td>
<td>4949 Marion Ave. 61108</td>
<td>76.4% Reading 85.8% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh Elementary School</td>
<td>2100 Huffman Blvd. 61103</td>
<td>62.3% Reading 80.3% Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Swan Elementary School (K-2)</td>
<td>7550 Mill Rd. 61108</td>
<td>—Not applicable—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A Bilingual Program in Spanish is offered for limited English proficient students in addition to regular, all-English classes.

4. Complete the sibling group section of the form if you want to transfer more than one child to the same school. You must complete a NCLB School Transfer Form for each child (sibling).

5. SIGN the NCLB School Transfer Form and return it to the Title I Office on or before September 11, 2009. No transfers will be made after the close of the application period.

6. You will be notified by mail whether or not your child(ren) receive(s) a transfer to one of the selected schools.

7. Bus transportation will be provided for students who live more than 1.5 miles from their selected school.

Assignments to a particular school CANNOT be guaranteed. Transfers will be processed using Federal guidelines that require the school district to give transfer priority to the lowest achieving students from low-income families. As many transfers as possible will be made to those schools where seats are available.
NCLB Transfer Form

2009-2010

Student I.D. # (Office use only)

COMPLETE AND RETURN—Please print—

Student Name ________________________________ (LAST) (FIRST) (MI.

Student Address ________________________________

Phone Number: HOME: __________________ WORK: __________________ CELL: __________________

Student’s current school ___________________________ Grade ______________

Parent/guardian name ___________________________

☐ My child participates in Bilingual Services ☐ My child participates in Special Education (IEP)

☐ NO, I DO NOT wish to transfer my child to another school.
☐ YES, I DO wish to transfer my child to another school. My three choices are listed below.

SCHOOL CHOICES Listed in order of preferences: My child has a brother or sister in this school now?

1. ___________________________ NO ☐ YES ☐ Name ___________________________

2. ___________________________ NO ☐ YES ☐ Name ___________________________

3. ___________________________ NO ☐ YES ☐ Name ___________________________

SIBLING GROUP
If you are requesting a transfer to the same school for more than one child (from an under performing school), you MUST complete an NCLB School Transfer Form for EACH child/sibling. (For the purpose of student assignment, siblings are defined as students who have the same parent or guardian AND live at the same address.)

Do you want the children kept together? ☐ NO ☐ YES ☐

If yes, please list the names of the other children below:

Name ___________________________ Grade _________ Date of birth _________

Name ___________________________ Grade _________ Date of birth _________

Name ___________________________ Grade _________ Date of birth _________

SIGNATURE

Parent/Guardian Name ___________________________ Date ___________

If requesting a transfer, please indicate your reason(s):

☐ To improve academic achievement ☐ To be eligible for transportation services ☐ To attend school with a sibling

☐ To attend neighborhood school ☐ For safety and/or medical reasons ☐ For before/after school programs

☐ Other ___________________________

Complete and return this form on or before September 31, 2009.
(Mail, OR—personally bring form to the Title I Office, 978 Haskell Avenue, Rockford, IL 61103)
September 4, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As a result of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, your child may have the option to transfer to another school within the District. This has become an option as your child’s school has not made adequate yearly progress on the State tests for at least two years.

Your child’s school is in restructuring, which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for at least 5 years and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity, being taken over by the state, and implementing any other major restructuring of the school’s governance.

Our District’s 2009 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. You can obtain a copy of these reports on our Web site (www.rps205.com), at your child’s school, or at the Family Resource Center.

Your child’s school has been identified because the students didn’t meet or exceed 70% on the State’s target in reading and math. The school is working to improve the school’s academic program by extending the school day by 30 minutes to increase instructional time. In reading, we are implementing the “Making Meaning Program” and focusing Guided Reading instruction for all children. Tutors have been hired to work with groups of children identified having skill deficits. Teachers are incorporate supplementary math manipulatives designed to enhance Everyday math instruction. Additional math learning opportunities are being made available for those children below grade-level. The District and the State Board of Education are working with your child’s school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child’s school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. The District would like to encourage parents to contact their child’s principal to discuss the school improvement plan that has been developed. We would also like to involve parents in addressing the academic issues that caused the school to be identified for school improvement by requesting participation in reading/math curriculum nights and other family involvement events throughout the year.

The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the District with transportation provided by the District. However, at this time we do not have a school to which your child can transfer. We have contacted neighboring Districts to request that they provide us with a school we can offer you as an option. No School District has agreed to do so this school year. For those children that meet the low-income guidelines, the District will offer supplemental educational services in a separate mailing.

Please call Lisa Wentland at 815/965-3484 or Sherrie Bias at 815/966-3250 ext. 4507 if you have any questions about these services.

Sincerely,
Dr. LaVonne M. Sheffield, Superintendent
August 19, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends West which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2012-2013 school year, West did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child’s school is in corrective action which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for 4 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school Choice and supplemental educational services, at least one of the following actions will be implemented: 1. Replace school staff relevant to adequate yearly progress, or 2. Institute and fully implement a new curriculum, with appropriate professional development, or 3. Significantly decrease management authority at the school level, or 4. Appoint an outside expert to advise the school on its progress toward making adequately yearly progress, based on its school plan, or 5. Extend the school year or school day, or 6. Restructure the internal organizational structure of the schools.

Our district’s 2013 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child’s school and the Rockford Public Schools Administration Building.

Your child’s school has been identified because the following subgroup(s) did not make the proficiency target of 92.5% in Reading: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged nor did the following subgroup(s) make the 92.5% proficiency target in Mathematics: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

• All teachers will use research-based instructional strategies in reading and math.
• Digital resources have been added in reading, math, and science to better engage students.
• Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
• Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
• Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child’s school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child’s school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child’s principal to discuss the school’s improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family events through the Parent/Community Empowerment Department. Please contact Marsha Sisney, Supervisor at 815-966-3271 for more information.

The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, at this time we do not have a school within the district to which your child can transfer. We have contacted neighboring districts to request that they provide us with a school(s) we can offer you as an option. No school district has agreed to do so this school year.

Please call the Improvement and Innovation Department, Laura Palacios, Compliance Officer at 815-489-7277, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 501 7th St. Admin building, 3rd floor. A public meeting will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to help you with any questions you might have regarding NCLB-Choice.

Para información en su idioma favor de llamar al departamento bilingüe, الاسماء معلومات اللغة قسم, Dwujęzycznych domów Informacje kontaktowe, Song ngữ Bộ Thông tin liên hệ 815-966-3195

Sincerely,

Ehren Jarrett
Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools
August 10, 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends Kennedy which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2011-2012 school year, West did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child’s school is in corrective action which means the school has failed to make adequate yearly progress for 4 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school Choice and supplemental educational services, at least one of the following actions will be implemented: 1. Replace school staff relevant to adequate yearly progress, or 2. Institute and fully implement a new curriculum, with appropriate professional development, or 3. Significantly decrease management authority at the school level, or 4. Appoint an outside expert to advise the school on its progress toward making adequately yearly progress, based on its school plan, or 5. Extend the school year or school day, or 6. Restructure the internal organizational structure of the schools.

Our district’s 2012 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child’s school and the Rockford Public Schools Administration Building.

Your child’s school has been identified because the following subgroup(s) did not make the proficiency target of 92.5% in Reading: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged nor did the following subgroup(s) make the 92.5% proficiency target in Mathematics: All, White, Black, Student with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

- All teachers will use research-based instructional strategies in reading and math.
- Digital resources have been added in reading, math, and science to better engage students.
- Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
- Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
- Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child’s school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child’s school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child’s principal to discuss the school’s improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family events through the Parent/Community Empowerment Department. Please contact Marsha Sisney, Supervisor at 815-966-3271 for more information.

The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, at this time we do not have a school within the district to which your child can transfer. We have contacted neighboring districts to request that they provide us with a school(s) we can offer you as an option. No school district has agreed to do so this school year.

Please call the Improvement and Innovation Department, Laura Palacios, Compliance Officer at 815-489-7277, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Wednesday, August 14, 2012 at 501 7th St. Admin building, 3rd floor. A public meeting will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to help you with any questions you might have regarding NCLB-Choice.

Para información en su idioma favor de llamar al departamento bilingüe, ˌsɛŋɡəˌfɪləˈɛn.tər. Dwiejęzycznych domów
Informacje kontaktowe, Song ng profitability
815-966-3195

Sincerely,

Dr. Ehren Jarrett
Superintendent, Rockford Public Schools
August 16, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends West Middle School, which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2010-2011 school year, the school did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child’s school is in restructuring, which means the school has failed to make AYP for at least 5 years in the same subject and in addition to offering public school choice and supplemental educational services, another action is necessary. Options include reopening as a charter school, replacing all or most of the staff, entering into a contract with an entity, being taken over by the state and implementing any other major restructuring of the school’s governance.

Our district’s 2011 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child’s school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child’s school and the district administration building.

Your child’s school has been identified because the reading and math scores were below the state’s target of 85%. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

- All teachers will use Best Practice Instructional strategies in reading and math.
- A new reading instructional program has been adopted by the district for all schools.
- Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
- Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
- Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support as an intervention.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child’s school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child’s school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child’s principal to discuss the school’s improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family reading/math nights and other family involvement events throughout the year.
The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, at this time we do not have a school within the district to which your child can transfer. We have contacted neighboring districts to request that they provide us with a school(s) we can offer you as an option. No school district has agreed to do so this school year.

Please call Sherrie L. Bias, NCLB Officer at 815-489-7288, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Thursday, August 23rd, 2011 at RESA Middle School (1800 Ogilby Road, Rockford, IL 61102) from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to help you decide what is best for your child.

Thank you,

Robert H. Willis, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent
August 8, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Rockford Public School District 205 is committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your child. We are working hard to provide programs to help all students succeed in our school district.

Your child attends West Middle School, which receives federal Title I funds. These funds provide help for your child to meet state achievement standards. In the 2010-2011 school year, the school did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. Your child's school is in school improvement, which means the school has failed to make AYP for 2 consecutive years in the same subject but has been granted a "reverse" waiver which allows the school to offer supplemental educational services (SES).

Our district's 2011 report card and the most recent AYP status report for your school show how your child's school compares to other schools in our district and state. These reports are available on our Web site, at www.rps205.com, your child's school and the district administration building.

Your child's school has been identified because the reading and math scores were below the state's target of 85%. The school is working to improve their academic program by implementing the following strategies:

- All teachers will use Best Practice Instructional strategies in reading and math.
- A new reading instructional program has been adopted by the district for all schools.
- Every school has a literacy coach to provide embedded professional development for teachers.
- Students are assessed on a regular basis to determine what additional resources to provide.
- Certified tutors are available to tutor students who need extra support as an intervention.

The district and the State Board of Education are working with your child's school to help improve the academic standards of the school. This is being accomplished by providing technical assistance to the teachers and administrators within your child's school.

However, this may not be enough and we want to request your help as the school addresses its academic problems. We encourage parents to contact their child's principal to discuss the school's improvement plan that has been developed. We also invite parents to participate in family reading/math nights and other family involvement events throughout the year.
The No Child Left Behind Act provides you, as a parent, the option to transfer your child to another public school within the district with transportation provided by the district. However, our district has been approved to offer supplemental educational services rather than public school choice this year. Families that qualify (meet the income guidelines) will be notified by mail that their child can participate in free after-school tutoring in reading, math and/or science.

Please call Sherrie L. Bias, NCLB Officer at 815-489-7288, if you have any questions about these services. You may also join us to talk about your options on Thursday, August 11th, 2011 at RESA Middle School (1800 Ogilby Road, Rockford, IL 61102) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to help you decide what is best for your child.

Thank you,

Robert H. Willis, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent