

**Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting for  
The School District of the City of River Rouge, Wayne County, Michigan  
Held at the River Rouge High School, LGI Room, River Rouge, Michigan  
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

**1-3 – CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Valveta Reese, President, with invocation by Mitchell Doig, Secretary.

Members Present: Doig, Green, Reese, Sabuda, Wheeler  
Members Excused: Cooper  
Member Absent: Hightower

**4 – CONSENT AGENDA**

The consensus of the Board of Education was that the following board action items along with the Minutes of August 13, 2024, August 14, 2024 and August 17, 2024 were accepted/approved:

17. **DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT**

The Board of Education approved the employment of the following individuals:

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>SALARY</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE</u></b>
Ebony Bennett	Early Literacy Coach	RRSD	\$93,738.00 w/benefits	Tuesday, August 13, 2024
Erinn Reed	Math Instructional Coach	RRSD	\$90,568.00 w/benefits	Thursday, August 22, 2024
George Eason	Director of Truancy & Wellness	RRSD	\$75,238.00 w/benefits (prorated)	Monday, September 9, 2024

Employment in the River Rouge School District is contingent upon the successful completion of all required paperwork, results of the physical, drug screen, 1230 B responses and criminal records check.

18. **DISTRICT RESIGNATIONS**

The Board of Education accepted their letters of resignation.

<b><u>NAME</u></b>	<b><u>POSITION</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>EFFECTIVE</u></b>
Lori Shepherd West	Kindergarten	Ann Visger	Friday, August 16, 2024
Bryant Rainey	School Social Worker	RRHS	Friday, August 16, 2024
Antwoine Pilgrim	Science Teacher	RRHS	Thursday, August 22, 2024
Kimberly Porter	Spanish Teacher	RRHS	Thursday, August 29, 2024

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**19. MY VIRTUAL ACADEMY MENTORS**

The Board of Education approved the following individual, as stated below, with the My Virtual Academy:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>HOURLY PAY</u>
Gabriella Azar Jordan	Mentor/Teacher	\$23.36
Karlee Brown	Mentor/Teacher	\$22.81
Tanya Cross	Mentor/Teacher	\$23.91
Ellen Deiermann	Mentor/Teacher	\$22.81
Joanne English	Mentor/Teacher	\$23.91
Laura Hamrick	Mentor/Teacher	\$22.81
Tina Kelly	Mentor/Teacher	\$25.01
Megan King	Mentor/Teacher	\$22.81
Anastasia Manchenko	Mentor/Teacher	\$23.91
Amanda Tabata	Mentor/Teacher	\$23.91
Sarah Startz	Mentor	\$22.05

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**20. HONORARY FOOTBALL CAPTAIN REQUEST**

The Board of Education approved the recognition of Mr. Chester Taylor as Honorary Captain for the Friday, September 6, 2024 Varsity Football Game.

**5 – INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES**

Ms. Alisa Berry-Brown, Deputy Superintendent, introduced the new staff members of the River Rouge School District. Each gave a few words to the board members and administration.

**6 – PRESENTATION – SHAKESHA ALEXANDER, ANIMAL INTERVENTIONIST**

Mrs. Shakesha Alexander, the district Animal Intervention Specialist, presented the 2024-2025 program to the board and administration. There were questions and comments by board members.

**7 – PRESENTATION – NICHOLE GERMAN, CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER**

Mrs. Nichole German, Chief Academic Officer, presented the 2024-2025 program to the board and administration. There were questions by board members.

**8 - COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE**

Each member of the Board of Education received a flyer regarding the first home opener for the Varsity Football Team on Friday, September 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

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**9- SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORTS**

I. Mirza

- Auditors will return to the district on September 23
- Audit report will be in November

A. Berry-Brown

- First days of school were awesome
- We are still enrolling students
- There are still a few vacancies in the district
- Working out transportation challenges

Dr. Coleman

- Thankful for the talent and energy of the district this school year
- Great opening of school year
- Dr. Wallace and team accolades

**10 - COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Motion made by Member Reese, seconded by Member Green, that the Board of Education return to the time of 5:30 p.m. for the second meetings of the 2024-2025 school year.

Yeas:	Members:	Doig, Green, Reese, Sabuda, Wheeler
Nays:	Members:	None

Motion carried.

Motion moved by Member Reese, seconded by Member Green, that the Board of Education cancel the regular meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

Questions by board members.

Yeas:	Members:	Green, Reese, Sabuda, Wheeler, Doig
Nays:	Members:	None

Motion carried.

President Reese brought up the discussion that board members should not have individual discussion or make decisions with vendors, consultants, etc. on behalf of the school district outside of a regular or special board meeting.

Further discussion was held by the board with agreement.

President Reese reminded the board of the Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation, which will take place at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting. Member Doig mentioned of workshops, which will be looked into per the President.

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When a board member abstains from a vote for relatives, they are to mention the line item, that they are abstaining on the relative only and all other items/persons they are voting on.

MASB Delegate (Lansing Conference) – Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – no one from River Rouge School District will be attending this year.

Member Doig:

- Extended thanks to SFE
- Suggested that the district look into a blinking light and speed limit by Ann Visger Preparatory Academy
- Question – when will the Ann Visger Kitchen ribbon cutting take place?

Buildings & Grounds – Member Wheeler

- Ann Visger Kitchen is ready
- RRHS Gymnasium coming along – possibly ready in the middle of October. We are looking to have a ribbon cutting and viewing of the documentary.
- STEM – AC Unit installation 2025
- RRHS Kitchen should be completed soon

Member Green:

- Crossing Guards – 9 applicants
- Applicants must complete a process including a 4 hours training
- Crossing guards should be at schools in October

### **11 – MASB DELEGATES**

Addressed above.

### **12 - COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND ADMINISTRATORS**

None.

### **13 - ADJOURNMENT**

There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Doig, Secretary  
River Rouge Board of Education  
MD: ap