

**RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOL****DISTRICT 51-4****BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

The Rapid City Area School Board of Education held a Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM with President Troy Carr calling the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Katy Urban, Angela Rafferty, Christine Stephenson, Jamie Clapham, Donna Moore and Walt Swan. Also in attendance were CFOO Coy Sasse and Superintendent Dr. Jamil Jo Thompson.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED**

**AGENDA** SWAN moved and URBAN seconded to approve the agenda as recommended by administration. Executive Session will be edited to include SDCL 1-25-2.1 and SDCL 1-25-2.4 and remove SDCL 1-25-2.3. MOTION CARRIED (7-0). All agenda items can be viewed at:

<https://aptg.co/SbgJk4>

**SHARING THE SUCCESS** Sophia Li from Coral Drive was one of 16 students statewide to earn a perfect score on the 2025 SD Math Assessment. (We were not able to honor her at the last Board meeting with our other students who earned this honor) and Stacy Smith-Kindergarten teacher at Knollwood Elementary-earned her National Board Certification

**OPEN FORUM** Principal Sarah Gross talked about her positive changed going from teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade last year to being a principal. Sarah then took off her principal hat and spoke 'as a community member/citizen' regarding a legislative bill on homeschooled and the difference between responsible homeschooled and irresponsible homeschooled. It would require more accountability from parents who homeschooled their children, including an annual check in and testing.

**STUDENT BOARD REPORTS**

Deleted this week as both students were not in attendance.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Thompson provided a summary and recommendation for a cell phone policy starting the 2026/2027 school year. View the link about for more information.

**CFOO REPORT** Mr. Sasse shared his budget preview and use of capital outlay. If the Governor's proposed 0% increase for public schools is adopted by the legislature and our current enrollment trend (1-2% annual decrease) continues, we are projected to have a \$5.3 million budget deficit next year before factoring in compensation increases. This means that we will need to be very strategic in balancing the budget via a combination of: Budget reduction, Capital outlay transfer, Cash reserves utilization, Careful negotiations regarding compensation. For more detailed information, including possible scenarios, you may watch Mr. Sasse's presentation on youtube.

**MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENT UPDATE**

Director Jennifer Roberts from our Teaching, Learning & Innovation curriculum office gave an update for mid-year data achievements. Annual Goals were 10% Increase in K-1 Math and ELA, 2% Increase in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math and 2% Increase in ELA, 2% Increase in Achievement in 9-11 Maintain PreACT and ACT scores. Mid-Year Progress: 5.5% Increase in K-1 Math and 7.5% Increase in ELA, 3% Increase in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math and 7% Increase in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> ELA.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED Letter of Support for Legislation Reimbursing Schools for Reduced Price Meals**

URBAN moved and CLAPHAM seconded to approve the proposed Letter of Support for Legislation Reimbursing Schools for Reduced Price Meals as recommended by the administration VOTE 7-0

**AGREEMENT WITH SD DOE****LITERACY GRANT**

Sub-Recipient Agreement Between RCAS and SD DOE for Literacy Grant

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

RCAS was awarded a Literacy Grant from the DOE. This is a sub-recipient agreement between RCAS and the SD DOE regarding our grant award for the remainder of this fiscal year. Entering this agreement will allow RCAS to accept \$775,000.00 in grant funds that will allow us to complete work designed to improve student achievement in literacy grades Pre-K-12. RCAS is not required to provide any matching funds. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH SD DOE****APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION** The SD DOE has a program called the Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway ("Pathway") that allows paraprofessionals employed in accredited school systems to earn a teaching certificate while continuing to work in their schools.

RCAS has been participating in this program. This MOU is for a three-year renewal. Under this MOU RCAS will be required to provide a mentor teacher for each paraprofessional in the program and pay the mentor \$1,000.00 per year. We will pay for this using Title IIA funds, account 12 E 061 2218 1120 1415.

**ADMINISTRATION'S****RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH FREIBERG LAW****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board of Education and administration believe that it's crucial to have lobbying services in place for the District.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

RCAS is a unique district with unique needs, which necessitates a need for a private lobbyist. Especially during challenging legislative time periods, lobbying on behalf of the District and public education is extremely important. Sam and Larry Nelson, of Friberg Law, represented the District last year and did an outstanding job. It is recommended that the BoE approve the contract with Larry and Sam Nelson for lobbying services. The term is 12/1/25 to 11/30/26. The cost of \$25 thousand. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approves the Board of Education approves

this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH RAPTOR TECH****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Raptor VisitorSafe strengthens campus security by verifying each visitor's identity. The system compares a visitor's government-issued ID with the information provided during check-in, ensuring that individuals entering the school are accurately identified. The Raptor Safe app allows pre-scheduled visitors to complete identity verification before arriving on campus. Verified visitors receive a unique QR code for quick, streamlined entry. Frequent visitors can obtain a Raptor Safe Passport, further reducing wait times and improving campus entry flow. Raptor Tech allows for real time notifications. If a registered offender attempts to access the campus, the system immediately notifies school administrators. This enables staff to take action to maintain a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors. The Raptor VisitorSafe Visitor Management System's equipment will be funded through the Homeland Security grant. The system integrates seamlessly with the district's existing Millstone camera system.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Raptor VisitorSafe is an essential tool for reinforcing school safety. Its combination of advanced technology, real-time monitoring, and user-friendly features offers peace of mind for parents, staff, and students while ensuring that every visitor interaction supports a secure educational environment. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approves this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH SCHULL****CONSTRUCTION RV-CMAR****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The District hosted a bid opening for the Rapid Valley Elementary Addition and Renovation Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project to award the contractor for pre-construction services on September 3, 2025. Bid was awarded to Scull Construction Services, Inc. and Board of Education approved on September 16, 2025. The Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor (A122 - 2019) for Pre-Construction Services will be \$25,000. This agreement will be amended once the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is established.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Administration reviewed the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor (A122 - 2019) as presented and recommended by Chamberlin Architects. ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of the Rapid Valley Elementary Addition and Renovation Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) as presented and recommended. This agreement will be amended to include the overall GMP once established.

**AGREEMENT WITH SD DOE****LITERACY GRANT**

Sub-Recipient Agreement Between RCAS and SD DOE for Literacy Grant

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

RCAS was awarded a Literacy Grant from the DOE. This is a sub-recipient agreement between RCAS and the SD DOE regarding our grant award for the remainder of this fiscal year. Entering this agreement will allow RCAS to accept \$775,000.00 in grant funds that will allow us to complete work designed to improve student achievement in literacy grades Pre-K-12. RCAS is not required to provide any matching funds. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH SD DOE****APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The SD DOE has a program called the Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway ("Pathway") that allows paraprofessionals employed in accredited school systems to earn a teaching certificate while continuing to work in their schools. RCAS has been participating in this program. This MOU is for a three-year renewal. Under this MOU RCAS will be required to provide a mentor teacher for each paraprofessional in the program and pay the mentor \$1,000.00 per year. We will pay for this using Title IIA funds, account 12 E 061 2218 1120 1415.

**ADMINISTRATION'S****RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH SD DOE****APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

RCAS is a sub-recipient of the "Pathway" program. This MOU is for a three-year renewal. Under this MOU RCAS will be required to provide a mentor teacher for each paraprofessional in the program and pay the mentor \$1,000.00 per year. We will pay for this using Title IIA funds, account 12 E 061 2218 1120 1415.

**ADMINISTRATION'S****RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approves the Board of Education approves

this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH FREIBERG LAW****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board of Education and administration believe that it's crucial to have lobbying services in place for the District.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

RCAS is a unique district with unique needs, which necessitates a need for a private lobbyist. Especially during challenging legislative time periods, lobbying on behalf of the District and public education is extremely important. Sam and Larry Nelson, of Friberg Law, represented the District last year and did an outstanding job. It is recommended that the BoE approve the contract with Larry and Sam Nelson for lobbying services. The term is 12/1/25 to 11/30/26. The cost of \$25 thousand. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approves the Board of Education approves

this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH RAPTOR TECH****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Raptor VisitorSafe strengthens campus security by verifying each visitor's identity. The system compares a visitor's government-issued ID with the information provided during check-in, ensuring that individuals entering the school are accurately identified. The Raptor Safe app allows pre-scheduled visitors to complete identity verification before arriving on campus. Verified visitors receive a unique QR code for quick, streamlined entry. Frequent visitors can obtain a Raptor Safe Passport, further reducing wait times and improving campus entry flow. Raptor Tech allows for real time notifications. If a registered offender attempts to access the campus, the system immediately notifies school administrators. This enables staff to take action to maintain a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors. The Raptor VisitorSafe Visitor Management System's equipment will be funded through the Homeland Security grant. The system integrates seamlessly with the district's existing Millstone camera system.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Raptor VisitorSafe is an essential tool for reinforcing school safety. Its combination of advanced technology, real-time monitoring, and user-friendly features offers peace of mind for parents, staff, and students while ensuring that every visitor interaction supports a secure educational environment. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approves this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH SCHULL****CONSTRUCTION RV-CMAR****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The District hosted a bid opening for the Rapid Valley Elementary Addition and Renovation Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project to award the contractor for pre-construction services on September 3, 2025. Bid was awarded to Scull Construction Services, Inc. and Board of Education approved on September 16, 2025. The Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor (A122 - 2019) for Pre-Construction Services will be \$25,000. This agreement will be amended once the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) is established.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Administration reviewed the Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor (A122 - 2019) as presented and recommended by Chamberlin Architects. ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends approval of the Rapid Valley Elementary Addition and Renovation Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) as presented and recommended. This agreement will be amended to include the overall GMP once established.

**AGREEMENT WITH SD DOE****LITERACY GRANT**

Sub-Recipient Agreement Between RCAS and SD DOE for Literacy Grant

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

RCAS was awarded a Literacy Grant from the DOE. This is a sub-recipient agreement between RCAS and the SD DOE regarding our grant award for the remainder of this fiscal year. Entering this agreement will allow RCAS to accept \$775,000.00 in grant funds that will allow us to complete work designed to improve student achievement in literacy grades Pre-K-12. RCAS is not required to provide any matching funds. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approve this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH SD DOE****APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

RCAS is a sub-recipient of the "Pathway" program. This MOU is for a three-year renewal. Under this MOU RCAS will be required to provide a mentor teacher for each paraprofessional in the program and pay the mentor \$1,000.00 per year. We will pay for this using Title IIA funds, account 12 E 061 2218 1120 1415.

**ADMINISTRATION'S****RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approves the Board of Education approves

this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH FREIBERG LAW****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Board of Education and administration believe that it's crucial to have lobbying services in place for the District.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

RCAS is a unique district with unique needs, which necessitates a need for a private lobbyist. Especially during challenging legislative time periods, lobbying on behalf of the District and public education is extremely important. Sam and Larry Nelson, of Friberg Law, represented the District last year and did an outstanding job. It is recommended that the BoE approve the contract with Larry and Sam Nelson for lobbying services. The term is 12/1/25 to 11/30/26. The cost of \$25 thousand. ADMINISTRATION'S

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education approves the Board of Education approves

this agreement.

**AGREEMENT WITH RAPTOR TECH****BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Raptor VisitorSafe strengthens campus security by verifying each visitor's identity. The system compares a visitor's government-issued ID with the information provided during check-in, ensuring that individuals entering the school are accurately identified. The Raptor Safe app allows pre-scheduled visitors to complete identity verification before arriving on campus. Verified visitors receive a unique QR code for quick, streamlined entry. Frequent visitors can obtain a Raptor Safe Passport, further reducing wait times and improving campus entry flow. Raptor Tech allows for real time notifications. If a registered offender attempts to access the campus, the system immediately notifies school administrators. This enables staff to take action to maintain a safe environment for students, staff, and visitors. The Raptor VisitorSafe Visitor Management System's equipment will be funded through the Homeland Security grant. The system integrates seamlessly with the district's existing Millstone camera system.

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Raptor VisitorSafe is an essential tool for reinforcing school safety. Its combination of advanced technology, real-time monitoring, and user-friendly features offers peace of mind for parents, staff, and students while ensuring that every visitor interaction supports a secure educational environment. ADMINISTRATION'S