

District #883

Improvements since July 1, 2010

District-wide

Accomplishments:

- Moved from a single group health insurance policy to a multi-plan, high deductible plan with health savings account to contain premium increases and costs to the district, savings of approximately \$200,000. Also included a wellness incentive to assist in containing future premium increases
- Successful contract settlements for EMR (Teacher Union) and #284 (Support Staff Union). Settling contracts for 2011-12/2012-13 and 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 respectively.
- One of 52 public school districts state-wide to join the Q-Comp professional compensation program which brings \$673,150 of new aid and levy revenues into the school district over the past two years.
- Bond refunding we issued saved local tax payers \$90,845.11 in interest.

Informing and Promoting our School District:

- New District Website powered by SchoolFusion
- District seal and individual school logos developed and implemented to create positive identities for each area.
- 100, a vision and goal statement for the district, that included increasing enrollment by 100 students with 100 buttons, 100 Reasons to Love Rockford Area Schools poster, and 100% Every Day Every Way for student forums.
- Student, staff and parent forums (Student Forum, Staff Roundtable, and 12 on Tuesday) developed to meet monthly.
- Informational and promotional items--school marquee, STEM van, Graduate Thank You van, Kindergarten van and green truck with district logos--developed and implemented.

District #883

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District-wide (continued)

- School mascot, Rockee, designed and implemented with public appearances, trading cards, children's book, Rockee doll etc. to boost school spirit.
- District float developed and entered into area parades.
- Banners signs--Welcome Back Students and Staff, Season's Greetings and We're Proud of our Grads and Alumni--placed on high school developed for seasonal use.
- School presence at Community Expo expanded.
- Staff Talent Show developed and implemented for community.
- Rockford staff have been trained in the Absent Narrative program via NWSID
- Destination Imagination program developed and implemented in Community Ed.

Grants:

- SHIP (School Health Initiative Program) Grants for 2010-11 through 2012-13 totally \$23,600 the district re-established a student-staff wellness initiative, bringing health lifestyles and activities to the forefront through active classrooms, active recess, healthy rewards and healthy celebrations.
- District-Wide Recycling Grant- Hennepin County: \$17,000
- Community Education Program overview- reassigned director duties following retirement to existing staff saving \$ 64,759 in the Fund 4 budget.
- Student enrollment increased by 62 students which translates to a revenue increase of \$503,243.

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Rockford Area Schools Community Education Program

- New Rockford Community Education Logo—consistent use makes the department more identifiable
- Community Education Brochure redesign
- Community Education Intergenerational Theme for 2012-13; new intergenerational classes include: Clay Treasures, Intergenerational Yoga and a Grandma, Grandpa and Me ECFE class and Holiday Parade/Macy's display.
- Updated CE Program Handbooks
- Improved website and increased use of online registration and electronic payment on PaySchools (over 80% completed electronically)
- Increased facility use; over 100 different groups used district facilities last year for over 10,000 hours.
- Expanded Holiday and Community Expo events; increased local business involvement
- Active Rockford Community Education Facebook page
- Added new Driver Education instructor for classroom and behind the wheel—now able to offer more flexible scheduling for Behind the Wheel
- New extended hours at the Rockford Community Center for member use; increased enrollment in adult fitness classes.
- SMART board installed in RCC meeting rooms available for school or community use.
- New and expanded class offerings for youth, adults and seniors in the areas of art, science, acting, technology, fitness, health and wellness. Destination ImagiNation program began last year for students in Grades K-12. Other new course offerings include: Rock Climbing, Skateboard Camp, Healthy Eating, Zumba, Dog Obedience and Puppy Training, Homebuyer Basics, After School Conditioning Club, Rocket Power Dance Camp and Fishing Clinics for Kids.
- Galaxy Kids School Age Care Program named Readers Choice Best Daycare in the South Crow River newspaper.
- Galaxy Kids enrollment continues to grow. The program has added extra safety features to reinforce tracking all students, including separate sing-in/out sheets that require signature and time each day, in addition to staff daily attendance sheets. Homework Help time at Galaxy is well received by parents, along with the activity escort for Galaxy participants enrolled in other CE classes and programs.
- Youth sports grant from Hennepin County to obtain equipment to enhance youth sports programs offered by CE.
- Funding obtained from Rockford Area Children First for the Destination ImagiNation program.
- New Early Childhood Programs include: summer classes, Play N Learn Wiggle N Jump, sibling care for So Big! Fun with Baby class, and Preschool Parent-Child Nights with free sibling care.

District #883

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Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet School

Accomplishments

- REAMS is making Average Yearly Progress (AYP) in all categories of math and reading
- REAMS considered a Reward School under the new Multiple Measures Rating System (only 15% of the MN schools are given this status)
- REAMS staff participated in Arts Magnet training with Perpich Center for the Arts
- First Place Aviation Art Contest Winner
- Fourth Grade class takes second place in the Stock Market Game in the elementary division statewide.

Grants

- ADSIS Grant \$29,496 - Intervention Specialist

New Programs

- EXCEL Gifted and Talented Program
- All Day Every Day Tuition Free Kindergarten program added
- Fourth and Fifth Grade Departmentalization
- Digital Literacy class added to fourth grade curriculum
- Kindness Council Grades K-5 formed
- School Store Opens
- Art Extension class provided for grades 1-5
- ActivBoards implemented in first through third grade and iPads in first and second grade to create 21st century learning classrooms.
- Mondo Bookshop Reading Curriculum
- Math Expressions Math Curriculum
- Mathletes Math program added for Special Education

District #883

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Rockford Middle School – Center for Environmental Studies

Accomplishments:

- Selected to be a Science – Technology-Engineering –Math (STEM) magnet school through Northwest Suburban Intergration School District and successfully completed the first year
- All teachers Project Learning Tree certified
- Exceeded building Q-Comp goal of 2% growth in MCA reading scores
- DNR-certified school forest
- Two outdoor classrooms established
- Rain garden developed
- Partnerships established and grown with Three Rivers Parks, the Raptor Center, Excel Energy, St. John's Arboretum, and BestPrep
- Choir invited to sing at state conference

Grants:

- Environmental Outdoor Education grant through MDE (\$5000 originally and an additional \$3500)
- Community Health Connection through Allina (\$2500)
- NWSISD STEM programming grant (\$200,000)

New Programs:

- EXCEL Gifted and Talented Program
- Academic Programs:
 - Continental Mathematics League
 - WordMasters
 - Young Authors/Young Artists
 - STEM Literacy
 - eMentors program for 8th grade students with Medtronic
- Student Organizations:
 - Outdoor Club
 - Environthon
 - Green Team
 - Rocket Preview
 - Junior Docent Program through local historical society

District #883

Improvements since July 1, 2010

Rockford High School

Accomplishments

- RHS is making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all categories of math and reading
- The number of students meeting or exceeding proficiency in math has raised by 10% and the number in reading have risen by 8%.
- The average ACT score for RHS graduates has risen one full point and is now above the state average.
- RHS became a nationally certified AVID school
- RHS has had four students receive Silver Key Awards at the Minnesota Scholastic Art competition.

New Programs

- Project Lead The Way
- STRIVE
- Spanish Club
- Belle Canto Women's Ensemble
- 180 for At-Risk students
- Spanish III and IV
- Operation Graduation presentation for 9th graders and their families
- Senior Seminar
- On-line Journalism Experience – The Rockford Files
- Expansion of foreign exchange program to accommodate at least 12 students each of the last two years.
- The first annual ROCKEE book was authored, illustrated and published

District #883

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District Activities & Athletics

Accomplishments

- Have increased 7-12 student activity participation by 75 units during the 2011-2012 school year
- Two State Individual Wrestling Champions
- 7th Place State Speech Finalist
- Four Best-in-Site Band Awards
- Two Best-in-Site Choir Awards
- One All-State Choral Student
- One Visual Arts Spotlight Award
- Two Silver-Academic Coaches Association Team Awards
- Facilities Signage

Grants

- Twins Grant – Awarded \$ 30,000.00 to improve the softball-pinwheel complex at RHS – w/ matching funds = \$ 68,000.00
- MSHSL Form A (Aid) Grant – \$ 743.00
- MSHSL Foundation Grant – \$ 3,700.00 (2) additional AEDs to RHS

New Programs

- District Activities Department has established more student activity opportunities to include:
 - A Rocket Power Dance-Team
 - A Rocket-Vision Webcasting Program
 - An Equestrian-Support Program
 - Visual Arts MSHSL Competition
 - RHS joined the Athena Award program

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Improvements since July 1, 2010

Building & Grounds

- SchoolDude Maintenance Direct online work request program implementation
- 3200+ work requests to date, tracking \$ spent, hours on Activities, Trades, etc.
- Recycling programs
 - Standardize D-W recycling program
 - Organics recycling fall 2012 implementation
- Hennepin County \$17,000 grant for implementation of the new program
- Maintenance program for vehicles - schedule developed and implemented – none existed
- Delivery procedures/log developed and implemented
- Cleaning product conversion – Green Cleaning, Envirox products
 - Biodegradable, Low VOC's, Contains no asthmagens, Neutral pH
- Battery inventory and scheduled replacement plan for emergency, exit, alarm and security panel, generator, and custodial/maintenance equipment batteries, bulk purchase for AA, C, D, 9V (135 expired batteries D-W)
- Coordinate Twins Grant field renovation projects – construction start 9/12
- Implemented 5-year Buckthorn abatement plan, tree care/maintenance, all sites
 - Coordinating with STEM programs to educate and involve students
- REAMS heat loop isolation valve installation (13 total) complete 8/12
- Began District-wide Building Information Modeling (BIM)
- Generation and management of digital representations of physical and functional characteristics of our facilities
- Completed the update of building exit routes, emergency shelters, shut-offs, etc. 8/12

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Improvements since July 1, 2010

Rockford Technology Department

Accomplishments:

- Created centralized location in the District Offices
- Hired new staff
- Cleaned up and recycled 6 tons of obsolete equipment
- Implemented new Help Desk and Ticket Request System
- Implemented new web site
- Implemented new HR recruiting and application processing system
- Adopted auditorium responsibilities – Acoustics professional fine-tuned the audio system
- Completed in-depth systems security review
- Completed infrastructure physical security review – implemented new locks and re-established security system in main server room
- Implemented and supported District activities webcasting
- Implemented new End Of Year equipment check-out and inventory survey for Staff
- Began District physical inventory and infrastructure layout project
- Completed 2013-2015 Technology Plan
- Through competitive quote processes and negotiation, was able to purchase \$20K of additional equipment in FY 2013

New Technologies:

- Upgraded information display systems in all buildings, including new Marquee
- 30 new computers in STEM Lab
- 34 new computers for PLTW Lab – built in-house by Technology staff allowing for 16 additional computers
- 14 new ActivBoards throughout District
- 31 new iPads for 1st Grade (25-students, 6-teachers)
- 30 new iPads for 2nd Grade (25-students, 5-teachers)
- 7 new iPads for teacher programs
- 8 new wireless microphones for auditorium
- Wireless Expansion/Pilot in REAMS
- 105 leased laptops for teaching staff – as part of a select few Districts in MN, we've partnered with an established leasing company providing a sustainable computer rotation for District staff, following a typical business model for computer acquisition
- Repurposed teaching staff computers throughout District for student use in labs and classrooms
- New video production studio in RMS-CES for producing webcast programs

District #883

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Rockford Technology Department (continued)

Grants:

- ActivBoards – Rockford Education Foundation \$15,600
- Cameras and Accessories – Rockford Education Foundation \$5,000
- Wireless projector carts with premium sound in each school’s music department – Rockford Education Foundation/General Mills \$4,000
- Project Lead The Way computers – Rockford Education Foundation \$20,000
- Classroom amplification systems for REAMS – Audio Enhancement \$3,850
- Donated network equipment from Minneapolis Public Schools – approximately \$6,000