

Enriching and accelerating learning

R

RICHFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Board Study Session with
the Richfield City Council**

November 18, 2024

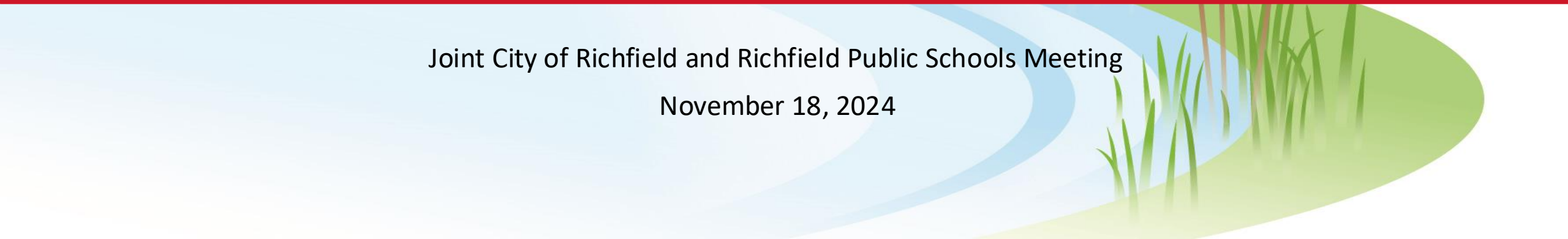
Enriqueciendo y acelerando el aprendizaje



City of Richfield

Joint City of Richfield and Richfield Public Schools Meeting

November 18, 2024





RICHFIELD

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Use of facilities
- Housing and community development
- School board election administration
- Partnership

Introductions



RICHFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



PAULA COLE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, CHAIR, Term: January 2024-28



ERIC CARTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION, VICE CHAIR, Term: January



TIMOTHY POLLIS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, CLERK, Term: January 2022-26



STEVE UNOWSKY
Superintendent



Mary Supple, Mayor



Sharon Christensen, At-large



KIRK SPENCER
BOARD OF EDUCATION, TREASURER, Term: January



RACHEL BANKS KUPCHO
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DIRECTOR, Term: January 2022-



KENNETH LISS
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DIRECTOR, Term: January 2024-



Simon Trautmann, Ward 1



Sean Hayford Oleary, Ward 2



Ben Whalen, Ward 3

- **Katie Rodriguez, City Manager**
- **Newly elected city council members may be in attendance:**
 - **Walter Burk**
 - **Rori Coleman-Woods**

USE OF FACILITIES



City of Richfield Use of RPS Facilities

- Parks & Rec books the RPS pool, gyms and other spaces for community classes.
- City groups and departments occasionally book RPS meeting spaces.
- Currently RPS only charges the City for use of the pool, plus staffing costs if needed.
- The RPS Board is currently reviewing the policy that governs community use of school facilities and grounds.
- Parks & Rec has recently requested to book more RPS space than in the past.

RPS Free Park Use Umbrella

- RPS School Programs
- RPS After School Sports and Clubs
- PTO Events and Activities
- RPS Partner Groups



Known RPS Facility Usage

- RPS School Sports
 - Tennis
 - Cross Country Running and Skiing
- RPS Physical Education Classes
 - High School
 - Middle School
- Bike Traffic Garden at Donaldson Park for learn to bike classes
- Middle School Day in the Parks
- Class and PTO End of year Celebrations
- Partner program shelter rentals
- RPS Homecoming Parade

Free Programming

- Wood Lake Programming – Cost of \$41,400
 - 2 free nature center programs per year for every class K – 6
 - 16 free preschool programs in RPS classrooms
 - Program curriculum updates and coordination with teachers
 - \$3,700 covered by Urban Wildland Race
- Richfield Ice Arena Programming – Cost of \$12,000
 - Free "Learn to Skate" program for first and fourth grade

City Use of RPS Facilities Has Declined

8 requests 2024 (3 unpaid facility uses for programming)

- Adult Basketball League – 1
- Adult Dodgeball League (winter)– 1
- Adult Interval Walking – 1

20 Requests in 2019 (15 unpaid facility uses for programming)

- Adult Interval Walking – 5
- Senior Volleyball – 2
- Jazzercise – 3
- Youth Baseball Clinic – 1
- Adult Tennis Lessons - 1
- Adult Basketball League - 1
- Adult Dodgeball (winter and fall) – 1
- Jr. Spartan speedsters - 1



HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Housing and community development



RPS has welcomed many new students from the new housing development in Fort Snelling!

In 2023-2024, RPS served 3,264 Richfield resident students.

- 69% BIPOC students (43% Latinx)
- 22% English Learners
- 61% eligible for free/reduced meals

Housing & Community Development

Why Richfield Redevelops

- To remain a competitive and viable City.
- To keep residential neighborhoods vital.
- To attract new residents with housing options and amenities.
- To provide jobs and diversify the tax base.
- To eliminate blight.
- To comply with statutory comprehensive planning requirements.



Resources
for entrepreneurs

No-cost tools to meet your goals

 / 

Elevate your business at
ElevateHennepin.org



Housing & Community Development

How does the City/HRA make decisions?

Does the project...

Further the goals of the Comprehensive Plan & Strategic Plan?

- 500 new housing units + 15 new businesses in downtown
- 33% increase in non-single family tax base
- Meet Met Council affordable housing need allocation

Meet the requirements of the City's Inclusionary Housing Policy?

- Mix of unit sizes & affordability levels
- Type A and fully-accessible units
- Replacement of lost affordable units

Meet statutory requirements ("but for" test, etc.)?

- Financial analysis by consulting experts



Housing & Community Development

- 1,261 new housing units since 2012
- 31 new affordable ownership
- 55 NOAH units preserved and rehabbed
- 30 Type A + 2 fully accessible ADA units
- Market value of properties in TIF Districts increased 280% (over inflated base market values)

Met Council Allocation of Housing Need (2011-2030)

284 units @ 30% AMI → 0 constructed
163 units @ 31-50% AMI → 55 constructed
39 units @ 51-80% AMI → 17 constructed

Draft 2031-2040 Allocation

93 units @ 30% AMI
77 units @ 31-50% AMI

Housing & Community Development

How can we partner?

Feedback on Program Development

- Transformation Home Loan
- Kids @ Home + Kids @ Home Highschool Edition
- Upcoming – Bring it Home
- Communicating needs

Program Implementation

- Sharing information with families

City Financial Support of orgs aimed at students

- Family Partnership, Headway/Youable, Cornerstone, MIRA



*Shutterstock image

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ADMINISTRATION



RPS and the City have long maintained a strong partnership for school board election administration, which occurs in odd years when there is typically nothing else on the ballot. As part of this partnership, city officials run the election locations and process ballots, while RPS takes care of all notification and reporting requirements. RPS reimburses the City for all direct costs associated with school board elections.

Pro:

- Elections are administered by city professionals who have extensive training and expertise in this area
- Elections are run in a consistent way each year
- Voters in odd years are likely to be informed about the school board election specifically
- School board elections are not “buried” within lengthier ballots with many races

Con:

- Holding a standalone election costs RPS more than it would to hold the election during even years
- Voter turnout is lower in odd years

Elections

History

- Historically the City of Richfield has administered elections for Richfield Public Schools in odd election years.
- Currently, only 1 in 10 cities and school districts have misaligned election years.
- A section of Edina falls within the Richfield School District 280. In 2023, the Edina School Board voted unanimously to transition to even year elections, and by resolution, adopted a transition plan to even year elections.



Elections

Election Stats

- Election cost: \$100,000 to \$110,000

Soft costs not included: printing ballots and other voting materials, technology expense, translations (where required); Costs associated with reserved/leased space; First line staff answering questions regarding elections and elections processes; Costs associated with complying with the law to make voting more accessible for voters with disabilities, Health care facility voting, and limited English proficiency (LEP) voters.

- City of Richfield staff are evaluating whether they can continue to accommodate odd year elections for Richfield Public Schools.
- Currently, Richfield School Board terms are four years; with each board position expiring on even years with school elections on misaligned odd year elections.
- Approximately 22,000 registered voters in Richfield
- Nine precincts



Elections

Richfield Public Schools Election Options

1. Richfield Public Schools transitions to even year elections and City of Richfield administers elections for all future referendums, levies, and school board elections for a minimal cost.
2. Richfield Public Schools administers own elections in odd years and lease equipment only from the City of Richfield for a minimal cost.
3. City of Richfield administers elections for Richfield Public Schools in odd-numbered years and invoices the school quarterly for the administration of each odd year election (*estimated cost \$90,000-\$110,000 each election*). This option may not be sustainable long term.

COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP



- **RPS Community Education**
 - Safety classes offered jointly: Home Alone Safety, Babysitter Training, Lifeguard Training
 - Collaboration on lifeguard grant
- **Safe Routes to Schools**
 - New sidewalks and other pedestrian safety improvements
- **Connecting families with support and assistance programs**
 - Section 8 housing resources
 - Public Health Subcommittee - Richfield Health Resource Center
 - Police liaison to support families in crisis
- **Regular communication meetings**
 - Parks & Rec currently has a staff member on the RPS Community Education Advisory Council
 - RPS School Board representative meets with City leadership once every 2-3 months
 - SRTS coordinator meets with City traffic engineer once per month

Positive Partnerships

- Community Education
 - Regular meetings between work groups
 - Attend advisory committee meetings
 - Lifeguard Training
 - Hennepin County Grant
 - Youth Programs
 - Home Alone Safety Day
 - Babysitting 101
 - Child and Babysitting Safety Training
- High School Cross Country Team
 - Run Richfield

YOUTH, TEEN & FAMILY PROGRAMS

RICHFIELD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Richfield
The Urban Hometown

Partnership Programs

RPS Community Education and the City of Richfield

Sponsored by Richfield Recreation & Richfield Community Education
Register at www.richfieldmn.gov/online-registration

Home Alone Safety Day

There is no magic age at which children develop the maturity and good sense needed to stay alone. Be prepared for your 9-12 year old to be home alone for short periods of time, before or after school or while you run errands. During this class, kids will make their own first-aid kits and learn basic first-aid techniques. We'll discuss personal and home safety, internet safety, phone skills, fire safety, escape plans, what to do in severe weather, bike safety, snack ideas, appropriate activities and more! Each child will receive a multi-sport helmet, water bottle and backpack. Lunch will be provided.



Thursday 8:30 am-3:00 pm
November 7 \$35
Central Education Center (7145 Harriet Ave)

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Recent and Upcoming Projects

- 71st Street Sidewalk Gap Project (2024)
- SRTS Plan Update (2024)
- SRTS Capital Project Design Assistance Grant (2024)
- STEM & RDLS 70th Street Trail & Sidewalk Project (2025)
- Centennial 73rd Street Trail Project (2025)



Enriching and accelerating learning

R

RICHFIELD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Discussion

Enriqueciendo y acelerando el aprendizaje