



Special Meeting of the Board of School Commissioners
September 28, 2026

School Board Members Present: Charlene Seward, Chair Stephanie Stoodley Christina Sweet Herbert Ogden Jen Rondinone Cathy Solsaa Brandi Barclay Ryan Carney Board Members Not Present: Karen Bossi Courtney Collins Whitcomb Marybeth Lennox-Levins	Also Present: Pam Reed, Superintendent Bianca McKeen, Assistant Superintendent
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Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Seward.

The purpose of today's meeting is to request approval of over \$40,000 for Science of Reading Professional Development.

Motion to accept the consent agenda made by Stephanie Stoodley and seconded by Christina Sweet, unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Stephanie Stoodley and seconded by Christina Sweet, unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Reed, Superintendent



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TO: Board of School Commissioners & Superintendent Pam Reed

FROM: Bianca McKeen

DATE: September 18, 2026

RE: Request for approval over \$40,000 for Science of Reading Professional Development

As part of our School Improvement efforts, RCPS brought in a trainer from HILL for Literacy to lead a Science of Reading Professional Development session during the August 2026 in-service.

Through the Consolidated Federal Program application, Title 1 School Improvement funds are being used to offer teachers, administrators, and academic coaches a 20-hour asynchronous Science of Reading course at either the Primary or Intermediate level. We have had an overwhelming response from people wanting to enroll in this course. The cost per person is \$450, and we currently have 94 people signed up. That has brought the cost above \$40,000. We also anticipate we may have a few additional enrollments. Accordingly, the School Board is asked to approve an expenditure for this professional development initiative of up to \$46,530, contingent upon the final number of participants, with an expected completion date in early calendar 2027.

HILL for Literacy is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving reading and language outcomes for PreK–12 students. HILL works directly with school districts, states, and individual schools to implement evidence-based literacy models grounded in the Science of Reading.

We believe that this partnership will provide our teachers with a common baseline understanding to inform literacy instruction and improve student outcomes.

Respectfully submitted,

Bianca McKeen

cc: P. Reed, T. Plemenos