

Ripon School News Email Network Bulletin

July 18, 2016

2016 Friend of Public Schools

The Board named Alliance Laundry Systems as the 2016 Friend of Public Education. Over the past two years, RASD and Alliance formed an official partnership to strengthen technical education and the Ripon community as a whole. Beginning in the fall of 2014, Alliance began working with Ripon High School students through a technical education apprenticeship program. In the spring of 2015, Alliance Laundry supported the District through the plan and design phase of the new technical education space within RASD's \$32 million combined middle and high school facilities project. Most recently, Alliance Laundry Systems committed to further strengthening their partnership with the Ripon Area School District. Alliance Laundry Systems pledged Ripon Area School District a maximum of \$100,000 over the next two years to support Technology Education Fabrication computers and software in addition to scoreboards for the new gym. Furthermore, they have also offered to support the Technology Education laboratory with material, tools, parts, guidance and other areas where their involvement can enhance the department outside of their monetary contribution. In addition, Alliance has sponsored both student and staff tours to assist in developing a broad understanding of careers in manufacturing.

Learning and Management System

The Board approved Canvas as the Learning and Management System for Grades 6-12 for fall of 2016. Designed specifically for K-12 teachers and students, Canvas is an easy-to-use, cloud-based learning management system (LMS) that connects all the digital tools and resources teachers use into one simple place. Canvas has the capability to enroll parents, along with students, to provide greater visibility into their children's learning experience and provides actionable analytics to teachers and administrators. Training will be provided to teachers in grades 6-12 at the beginning of the school year and students will be introduced to this new system in the fall.

Liquidation Damages

The Board approved paying up to \$500 in liquidation damages to other school districts on behalf of teachers approved to teach in the district. The Board specified incoming teachers would need to request and be denied having any penalties waived by the other district.

Additional Elementary School Counselor Position

This year, there will be a designated elementary counselor at each of the elementary schools. This counselor position while new is not an additional cost to the district. It is in place of one of the school psychologist positions that continues to go unfilled due to a shortage of school psychologists across the state. This was a way to use the position to provide at least some of the services typically provided through a school psychologist while also ensuring both schools have adequate student services support.

Self-Funded Dental Plan Results

This past year, the RASD moved to a Self-Funded Dental Plan. The plan finished in the positive with a fund balance of approximately \$28,000 at the end of 2015-16. This means the savings can be used to maintain dental premiums or deductibles for the next plan year. In the past, any savings or loss went back to the plan provider. Dental plans tend to end in the positive so moving to a self-funded plan carried a low risk for users and the district.

Upcoming Board Dates Include:

- August 15 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. RHS Community Room
 Executive Session following the Board meeting
- September 19 Regular Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. RHS Community room
 Executive Session following the Board meeting

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