Inter School Advisory Council

September 24, 2014 Meeting

**63rd District Judge Candidate**

* Jeff O'Hara shared his experience and endorsements in his run for a judge position.

**School News Network**

* Charles Honey is the reporter for Rockford for The School News Network.
* School News Network is an online news site offered through the KISD.
* SNN likes to cover stories not being told by other media, including classroom coverage of innovative ways teachers are bringing lessons to life.
* SNN also covers problems and issues and is currently working on a poverty series.
* [honeycharlesm@gmail.com](mailto:honeycharlesm@gmail.com) is contact information for Charles Honey.

**Non-Homestead Renewal Request**

* This is levied against businesses, cottages, vacant properties (not primary residences).
* November's ballot will include a renewal of the current 18 mill rate, which must be passed by a vote.
* This is an important piece of the RPS budget.  For perspective, should this renewal not pass, it would be a budget loss equivalent to 65-70 teacher positions.

**Start-of-Year Report**

Dr. Mike Shibler reported on:

* **Newsweek "Top 500 High Schools" -**Rockford has been ranked as 247th out of 500 high schools.  Only 2 schools in West Michigan were in top 250.

Mike Cuneo reported on:

* **Food Service** - Department is struggling to find balance with new federal nutrition standards and foods kids will like.  John Henry will speak at next month's ISAC meeting with more information on how these changes impact our buildings.
* **Transportation** - Reported on the radio communication system we have with all our buses.
* **Bond** - Planning process has begun on the safety changes.  We will begin to see changes to the entryway of the buildings after Spring Break of this school year, with full changes by 2015-2016.  Additional projects will happen through 2018.

Dr. Ryan Kelley reported on:

* **Orchestra program** - Now in place at NRMS & ERMS, with 68 kids total participating with the expectation of expansion in the future.  Large instruments to be purchased with a portion of the bond monies.
* **Professional Development** - Teachers are required to have 30 hours/year by the State of Michigan.

**Legislative/Grassroots**

* **Student Assessments -**There is currently no MEAP for the fall.  The Brighter Balance Assessment has been thrown out by the legislature.  It is unclear at this time what assessment will be used for grades 3-8 in the spring.