



AGENDA

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

Katie Bielski-Medina, Chairperson
John Benbow, Jr.
Troy Bier
Larry Davis
Sandra Hett
John Krings, President
Julie Timm

April 3, 2023

LOCATION: Board of Education Office, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment

Persons who wish to address members of the Committee may make a statement pertaining to a specific agenda item. The Committee Chair will establish limits for speakers due to time constraints. Comments made by the public shall be civil in content and tone. Speakers bear the personal risk if comments made are defamatory, slanderous, or otherwise harmful to another individual. Please keep in mind that this is a Committee meeting of the Board open to the public, and not a public hearing.

- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. Board Policy 321 – School Calendar, Policy 723.1 – Emergency School Closings, and 723.1 Rule – Emergency School Closing Procedures - First Reading
 - B. Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP) Applications
 - C. Gaggle Therapy for 2023-2024
- V. Updates
 - A. Families and Schools Together (FAST)
 - B. Educator Effectiveness Grant
 - C. Peer Review and Mentor Grant
 - D. ECHY Grant
 - E. Student Travel
- VI. Consent Agenda Items
- VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Wisconsin open meetings law requires that the Board, or Board Committee, only take action on subject matter that is noticed on their respective agendas. Persons wishing to place items on the agenda should contact the District Office at 715-424-6701, at least seven working days prior to the meeting date for the item to be considered. The item may be referred to the appropriate committee or placed on the Board agenda as determined by the Superintendent and/or Board president.

With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities by providing a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aids, by calling 715-424-6701.

School Board members may attend the above Committee meeting(s) for information gathering purposes. If a quorum of Board members should appear at any of the Committee meetings, a regular School Board meeting may take place for purposes of gathering information on an item listed on one of the Committee agendas. If such a meeting should occur, the date, time, and location of the Board meeting will be that of the particular Committee as listed on the Committee agenda however, no deliberation or action will be taken by other Committees or the full Board of Education.



BACKGROUND

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TIME: 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
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- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. Board Policy 321 – School Calendar, Policy 723.1 – Emergency School Closings, and 723.1 Rule – Emergency School Closing Procedures - First Reading

The District is committed to providing continuity of instruction on days interrupted by school closure for reasons such as inclement weather or health or safety concerns such as a communicable disease outbreak, a credible threat to safety, damage to a building, or a utility failure. Several innovative instructional design practices have been implemented since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and significant investments have been made in technology and digital infrastructure, instructional software and curriculum resources, and staff professional development to provide options and opportunity for students to continue learning during days of school closure. With the high number of inclement weather days causing a need for school closure, the ability to pivot to remote learning days during the 2022-23 school year using digital, analog, synchronous, asynchronous, or hybrid instruction has been advantageous to continue learning while considering the potential impacts of extending the school year may have on student learning and family hardship.

Guidance from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) indicates that if a school is going to be closed for inclement weather, a district may offer remote learning days to count towards the required pupil instruction days set out in State statute and the Wisconsin Administrative Code. DPI does not establish fixed parameters to define a day of remote learning; rather, it is the district’s responsibility to establish instructional strategies to ensure that they are meeting the needs of their learners through remote learning options, including students with IEPs.

The Board of Education was provided an update in February 2023 around individual building plans implemented in 2022-23 to address student and staff expectations on school closure days which includes clear and concise communication to support awareness and understanding. The ability to use innovative instructional design practices continues to evolve and be refined. The administration continues to be sensitive to the needs of parents while balancing educational alternatives on days when inclement weather days require school closure. The implementation of these expectations will be monitored by individual building administrators, and the impact of holding remote learning days on student progress and achievement will continue to be monitored both at the building and district levels.

Board Policy 321 – School Calendar, 723.1 – Emergency School Closings, and Board Policy 723.1 Rule – Emergency School Closing Procedures pertain to potential school closure days and provide guidance concerning expectations of both staff and students during remote learning days. Policy revisions are being recommended to incorporate language to support the use of innovative instructional design programming during school closure days. The proposed policy revisions can be found in Attachments A, A-1, and A-2

The administration recommends approval of Board Policies 321 – School Calendar, 723.1 – Emergency School Closings, and 723.1 Rule – Emergency School Closing Procedures for first reading.

B. Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP) Applications

There are 6 students applying to take 7 courses through the Start College Now program at Mid-State Technical College during the fall of 2023. The chart below sets out the information about this request.

Number of Students	Grade Level	Name of Course
1	11	Essential Concepts for Health & Wellness
1	11	Group Fitness Instruction
1	12	Developmental Psychology
1	12	Marriage and Family
1	12	Intro to the Criminal Justice System
2	12	Nursing Assistant
1	12	Criminal Justice Ethics

There are 3 students applying to take one course through the Early College Credit Program during the fall of 2023. The chart below sets out the information about this request.

Number of Students	Grade Level	Name of Course
3	12	Calculus III

The administration recommends approval of the 6 applications to participate in the 7 requested courses at Mid-State Technical College through the Start College Now (SCN) program in the fall of the 2023-24 school year and the 3 applications to participate in the 1 requested course in the Early College Credit Program (ECCP) in the fall of the 2023-24 school year.

C. Gaggle Therapy for 2023-2024

Since the start of the 2021-2022 school year, WRPS has been in a contract with Gaggle Therapy to address the local counselor shortage. Gaggle Therapy provides secure video platform-based mental health and support services to students, facilitated by licensed therapists and counselors experienced in working with children and teenagers. With parental consent, students participate in 45-minute weekly video therapy sessions. Sessions can take place during or outside of school hours depending on student needs and their availability. All FERPA and HIPAA guidelines are adhered to, and there are no costs for families or parents, as WRPS pays a retainer fee. The original retainer fee was based on 1% of the district's student population. As the usage and cost per session have increased, the retainer fee has also increased from \$43,960 in the 2021-2022 school year to \$55,040 in the 2022-2023 school year, and it is projected to be \$72,864 for the 2023-2024 school year. The service is refundable or can be carried forward to the next year if unused.

Since the start of the 2021-2022 school year, 116 students have utilized the service for a total of 584 sessions, while 130 sessions were marked as "no-shows". ESSER funds will continue to be used to fund this service.

Attachment B provides a breakdown of the costs and usage since the start of the contract.

The administration recommends approval of continuing our partnership with Gaggle Therapy during the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$72,864.00 to be funded through the ESSER III grant.

V. Updates

A. Families and Schools Together (FAST)

FAST (Families and Schools Together) is an internationally acclaimed parent engagement program shown to help children succeed at school by building stronger, more supportive relationships at home. Built on evidence-based practices and rigorously tested, FAST empowers parents to become more effective family leaders, connects families to schools, and creates a community engaged in children's well-being and education. FAST Activities are designed to strengthen family bonds, empower parents, increase positive communication and improve the child's overall academic performance and emotional functioning. In a FAST Cycle, families meet for eight weeks. The weekly sessions follow a prescribed format of activities whose effectiveness have been demonstrated through research. FAST Sessions are led by a team that empowers parents and connects families to school and community. This team includes one Parent Partner, school staff, & two Community Partners.

Pitsch Early Learning Center and Washington Elementary School each completed one cycle this school year.

B. Educator Effectiveness Grant

Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools has been informed that the application for the 2022-2023 Educator Effectiveness (EE) Grant has been approved for funding in the amount of \$32,240 for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The grant dollars are used exclusively to pay for the costs associated with the Educator Effectiveness model which supports educators and promotes improved teaching strategies to increase student learning for all students.

C. Peer Review and Mentor Grant

Each school year the District provides a comprehensive "New Colleague Program" in consortium with surrounding districts. During the 2023-2024 school year, Port Edwards will continue to partner with WRPS in our consortium. The program provides an orientation program, monthly seminars, a mentor, and other support systems to make new colleagues' adjustment to their district a successful one. WRPS received this grant last school year and will apply for the Peer Review and Mentor Grant once again in order to defray some of the costs of this successful program. The District is applying for the maximum amount of \$25,000.00.

D. ECHY Grant

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Innovations Grant is a three-year grant provided by the United States Department of Education and awarded through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). This is a competitive and discretionary grant to support innovative practices to support students who qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act legislation ensures that all children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence receive access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. The Innovations grant focuses on innovative practices and is not intended to focus on compliance-related topics (such as basic training for all staff, transportation, creating district posters/ materials, etc.).

The District will be submitting a Grant application by the deadline of April 11, 2023, asking for \$40,000 yearly over the next three years with an application focused on increasing academic outcomes for students experiencing homelessness.

E. Student Travel

After a successful State Career Development Conference (SCDC), Lincoln High School's DECA Program has 25 competitors moving on to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Additionally, 6 students will be attending the conference in the THRIVE Leadership Academy as a result of our chapter's membership, community service, and promotional campaigns. In addition, Paige Gunderson and Emily Hartjes were elected to Team 58-Wisconsin DECA's State Officer Team. Finally, Mr. Ron Rasmussen, Principal of LHS, was recognized with the Friend of DECA award.

Thirty-one students, three advisors, and one administrator are looking forward to a great conference this spring when these award winners travel to Orlando, FL on April 20 through April 26, 2023. Participants raised funds throughout the school year and seek out sponsorships as a means to pay for this trip.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

Committee members will be asked to decide which items should be placed on the consent agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting.

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

Agenda items are determined by the Committee Chair after consultation with appropriate administration depending upon other agenda items, presentation information, and agenda availability.

Future agenda items/information requests include, but are not limited to:

- Agenda Planners (May)
- District Professional Development Plan (May)
- 6-12 Physical Education Curriculum Maps (May)
- 6-12 Physical Education Acquisition (May)
- 6-12 Social Emotional Learning Framework Purchase (May)
- Library and Technology Plan (May)
- 9-12 Science Curriculum Maps (June)
- 9-12 Science Acquisition (June)
- 6-12 Health Curriculum Maps (June)
- K-12 Health Acquisition (June)
- Pupil Academic Standards (July)
- Achievement Gap Reduction Report (July)

321 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the School District of Wisconsin Rapids shall be established by the Board.

The Board encourages and supports reasonable efforts to have the schedule and calendar organized to promote the greatest possible flexibility and effectiveness for the District's instructional program and consistent with the District's mission statement.

The schedule should be organized to promote maximum coordination with other schools, including colleges, in the area. The Board also expects that the internal organization of the program will provide the best possible articulation among the various unit levels in the system.

The Board shall periodically direct the administration to review the organization plans and schedules as often as necessary and feasible.

Consistent with Department of Public Instruction regulations, the Board shall annually schedule at least 437 hours of direct pupil instruction in Kindergarten, at least 1,050 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 1 through 6, and at least 1,137 hours of direct pupil instruction in grades 7 through 12. **Scheduled hours of instruction may include the hours of instructional programming offered through innovative instructional designs that apply to an entire school or grade level.**

LEGAL REF.: Sections 115.01(10) Wisconsin Statutes
 118.045
 120.12(15)
 120.44
 121.02(1)(f)
 PI ~~8-01(2)(f)~~, Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.: **Policy 723.1, Emergency School Closings**
 Policy 723.1 Rule, Emergency School Closing Procedures

APPROVED: November 11, 1974

REVISED: July 13, 1988
 April 9, 2001
 September 13, 2016
 TBD

723.1 EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

The safety, health, and physical well-being of its students and employees is a priority of the District. In certain circumstances, a decision to close school due to a health or safety concern for a full or partial day may apply only to one or more individual schools. Buses will run whenever and wherever weather permits. In the event of inclement weather or other issues *health or safety concerns such as a communicable disease outbreak, a credible threat to safety, damage to a building, or a utility failure* which cause a need for an emergency school closing, announcements regarding school closings or early dismissal will be made *via the District electronic messaging system to families, the Nixle alert system,* ~~through~~ local media outlets, and the WRPS webpage in accordance with established procedures.

The Superintendent of Schools, or an administrative-level designee in the temporary absence or unavailability of the Superintendent shall make decisions regarding school closings, early releases, and any program or activity cancellations due to inclement weather or due to other health or safety concerns. If any school is closed by an order of a local health officer or by an order of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the administration shall implement the order.

When any District school is closed under this policy for a reason other than inclement weather, the administration shall ensure that the Department of Public Instruction is promptly notified of the closing and reopening of the school(s) and of the reason(s) for and length of the closure(s).

Event Cancellation

If inclement weather or other issues raise questions concerning the safe completion of co-curricular trips that are scheduled after school or on weekends, the District's *Superintendent or his/her* designee shall have final authority to determine whether or not the trip will take place. If a scheduled trip is canceled, it is the responsibility of the coach/advisor to inform participants.

Remote Learning During a School Closure

The District is committed to providing students with a continuity in educational services in the event of an emergency school closing, and supports innovative instructional design including the implementation of remote learning as a means of delivering quality instruction that ensures all students have access to high quality learning experiences and support from teachers. Remote learning would typically be implemented at a time when any extra hours built into the academic calendar (e.g., "snow days") beyond the required hours of instruction set by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) have been exhausted, or at the discretion of administration.

The Superintendent may direct a full or partial day of remote/virtual learning for specific grade level(s) or for one or more District schools on any day that a school is closed under this policy, subject to the following requirements and limitations and to any more specific direction or authority that may be given by the Board of Education for the specific school year.

Remote Learning Expectations

- 1. In the event of an emergency school closing, all students shall participate in remote learning activities. All students will have access to remote learning materials and resources either through learning packets sent home in advance for students from 4K - Grade 5 and/or through the District's learning management system for grades K-12.*
- 2. The school will regularly communicate the remote learning plan to students and families through various methods including email, website, newsletters and learning management systems.*

723.1 RULE EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING PROCEDURES

School Closing - Cancellation

If bad weather during the night makes it impossible for buses to run in the morning, contact will be made to inform local media outlets, an electronic notification will be sent to families using the District electronic messaging system, the Nixle alert system, and a message will be posted to the WRPS webpage concerning the closure as early as possible, but in no case later than 6:30 a.m.

Early Dismissal

1. If bad weather develops during the morning while school is in session, or other issues cause a need for an early school closure, contact regarding the early dismissal will be made to families using the District electronic messaging system, the Nixle alert system, local media outlets, and be posted to the WRPS webpage by 10:00 a.m. advising parents that their children will be sent home early.

2. Lunches will be served to K-12 students before the K-12 students are dismissed.

3. Buses will run according to the following schedule:

Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School	12:00 p.m.
Assumption High School	12:10 p.m.
Lincoln High School	12:20 p.m.
Elementary Schools (public and parochial)	1:00 p.m.

River Cities High School - A.M. session	11:00 a.m. (as usual)
<i>River Cities High School afternoon and evening sessions will be canceled.</i>	

Early education unit afternoon sessions will be canceled.

Four-Year-Old Morning Kindergarten sessions	10:45 a.m.
<i>Four-Year-Old Kindergarten afternoon sessions will be canceled.</i>	

APPROVED: November 11, 1974

REVISED: October 6, 1983
November 9, 1987
November 7, 1991
June 17, 2002
February 11, 2008
March 12, 2012
January 14, 2019
September 9, 2019
December 12, 2022
TBD

1st Retainer (\$43,960) 2nd Retainer (\$55,040) **Total (\$99,000)**

Month	Spent	Sessions Kept	No Show
September 2021	\$110.00	1	
October 2021	\$610.00	5	2
November 2021	\$360.00	3	
December 2021	\$910.00	8	1
January 2022	\$1,960.00	17	3
February 2022	\$3,670.00	32	5
March 2022	\$5,280.00	45	10
April 2022	\$6,200.00	52	15
May 2022	\$6,740.00	58	12
June 2022	\$3,910.00	32	13
July 2022	\$3,030.00	27	2
August 2022	\$2,380.00	20	6
September 2022	\$2,540.00	22	4
October 2022	\$5,050.00	47	7
November 2022	\$6,305.00	49	10
December 2022	\$5,670.00	40	12
January 2023	\$7,140.00	57	7
February 2023	\$9,725.00	62	18
March 2023	\$2,140.00	7	3
Total	\$73,730.00	584	130
Remaining	\$25,270		

Usage

Time Period	Total	Average \$ per month
Last 4 Months (11/1/22 - 2/28/23)	\$28,840	\$7,210
22-23 school year (9/1/22-2/28/23)	\$36,430	\$6,072
Budget for next Fiscal year (7/1/23-6/30/23)*	\$72,864	\$6,072

*based on '22-23 school year average monthly usage.

Fees

Mental Health Services	Therapy	Coaching
Individual Session	\$155	\$140
Group Session*	\$230	\$185
Initial Client Assessment Session	\$200	
Coordinated Care Session	\$75	
No Show/Late Cancellation (less than 24 hours before the session)	\$60	\$60