



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education  
**Educational Services Committee**

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

Anne Lee, Chairman  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Katie Bielski-Medina  
Larry Davis  
Sandra Hett  
Mary Rayome  
John Krings, President

December 5, 2016

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

TIME: Immediately following the Business Services Committee and Personnel Services  
Committee meetings, but not before 6:15 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Katie Bielski-Medina, John Krings, Anne Lee and  
Mary Rayome

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Davis, Sandra Hett

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Aiken-Bruha, Ed Allison, Dustin Anderson, David Bergerson, Colleen  
Dickmann, Mary Beth Freeh, Tracy Ginter, Connie Henke, Jeanine Kleman,  
Patricia Larsen, Dana Rice, Joe Riederer, Patti Ritchay, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz,  
Val Tonn, Kevin Yeske

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Several art teachers from the District were present and asked to address the Committee  
when the Trimester Schedule Proposal for Grades 6-9 was discussed.

III. Actionable Items

A. Trimester Schedule Proposal – Grades 6-9

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, explained proposed revisions to the grade 6-9 schedules. The revisions would provide a middle school schedule for grades 6-8, giving each student a 12 week exploratory experience in each elective area and career cluster. Grade 9 students would be on the Lincoln High School (LHS) schedule with elective options. Concerns were raised by the art teachers that grade 7 students do not have an art option. The art teachers proposed that these students have a choice between music or art. Several questions regarding the proposed schedules were discussed, including staffing, the number of classes required

of students, and DPI requirements. Tracy Ginter, Principal at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS), and Kevin Yeske, Principal at East Junior High School (EJH), were present to share information about the proposed schedule modifications and answer questions.

Committee members expressed an interest in having District music teachers provide feedback on the suggested schedule modifications. The Committee tabled the item and referred it to the full Board meeting in December for further discussion and possible action.

B. Curriculum Proposals: Modifications and New Courses

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz stated that at the November 2016 Educational Services Committee meeting, 11 curriculum proposals were presented to the Committee to be considered and voted on in December. These proposals were presented to the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) at their November 10 meeting. CII discussed and voted on each proposal, and the results were shared. Following the CII discussion and vote, the Central Office Administrative team discussed each proposal.

1. Family and Consumer Economics: Teach and Lead

**ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, second by John Krings, that Teach and Lead be added as a Family and Consumer Science course offering for students at LHS for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2. Language Arts: English 4

**ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, second by Mary Rayome, that English 4 be added as an English/Language Arts course offering for students at LHS for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Math: Algebra Topics - Modifications

**ES-3 Motion by John Benbow, second by Katie Bielski-Medina, to approve changing Algebra Topics from a one year math course offering to a one trimester course offering for ninth grade students beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Foundations for Advanced Algebra

**ES-4 Motion by John Benbow, second by Katie Bielski-Medina, that Foundations for Advanced Algebra be added as a mathematics course offering for students at LHS for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

5. Music: String Orchestra

- ES-5 Motion by John Benbow, second by John Krings, that String Orchestra be offered as a course offering in music for sophomores at LHS beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Science: Life Sciences and Society

- ES-6 Motion by John Benbow, second by Katie Bielski-Medina, that Life Sciences and Society be added as a science course offering for students at LHS for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Science: Physical Sciences and Society

- ES-7 Motion by John Benbow, second by Katie Bielski-Medina, that Physical Sciences and Society be added as a science course offering for students at LHS for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

8. Science: Forensics Science

- ES-8 Motion by John Benbow, second by John Krings, that Forensics Science not be added as a science course offering for students at LHS.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Science: Principles of Bio-Medical Science

David Bergerson, Science Coordinator and Mary Beth Freeh, Science Teacher at LHS both answered questions from the Committee. Mr. Bergerson explained that a quick poll of students was taken and there is student interest in the class. Cost of the class was discussed and it was noted that grants would need to be applied for to fund the class.

- ES-9 Motion by John Benbow, second by John Krings, that Principles of Bio-Medical Science be added as a science course offering for students at LHS for one credit, contingent on securing up to \$17,900 in grants for equipment and staff training, beginning in the 2017-18 school year.**

**Motion carried on a vote of 4-1. Katie Bielski-Medina voted no.**

10. Social Studies: Contemporary Issues

- ES-10 Motion by John Benbow, second by Mary Rayome, that Contemporary Issues be added as a social studies course offering for eleventh and twelfth grade students for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

11. Social Studies: Introduction to Economics

**ES-11 Motion by John Benbow, second by Katie Bielski-Medina, that Introduction to Economics not be added as a social studies course offering for ninth grade students.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Science on a Sphere (SOS) Project

Joe Riederer, WRAMS science department, was present to share his interest in bringing Science on a Sphere (SOS) to sixth and seventh grade students. He explained that when first introduced, SOS was a museum display, and he is interested in bringing it into classrooms. He has gathered letters of support, and would like the Committee's approval to pursue grants to help fund the revised cost estimate of \$33,360.

**ES-12 Motion by John Benbow, second by John Krings, to approve applying for various grants to support the Science on a Sphere (SOS) project at a cost of \$33,360, to be implemented at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Updates

A. School and District Report Cards: 2015-16

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz discussed District report cards from the Department of Public Instruction for the 2015-16 school year. She noted that test participation is a concern, especially for virtual families. Ms. Stebbins-Hintz indicated the District will continue to encourage test participation by these families. In addition, we will continue our discussions of test results, the achievement gap, and test taking strategies.

V. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Teach and Lead added as a Family and Consumer Science course**
- ES-2 English 4 added as an English/Language Arts course**
- ES-3 Change Algebra Topics from a one year math course offering to a one trimester course offering**
- ES-4 Foundations for Advanced Algebra added as a mathematics course**
- ES-5 String Orchestra added as a music course**
- ES-6 Life Sciences and Society added as a science course**
- ES-7 Physical Sciences and Society added as a science course**
- ES-8 Forensic Science not be added as a science course**
- ES-9 Principles of Bio-Medical Science added as a science course**
- ES-10 Contemporary Issues added as a social studies course**
- ES-11 Introduction to Economics not be added as a social studies course**
- ES-12 Science on a Sphere**

VI. 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.

- Space Determination/Class Size Limits (January)
- Elementary English/Language Arts Curriculum Update (January)
- Supplemental Pay Plan for Professional Development (January)
- Art Curriculum (February)
- Student Travel Update (February)
- Strategic Plan (February)
- Art Acquisition (March)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.