



MINUTES

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

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

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

September 8, 2020

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Katie Bielski-Medina, Troy Bier, Larry Davis,  
Sandra Hett, John Krings, and Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Leslie Anderson, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Justine Horvath, Dani Scott,  
Jennifer Wilhorn

I. Call to Order

Mary Rayome called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Parent Representatives – Council for Instructional Improvement (CII)

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, explained there are three parent representatives who serve three year rotating terms on the CII Committee. This year there are two openings, one because of a term ending and another because Sarah Arendt, current parent representative, accepted a position with WRPS. Six parents applied and three returned the survey. Central Office Administration reviewed the surveys.

**ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, that the administration approve of Rachael Stormoen to serve as the CII parent representative for the 2020-21 and 2021-2022 school years and Melissa Huckabee to serve as the CII parent representative during the 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 school years.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### IV. Updates

##### A. Phonics Units of Study

Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Principal of Central Oaks Academy, introduced Leslie Anderson, Grade 2 teacher. Last year Leslie piloted the second grade phonics unit and participated in Units of Study professional development virtually through Teacher's College. Grade two teachers were given the choice to continue with Words Their Way or switch to the Phonics Unit of Study. Teachers unanimously chose to switch.

Phonics Units of Study is a very fun, interactive way for students to learn, with each grade level having a "stuffed" mascot. The program correlates well with the writing and reading units. Grammar, language standards and foundational skills are taught. At the end of a unit students celebrate in different ways, including bringing other grade levels in to listen to silly rhymes or creating songs.

##### B. Lincoln High School Student Travel to France

Justine Horvath, Lincoln High School World Language teacher presented information regarding a planned student trip to France in June of 2021 through the Xperitus program. Every two years a group of students, along with other schools/districts, travel to France for 21 days. Students live with host families, are introduced to French food and customs, and interact with French people to enhance their language skills. Fund raising efforts help students pay for the trip. If the trip needs to be cancelled because of COVID, dollars will be refunded in full.

##### C. Professional Development Opportunities to Prepare for Off Campus Teaching

Ms. Filtz reviewed the summary of professional development opportunities that were available to teachers this summer to prepare for adjusted learning options and to address the social and emotional health of students and staff. In July and August there were 22 classes offered with 549 total participants, 4K-12. These opportunities provided teachers with tools to assist them in teaching off-campus if needed. Comments from participants were very positive. Teachers were excited to use what they learned and feel more comfortable transitioning to virtual learning if necessary.

##### D. Re-opening

Ms. Filtz reviewed enrollment numbers to date, explaining parent choices between off campus learning, brick and mortar, or Central Oaks Academy. Within off campus learning there are also different options that were explained. Parents are still sorting through how they would like their children to learn.

Ms. Wilhorn reviewed Central Oaks enrollments. At the end of last school year there were 180 students enrolled at Central Oaks Academy. To date there are 535. Also, there were 90 66.030 students last year. This year we are at 152 students to date.

An additional handout was provided reflecting off campus staff as well as the number of students choosing off campus options to begin the school year. Along with classroom teachers, some virtual staff includes educator effectiveness coaches and interventionists. Educator Effectiveness will be waived this year, and interventionists were pulled from buildings where enrollments were down because parents were choosing virtual options.

Superintendent Broeren addressed re-opening in general, stating it was a great start. Overall staff and students were excited and glad to be back in school. When he questioned students about being back to school, they seemed genuine in their reply that they were glad to be back. Masks were not an issue. He has only been made aware of a handful of contacts/quarantines, and those were contacts made outside of school. Overall he stated that staff had risen to the occasion.

Sandra Hett questioned how busing was going. Mr. Broeren stated he was not aware of any issues. Traffic in general has been very manageable at the buildings, even with parents providing more transportation this year.

V. Consent Agenda Items

**ES-1 Parent Representatives on CII Committee**

VI. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Update (October)

Mary Rayome adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.