



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee

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

January 4, 2021

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

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

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz (virtually), Steve Hepp, Bill Oswald, Dani Scott,
Jennifer Wilhorn

I. Call to Order

John Krings called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025 School Calendars

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed proposed changes to the three school year calendars, including making Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a professional development day which would allow students to participate in events honoring him.

ES-1 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Brier to approve of the proposed calendars for the 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 school years.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Open Enrollment Space Determination Limits for the 2021-2022 School Year

Dr. Dani Scott, Director of Pupil Services, explained how the District determined special education open enrollments spaces for the 2021-22 school year, as presented in Attachment B of the background. There are four spots available in speech and

language. River Cities High School is unlimited, as long as general education applications are being taken.

ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Bielski-Medina that the Board of Education not designate any space limitations for regular education open enrollment students for the 2021-22 school year. However, the administration recommends that the Board of Education designate space available in special education programming as indicated in the "Projected Space Available" column set out in Attachment B.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Updates

A. Pitsch Early Learning Center Update

Dr. Scott indicated that plans are moving forward and staff is excited about the possible change to move early childhood and some 4K classrooms to one location. There have been multiple walk-throughs of the building with administration, Phil Bickelhaupt, Director Technology, and early childhood teachers. Early Childhood teachers are eager to be located together in one building. Dr. Scott shared a hand-out of the Pitsch Elementary School blueprint, with one area highlighted. This area was a classroom that was converted into three separate spaces, and would need to be made back into a classroom. Superintendent Broeren explained that the majority of this work can be completed by Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools maintenance staff.

Jennifer Wilhorn, 4K Director, stated that Mead and Grove 4K classes would be relocated to Pitsch Elementary. These sites can easily be moved as geographically there are other sites close by for students to attend. Busing of students was considered, and since Woodside students in the Town of Rome area already have a long bus ride to Woodside, adding more time to bus them to Pitsch wouldn't be practical. Lots of Tots is currently located at Pitsch, and consideration is being given to relocating one of Building Blocks classrooms there also. Administration is hoping to implement this change for the 2021-22 school year.

B. Central Oaks Academy Charter Status Update

Ms. Wilhorn, Principal of Central Oaks Academy, indicated there are two different areas that are being addressed: Speaking to the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) concerns; and moving ahead with the process of becoming a virtual charter school. A contract for the charter school is currently being developed and administration is planning to present it to the Committee at the February meeting. It was also noted that there are already five parents willing to serve on the Governance Board.

Superintendent Broeren added that the full Board of Education would be made aware of any letters or correspondences between the District and DPI. Sandra Hett asked if parents of students at Central Oaks had been notified of the possible change. Superintendent Broeren indicated that they hadn't yet been notified since nothing is official and is still yet in the planning stage. Ms. Filtz noted that the district has until June 30 to make necessary updates and changes.

V. Consent Agenda Items

ES-1 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025 School Calendars

ES-2 Open Enrollment Space Determination Limits for the 2021-22 School Year

VI. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

- Purchasing Policy (February)
- Mid-Year AGR Report (February)
- Strategic Plan Updates (February)

John Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.