



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 7, 2021

LOCATION: East Junior High School Cafeteria, 311 Lincoln Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: John Benbow

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steven Hepp, Aaron Nelson

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

The following individual made public comment:

- Mike Schedgick – cautioned the Board about accepting certain funding which may have too many strings attached and presents the danger of leading to corruption

IV. Actionable Items

A. Parent Representative – Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) Committee

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided an overview of the work performed by the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) Committee which is comprised of a wide variety of individuals from professional and administrative staff to a Board representative, as well as three parent representatives who serve three-year terms once selected. In a collaborative and shared decision-making model involving building leadership teams, items related to curriculum come through CII for discussion with any recommendations taken to the Board who ultimately makes final decisions.

Ms. Filtz shared the process by which a parent representative applies and gets recommended to serve on CII. One current parent position has been vacated on CII due to a parent moving out of the WRPS attendance area. The final year of their 3-year term is the length of time this appointment will cover. After receiving and reviewing four applications, the administration recommends the appointment of Christopher Inda to complete the remaining vacant parent term.

ES-1 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis, to approve the recommended candidate chosen as the parent representative, Christopher Inda, to serve out the remaining year in the vacant parent representative position on the District Council for Instructional Improvement. This appointment is for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Ms. Filtz explained that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to hold schools accountable for student achievement. In addition, ESSA requires every state to measure performance in reading, math, and science which the District does through the annual Forward Exam. ESSA includes entitlement grants that come from the federal government through the states. Included in the grant are Titles I, II, III and IV. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools will receive \$1,060,274.18 in Title I, \$180,473.68 for Title II, \$16,812.00 for Title III and \$59,623.25 for Title IV. These amounts do not include any carryover dollars on hand from unspent Title dollars from 2020-2021; those carryover amounts are being determined.

A total of \$1,317,183.11 in ESSA grant funds is designated for 2021-2022. This is an increase of \$90,721.11 from the 2020-2021 school year. The District currently has four Title buildings: Grove, Howe, Mead and River Cities High School.

Title I funds are allocated for improving basic programs by bringing new resources and requirements to provide personnel, instruction, and interventions to close achievement gaps districtwide. Title I supports some reading and math interventionists and programs at Title schools, assists homeless programming with personnel and transportation costs, provides professional development for staff members, funds parent involvement activities in Title buildings, and allows the District to employ behavior support paraprofessionals at Title buildings.

Title II funds are used for preparing, training and recruiting high quality teachers, principals and other school personnel. Funds are used to support the New Colleague/Mentor Program, to offset the salaries of one instructional coach and one achievement gap reduction teacher, as well as support the instructor stipends paid for professional development opportunities.

Title III funds are allocated specifically for language instruction and support for English Learners and immigrant students. Title III funds support one bilingual instructional aide, professional development and supplies that related to the bilingual program as well as any transportation needs that may arise for the program.

Title IV funds are used to ensure that WRPS students have access to a well-rounded education, promote safe and healthy schools, and provide an effective use of technology throughout the district. Title IV is used to offset the cost of conferences, instructional coach training, supporting grade level leaders, providing supplies for

parent outreach, and supporting professional development around District learning management systems.

B. Behavior and Mental Wellness Grant

Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, stated that the District has again received the Behavior and Mental Wellness Grant covering a span of two years with \$75,000 in funding provided for each year. Grant dollars will be utilized for purchasing programs, providing staff training, and building community partnerships that address student mental health needs.

Specific items to be covered by the grant funding include the Aspirus Mental Health Navigator, Signs of Suicide website and screener, and co-facilitation of student groups with community agencies. New items to be added include Signs of Suicide staff training, Boys and Girls Club graduation coaching, and the Families and Schools Together (FAST) parent engagement program. The goal in providing staff with proper training and the programs/resources outlined for students is to decrease the number of students feeling depressed or contemplating/attempting suicide. Implementing these initiatives will also help students feel a stronger connection to school and the community.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

ES-1 CII Parent Representative

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:

- ACP Update (October)
- Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) Results: 2020-2021
- New Course/Curriculum Modification Proposals – Discussion (November)
- ECCP/SCN (November)
- New Course/Curriculum Proposals – Decision (December)

Mary Rayome adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.