



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

December 6, 2021

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Craig Broeren, Steven Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen, Jennifer Wilhorn

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Actionable Items

None

V. Updates

A. Wisconsin State Assessment System ACT Aspire and ACT Test Results

Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of Lincoln High School, provided an overview of ACT Aspire and ACT assessment results. The ACT Aspire test is administered to grades 9 and 10, and the ACT test is administered to grade 11. This is the final year that the ACT Aspire product will be used, and the State is making a determination on which assessment will be utilized in future years. ACT Benchmarks including composite scores were shared along with historical performance of students considered to be "college ready" based upon the data. There is an optional writing component involved in the ACT assessment, and WRPS students who opted to take the writing portion of the test scored slightly above the State average. Mr. Rasmussen explained the differences in ACT Benchmarks and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) proficiency standards. The District invested in new math curriculum in recent years, and test results indicate that math performance by WRPS students has been improving as a result. Demographic data by gender, ethnicity, disability, English proficiency, and

socioeconomic status was reviewed. A comparison of data to surrounding and Wisconsin Valley Conference schools was shared. Mr. Rasmussen made mention of a pre-ACT test that was administered to all juniors in September prior to the regular ACT assessment in order to establish a benchmark for students to help them determine how they might perform on the regular ACT. This data is further analyzed by an LHS data team to detect how classroom teaching and curriculum are aligning with state standards and college benchmarks, and to consider any need for adjustments. As a result of the circumstances of the pandemic, a number of colleges are not requiring the ACT or a standard assessment for admission which has caused a lack of enthusiasm by students to participate. The assessment is still helpful for students attempting to secure scholarships and gain entrance into a variety of programs.

Similar data was shared for ACT Aspire results. Unlike the paper version LHS chooses to administer for the ACT, the only option for the Aspire exam is a computerized version. For many students, this is the first time they have experienced taking a standardized exam using an electronic device.

#### B. Innovation Mini Grant Recipients

Craig Broeren, Superintendent, provided an overview of the application and selection process for 2021-22 Innovation Mini Grant awards. Five applications were submitted, and the final three selected include: *Play to Learn Economics and Government (Paula Reaves – LHS)*, *Math for the Floors! (Lisa Laatsch-Sullivan – Washington)*, and *Going Gaga for Middle School Play (Stefanie Tryba, WR Area Middle School)*. Each grant recipient receives \$1,000 for project materials, and a \$1,000 stipend to implement the project.

#### C. Dyslexia Handbook

Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Instruction, explained that the Wisconsin “Dyslexia and Related Conditions” guidebook has been posted to the District website by December 1, 2021 as required by Wisconsin State Statute. A team of administrators and professional staff members are delving into the informational guidelines to consider current interventions being utilized and identify areas where growth is needed and improvements can be made.

#### VI. Consent Agenda Items

None

#### 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:

- AGR Mid-Year Report (February)
- District Strategic Plan (February)

Mary Rayome adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.