



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee

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

Katie Bielski-Medina, Chairperson
John Benbow, Jr.
Troy Bier
Larry Davis
Julie Des Jarlais
Sandra Hett
John Krings, President

May 2, 2022

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Katie Bielski-Medina, Troy Bier, Larry Davis, Julie Des Jarlais, Sandra Hett, John Krings

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, William Oswald, Ronald Rasmussen, Justin Weinhold

I. Call to Order

Katie Medina called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment - none

IV. Actionable Items

A. Physical Education K-5 Curriculum Maps

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Justin Weinhold, K-12 Physical Education Curriculum Chairperson, presented proposed curriculum maps for the K-5 physical education curriculum. The K-5 Physical Education Subcommittee has followed the required process for curriculum development using state and national standards, and researching best practice to create maps for the Phy Ed content area. The Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) committee reviewed the proposed maps at their April 20, 2022 meeting and unanimously voted to recommend approval of them.

Mr. Weinhold provided an overview of the changes being recommended, complimenting his colleagues for their work and participation in the updates being presented. Differences in the new versus old curriculum standards were reviewed. The new standards include: 1) demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns, 2) apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies and tactics related to movement and performance, 3) demonstrate knowledge and skills to achieve a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness, 4) exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others, 5) recognize

the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

Mr. Weinhold explained that the curriculum emphasizes a challenge and growth mindset and has relationship building skills incorporated such as in the areas of self-management and conflict resolution. Cultural exploration and awareness is touched on as well through the incorporation of lessons where students are immersed in fun and interactive activities such as traditional Native Tribal games which they have been enjoying this school year. The COVID-19 pandemic created unique benefits for the Phy Ed content area such as a renewed focus on fitness, developing different avenues by which to push curriculum out electronically, and the creation of shared resources.

Specific items that the Phy Ed department plans to purchase in the future include adjustable height basketball hoops, panel mats, an additional archery travel set and replacement parts for existing equipment, dodgeballs, wedge and octagon mats, additional bowling travel sets, 9 Square in the Air sets, Blaze Pods, and Floor Curling sets. The Committee was provided a demonstration of how the interactive Blaze Pods work, and Mr. Weinhold described the many uses they will serve in the Phy Ed content area.

Standards for the middle school and high school levels were reviewed, and Mr. Weinhold explained that a dance unit is being added.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions, and expressed support for the interactive and engaging activities that are being developed to keep kids interested and learning in Phy Ed.

ES-1 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Sandra Hett, to approve the adoption of the proposed K-5 Physical Education Curriculum maps beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Agenda Planners

Ms. Filtz presented recommended changes for the Elementary Student Agenda Planner. The primary change for this planner is an update to include the 2022-23 school year calendar.

ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to approve the proposed modifications to the Elementary School Student Agenda Planner for the 2022-23 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of Lincoln High School (LHS), presented recommended changes for the Lincoln 2022-23 Student Agenda Planner. Notable changes in the dress code area include the ability for students to now wear hats, caps, beanies, hoodies, and head coverings (subject to teacher discretion within individual classrooms) which has been piloted this year and has been going well; the addition of items not to be worn including actual physical flags which have always been

prohibited, and spikes, such as those worn on bracelets; and inclusion of language to allow backpacks to be carried with students and brought into classrooms at teacher discretion. Students have been carrying backpacks since the onset of the pandemic, and there have been benefits associated with it. Staff members are split in their support of allowing backpacks to be carried during school, which is why the recommendation is to allow it at teacher discretion. Mr. Rasmussen noted that on page 19 under #2, the word "hats" will be removed under the "Looks and Actions" section if the Board approves the dress code being changed to allow for students to wear hats. Besides updating the building maps, one other area of the LHS Planner being recommended for change is on page 24 to include sophomores in the National Honor Society selection process.

ES-3 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to approve the proposed modifications to the Lincoln High School Student Agenda Planner for the 2022-23 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

William Oswald, Associate Principal of Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS), presented recommended changes for the WRAMS Student Agenda Planner. The planner includes some logo rebranding developed as a result of the cafeteria table upgrade process; student artwork will continue to be featured on the WRAMS agenda planner cover. Notable changes in the planner include the addition of a newly developed WRAMS mission statement, schedule modifications which include time designated for enrichment activities as discussed with WRAMS staff members in recent Board listening sessions, inclusion of a 2022-23 early release schedule including a calendar for easier reference and understanding, transportation information updates, rules around Chromebook care and co-curricular on-line verification, similar dress code wording to mirror Lincoln's approach to exclude physical flags, chains, and spikes from being worn in school, and protocols and procedures to be followed when staff members refer students to in-house.

ES-4 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Larry Davis, to approve the proposed modifications to the WRAMS Student Agenda Planner for the 2022-23 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Get Kids Ahead Initiative Grant

Ms. Filtz explained that the District has access to increased funding to help build a comprehensive school mental health system through Governor Evers' *Get Kids Ahead Initiative*. The program is designed to address systemic challenges that schools encounter, promote wellbeing, and build a proactive system that serves all students. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools has received \$74,974.00 in funding.

Due to the program's intent, use of funds include many allowable mental health related activities which include training for staff in mental health-related programs and initiatives; mental health Evidence-Based Improvement Strategies (EBIS); mental health literacy for students and adults; stigma reduction programs; contracting with community mental health providers, consultants, organizations, CESAs, and other experts to provide consultation, training, mentoring, and coaching; parent training

and informational events; student and family assistance programs; school-employed mental health professionals accessible to all students; and mental health navigators. Ms. Filtz will be participating in a meeting scheduled for May 12, 2022 by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to learn more about parameters and deadlines affiliated with the grant.

ES-5 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Krings, to approve the Get Kids Ahead Initiative Grant in the amount of \$74,974.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Peer Review and Mentoring Grant

Over the years, the District has provided a comprehensive "New Colleague Program" in consortium with surrounding districts. During the 2022-2023 school year, Port Edwards will partner with WRPS in this consortium. Ms. Filtz described the initiative as one that provides an orientation program, monthly seminars, a mentor, and other support systems to make new colleagues' adjustment to their respective district a successful one. WRPS received the Peer Review and Mentor Grant last school year and is interested in applying for the \$25,000.00 grant once again to help defray costs associated with the program.

ES-6 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis, to approve of applying for the Peer Review and Mentoring Grant for the full amount of \$25,000.00 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Professional Development Plan (2022-2023)

Ms. Filtz explained that the 2022-23 District Professional Development (PD) Plan proposed for the 2022-23 school year was created with input from the Quality Educator Committee (QEC), the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII), and the administrative team. Goals adopted in the WRPS 2022-23 Strategic Plan were taken into consideration when developing the PD Plan. Core values, collective commitments, and specific action steps of the plan were reviewed. The entire plan and affiliated links embedded in the Action Steps table found within the plan can be reviewed on the WRPS website in the Curriculum Department webpage area.

ES-7 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by John Krings, to approve of the proposed 2022-2023 Professional Development Plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Professional Development Day Schedule (2022-2023)

Ms. Filtz presented a proposed schedule for 2022-23 Professional Development (PD) days to be held during the 2022-23 school year. The schedule was developed with input from the QEC, District curriculum coordinators, the CII, and the administrative team. The purpose of PD days is to:

- Meet District and building professional development goals as set out in the WRPS Professional Development Plan
- Provide collaboration time for teachers

- Provide professional development for teachers at the building and District levels
- Provide a cost-effective means of offering professional development
- Provide professional development time without taking teachers out of the classroom

With the Board approving of changing the originally planned PD date of October 28, 2022 to make it an "Autumn Break" day, the elementary and secondary PD day will move to August 25, 2022 for elementary and a flexible date between August 22-26, 2022 for secondary level staff members. Secondary level District directed PD time will then occur during one of the three in-service days on August 29-31, 2022. The elementary date could not be as flexible due to a need for grade level team meetings to occur. If everyone flexed their schedule, there would be no way to ensure everyone needing to be at particular meetings would be available and in attendance.

Ms. Filtz shared that staff members were pleased with having the option to work off-campus and log hours for recordkeeping days during the current school year. In a gesture to show appreciation and trust for the work that staff are doing, two similar opportunities were built into the 2022-23 PD Day schedule on the dates of November 28, 2022 and March 3, 2023. The November date will allow for hours to be logged in the morning (*this is the Monday after Thanksgiving break*), while the March date will allow hours to be logged in the afternoon (*this date was scheduled in connection with the State Gymnastics meet being hosted as it will help alleviate parking concerns and congestion at Lincoln by not having staff vehicles parked in the lot*). In the upcoming school year, April 7, 2023 is the Friday preceding Easter weekend. During the 2021-22 school year, professional staff members were not required to report on this Friday date (April 15, 2022). Again, this was done as a way to recognize all of the additional hours that staff members spent throughout the course of the pandemic to pivot and adjust to various modes of in-person and off-campus/virtual learning. Since this flexibility was well received, April 7, 2023 could also be a date during the PD schedule where staff members are not required to report as long as their individual building works out details to have building and collaboration/PLC time scheduled during the year leading up to this date so that staff work their required time. Buildings would document the hours. Staff members would be required to report to work on April 7th if their building doesn't provide this flexible opportunity, or the hours aren't worked in advance.

Other plans for PD dates in terms of building level initiatives, collaboration, and PLC work were shared. Student contact days remain the same in the calendar and all required instructional minutes required by the DPI will be met.

ES-8 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to approve of the Professional Development Day Schedule as shown as proposed for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Lu Projector Systems for K-5 Physical Education

Mr. Weinhold provided details about a proposal to purchase five Lu Projector Systems for Grant, Grove, Howe, Mead, and Woodside Elementary schools using Technology & Curriculum Referendum funds as well as ESSER III Grant funds for a total equipment and installation cost of \$151,442.20. The Phy Ed department has been using a portable Lu Projector System with great success throughout the 2021-22 school year

at several elementary schools. Under this proposal, a Lu Projector System would be installed in each school gym to allow students to work interactively in a variety of ways. Mr. Weinhold explained ways in which this helpful technology equipment helps educators foster smart and curious children by engaging their intelligence and learning styles using compelling activities, tools, and immersive experiences. Teammates can solve problems actively together and help encourage success in one another.

With the success seen at the various elementary schools, the elementary Phy Ed department is now interested in purchasing this equipment for the remaining elementary schools. Washington Elementary will keep the portable projector already purchased by the District. Due to the upcoming gym construction anticipated for THINK Academy, this building is not included in the recommendation. However, it is possible that a Lu Projector will be requested for installation at THINK in the future when it is plausible to do so.

ES-9 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis, to approve the purchase of five Lu Projector Systems for installation at Grant, Grove, Howe, Mead and Woodside Elementary schools, to be purchased July 1, 2022 and installed during the summer of 2022. This purchase would be funded through a combination of Technology and Curriculum Referendum funds as well as ESSER III Grant Funds. The total purchase with installation will be \$151,442.20.

Motion carried unanimously.

H. WSAW "Schools are a Great Place to Work" Campaign

Superintendent Broeren presented a proposal to work with WSAW Channel 7 in a collaborative recruitment promotion campaign with other school districts around employment vacancies. The intent would be for schools to promote awareness of vacancies outside of teaching positions in employment areas such as clerical/aides, food service, custodial, and other support roles. The "Schools are a Great Place to Work" campaign would include a landing page on the WSAW website that features all participating central Wisconsin schools along with a link to the schools' job postings. A tile ad would also be linked on the WSAW website where viewers can click to learn more about the jobs available. Up to as many as six area school districts have already committed to join. Multiple 30 second ad commercials would be produced under the campaign which WRPS would then be able to include on its website and social media pages.

The total cost of the campaign for WRPS would be \$12,000.00 which covers a 6-month commitment to advertise at \$2,000.00 per month. Committee members inquired as to whether District personnel are used in the ads, whether the ads would include substitute positions, and if any data analytics would be available to track the campaign's success for WRPS. Mr. Broeren stated that WRPS personnel would be solicited to provide testimony, and while he isn't certain about the data analytics piece, he will ask this question of WSAW and provide an update to the Board. Substitute positions wouldn't be included in the campaign; however, potential job seekers driven to the website will learn about the substitute position vacancies.

ES-10 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Krings, to approve of joining with WSAW for the "Schools are a Great Place to Work" campaign with a six-month commitment.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. WRPS German Language Program

As a follow-up to the March Educational Service Committee meeting at which Ms. Filtz informed the Committee that the future of the German world language program at WRPS was in jeopardy due to the inability to secure a teacher for the program. Ms. Filtz explained that a German language instructor has been hired, and the German language class will continue to be offered at Lincoln High School as it has in the past. In addition, those students who first indicated that they would like to pursue German and enrolled in the German I class but then were asked to choose a different elective when the future of German I was in jeopardy, have since been able to once again enroll in German I for the 2022-2023 school year if they prefer to.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Physical Education K-5 Curriculum Maps**
- ES-2 Agenda Planner – Elementary**
- ES-3 Agenda Planner – LHS**
- ES-4 Agenda Planner - WRAMS**
- ES-5 Get Kids Ahead Initiative Grant**
- ES-6 Peer Review and Mentoring Grant**
- ES-7 Professional Development Plan (2022-2023)**
- ES-8 Professional Development Day Schedule (2022-2023)**
- ES-9 Lu Projector System Purchase for K-5 Physical Education**
- ES-10 WSAW "Schools are a Great Place to Work" Campaign**

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:

- K-5 Health Curriculum Maps
- K-5 Physical Education Acquisition Purchases
- Social Emotional Learning Framework Resources Purchase
- Special Education Reading Resource: Reading Mastery Signature Series Purchase
- English Language Learners Resource Purchase
- Secondary Level Novel Selection Process

Katie Medina adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.