



Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee

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

MINUTES

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

February 6, 2023

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron
Nelson, Betsy VanBerkel, Jen Wilhorn

- I. Chairperson Katie Medina called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment - none
- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. 2023-2024 Strategic Plan

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed recommended updates to the District Strategic Plan, including tasks and action steps that will be removed since they have been accomplished. Ms. Filtz shared ways in which the K-12 Wisconsin Information and Technology Literacy Standards (ITLS) will be infused into curriculum maps. The information is being reviewed by District leadership to determine how best to synthesize and integrate the information.

Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, shared details around a plan for technology replacement into the future with the help of 2021 referendum funding. Ms. Timm inquired about whether technology upgrades in the Board conference room were part of the plan. Mr. Bickelhaupt confirmed that upgrades for the room are in process and timing for installation is dependent upon equipment availability.

With regard to meeting students' mental health and behavioral needs, the goal is to expand social emotional learning curriculum into the secondary level for the 2023-24 school year once piloting of materials has concluded and a recommendation is ready for Board consideration after the normal process for curriculum adoption, including a community preview of the materials, has occurred. District universal behavioral health screeners and interventions continue to undergo piloting and review with the goal of ensuring that proper integration occurs with the District's adoption of the eduClimber data management system. Gaggle Therapy continues to be utilized across the District,

and both Washington Elementary and Pitsch Early Learning Center will continue a pilot implementation of the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program which is intended to help build strong, supportive relationships at home. When asked if additional schools planned to implement the FAST program, Ms. Filtz explained that at the moment, FAST only has the ability to be involved in the schools it has begun in. If the program goes well and other buildings wish to pursue integrating the program at their respective school in the future, it is possible the program will be expanded.

Ms. Filtz provided information concerning the Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) work being done throughout the District as outlined in Objective 3.

Superintendent Broeren spoke on goals and accomplishments tied to Objectives 4, 5, and 7. With regard to facility usage, he stated that all District facilities are being utilized in some capacity. While technically vacant, Vesper Community Academy is currently leased by CESA 5 to house the Wood County Alternative School program. A community member has expressed interest in potentially purchasing the Vesper property; if this interest ends up in a proposal for the District to consider, Mr. Broeren will update and involve the Board as necessary. East Jr. High is occupied by District administrative offices, Central Oaks Academy, and is used by community partners from law enforcement and the fire department for drills and exercises as well as Mid-State Technical College for their academy cadet program. Numerous other events get scheduled at East such as Chess Club, Wisconsin State Art Education convention, Heart of Wisconsin events, the annual Stuff the Desk event, and multiple District professional development/DEU offerings as well as student athletic and children's theatre practices and events. The City of Wisconsin Rapids also uses the fieldhouse numerous evenings per week for community Park & Recreational activities. During the school year, the facility is in heavy use and there is seldom a night where nothing is scheduled. Objectives 5 and 7 as they relate to building security are being accomplished through the referendum projects which are wrapping up on time and within budget. The Critical Response Graphics (CRG) mapping project funded through the Office of School Safety grant continues to move forward. Committee members discussed facility use and complimented the staff from Buildings & Grounds who do an excellent job to maintain buildings.

Ms. Filtz covered progress and accomplishments made for Objectives 6, 8, and 9. The student and staff wellness committees are becoming more active following two years of limited activity during the pandemic. Compassion Resilience training for staff will conclude this year, and innovation in education continues to be promoted and embraced as evidenced by staff members participating in the annual Innovation Mini Grant application process. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) plan continues to be followed to address learning loss experienced by students during the pandemic; all dollars are on target to be spent by the required deadline of September 30, 2024.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask additional questions concerning the Strategic Plan.

ES-1 Motioned by John Benbow, seconded by John Krings to approve of the 2023-2024 Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Strategic Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. AGR Mid-Year Report

Ms. Filtz reviewed the mid-year Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) report. Information concerning each schools' implementation of AGR contract requirements, performance objectives, and success in attaining the objectives was shared. While the

report is mid-year, it is helpful to understand that the data involved to create the report for reading comes from the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) assessment that was administered to students in late September and early October making it more of a comparison to the beginning of the year, rather than mid-year. The PALS screener will be phased out after this year since the company was purchased by another entity who doesn't intend to continue with the product. Jen Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum, is working with a committee to evaluate another solution to fill this screening need. Math results for grades K-1 are based upon District screeners developed by the Math leadership committee. Beginning in grade 2, students complete the Renaissance Star Math assessment. The Committee considered how changing screening tools may impact the ability to accurately assess student progress since comparisons to historical information will be based off of different testing content/materials. Ms. Filtz made mention that this mirrors the difficulty with using State exams as an accurate basis of comparison to measure student success when the tests continually change. An end-of-year AGR Report will be brought to the Board at some point during the summer, after the school year has concluded.

B. Student Summer Travel

Ms. Filtz reviewed a student trip being planned by Jeanine Kleman, Lincoln High School Art teacher for June, 2023. Currently, 12 students and 2 adults (1 parent and 1 aunt), along with Ms. Kleman and retired Art teacher Connie Henke, will be traveling to Germany, Prague and Switzerland with the possibility of adding on Paris. The group will be gone for 10 days, and the cost is \$4,400.00 per student which includes airfare, hotels, breakfast, dinner, bus, guide and entrance fees. Student fundraising is taking place to help mitigate the costs involved. When asked by the Committee whether any teachers collaborate on trips to lower costs involved, Ms. Filtz stated she wasn't certain how much of that occurs since different content areas may prefer unique itineraries that best align with the curricular areas they cover.

C. Remote Learning on Inclement Weather Days

Ms. Filtz presented information concerning the implementation of Remote Learning Days on occasions when school buildings are closed due to inclement weather. District academic calendars are developed with extra hours of instruction built into the year for potential instances of emergency school cancellation due to weather or other events. For the 2022-23 academic year the District has exceeded these reserved hours. Since much has been learned about how to deliver instruction remotely as a result of the pandemic, this is the first year of officially delivering instruction remotely on inclement weather days. The ability to implement Remote Learning Days will prevent families from being inconvenienced by an extended school year. Ms. Filtz inquired with other school districts throughout the state to determine if they had implemented remote learning policies to date. She discovered that this is an emerging alternative for districts, and policy development is in its early stages for them as well. The administration intends to bring recommended policy language to the Board for consideration and approval in spring, 2023.

Ms. Filtz explained that building administrators have developed remote learning expectations for staff members and students at each respective school. She then shared a report containing a wide sampling of the learning materials and communications from building leadership and teachers that was distributed to help students and families prepare and adjust for times when Remote Learning Days occurred. Differences between the elementary and secondary level approach were highlighted and discussed by the Committee. A suggestion was made to include Remote Learning Days information for families during the welcome back and open house orientations/events that occur in August. The Committee expressed appreciation to Ms. Filtz for the work involved in

developing the report, and applauded the efforts by building staff to implement Remote Learning Days that are tied to expectations and accountability while continuing to offer new learning and instruction for students on these days.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

ES-1 2023-24 District Strategic Plan

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Summer School Course Proposals (March)
- Adding Washington Elementary as a Schoolwide Title School (March)
- Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP) Applications (April)
- Board Policy 723.1 Emergency School Closings and 723.1 Rule Emergency School Closing Procedures Revisions (April)
- Agenda Planners (May)
- District Professional Development Plan (May)

Katie Medina adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.