



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
John Krings, President
Kathi Stebbins-Hintz
Julie Timm

June 5, 2023

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Troy Bier, Katie Bielski-Medina, Larry Davis, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen, 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. Grades 6-12 Physical Education Curriculum Maps

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Amy Andrys, K-12 Health Education Curriculum Chairperson, who presented proposed curriculum maps for the grades 6-12 Health Curriculum. Ms. Andrys and the 6-12 Health Education Subcommittee have been working to revise the 6-12 Health Curriculum Maps in accordance with the Wisconsin State Standards/Health Literacy Standards. WRPS uses a Comprehensive School Health Education concept to guide health instruction. Ms. Andrys reviewed the curriculum map layouts for each grade level.

In April, 2023, the proposed 6-12 curriculum maps were reviewed by the District Council for Instructional Improvement (CII). The CII unanimously voted to recommend the proposed curriculum maps to the Board of Education for possible approval. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the recommendation.

ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the adoption of the proposed 6-12 Health Curriculum Maps as presented beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Health Curriculum Acquisition Grades K-12

Ms. Andrys explained that District K-12 Health Curriculum Subcommittees have collaborated to conduct research, implement pilot programs, and assess health curriculum resources for possible purchase. The overarching goal is to promote consistent teaching of the District's approved health curriculum across all grade levels.

Level K-5 materials that were considered include HMH text, The Great Body Shop, Health Smart, and Quaver. The recommendation is to adopt Quaver, which is web-based, music heavy, and is interactive, colorful and engaging. Approved videos to support Human Growth and Development topics are available for free online to supplement as necessary. "Play it Safe" curriculum and workbooks would also be purchased for this level. At the grades 6-12 level, the materials request is for CPR mannequins and a cloth parachute.

Ms. Andrys explained that the selected curriculum resources were shared with the District CII on April 19, 2023, and received approval on a vote of 26-1 to recommend the purchase to the Board of Education. A public viewing of the materials was also held in April. Four community members and one school board member reviewed the proposed materials. Feedback from the public viewing was very positive. The total cost of the request is \$73,209.43 and would be purchased using District Curriculum Referendum Acquisition funds. Committee members took the opportunity to ask questions.

ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed K-12 Health Curriculum resources as presented beginning with the 2023-2024 school year; the total amount of \$73,209.43 will be funded through the District Curriculum Acquisition Referendum budget. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Science Curriculum Maps Grades 9-12

Ms. Filtz introduced Dave Bergerson, K-12 Science Education Curriculum Chairperson, to share proposed curriculum maps for the 9-12 Science Curriculum. Mr. Bergerson and the 9-12 Science Education Subcommittee have been working to revise the 9-12 Science Curriculum Maps, centering their work around the Next Generation Science Standards. The proposed maps were presented to the District CII on April 19, 2023, and the CII unanimously voted to recommend the proposed curriculum maps to the Board of Education for possible approval. Mr. Bergerson provided an overview of required science graduation requirements, and explained that there are currently 26 science course offerings taught at Lincoln. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-3 Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed 9-12 Science Education Curriculum Maps as presented, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Science Curriculum Acquisition 9-12

Mr. Bergerson reviewed the process used by the Science Subcommittee to evaluate current resources and consider any changes in curriculum delivery that might be

needed for the 9–12 science curricula. He also shared an overview of the acquisition materials being recommended for purchase in an amount of \$93,301.82. The CII unanimously approved sending the acquisition proposal to the Board of Education for possible approval. A public viewing of the materials was held in April, 2023, with four community members and one school board member attending. Feedback from this preview was positive. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-4 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the proposed 9-12 science curriculum resources as presented beginning with the 2023-2024 school year at a total amount of \$93,301.82 to be funded through the District Curriculum Referendum budget. Motion carried unanimously.

E. 2023-2024 Professional Development Day Calendar

Ms. Filtz reviewed the proposed calendar for Professional Development Days scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year. The schedule was developed with input from the Quality Educator Committee, curriculum coordinators, the CII, and the administrative team. Professional Development Days are a valuable component in maintaining excellence in instruction, and the purpose of these days includes:

- Meeting District and building professional development goals as set out in the WRPS Professional Development Plan
- Providing collaboration time for teachers
- Providing professional development for teachers at the building and district levels
- Providing a cost-effective means of offering professional development
- Providing professional development time without taking teachers out of the classroom

Ms. Filtz shared that a survey conducted with professional staff members revealed that over 70% would prefer to have more days of professional development built into August, and it is better for the Curriculum Department as well in terms of frontloading curriculum information at the beginning of the year. Ms. Filtz then explained that a keynote presentation by John O'Leary will occur at the August 28, 2023 in-service date for all staff. Building level breakout sessions will follow the presentation to allow for some guided reflection work to take place within building teams. The administrative team will also have a follow-up session with John O'Leary in the afternoon to continue the conversation and training at the leadership level. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-5 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve of the proposed Professional Development Day Schedule for the 2023-24 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Revised Supplemental Pay Plan

Revisions to the Supplemental Pay Plan for teachers to begin with the 2023-2024 school year were presented by Ms. Filtz. Key changes to the plan include:

- The addition of earning District Educational Units (DEU) through completion of micro-credentials;

- Changing the allotment of hours allowed for individual reading during a book study or individual viewing during a webinar;
- Increasing the compensation for a completed DEU from \$125.00 to \$175.00 for the maximum amount earned per school year to move from \$750.00 to \$1,050.00;
- Including the history of the Quality Educator Community on a summarized page.

Ms. Filtz explained how the micro-credentialing option will be helpful in specialty areas such as Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, counseling, and/or music since these specific curricular areas need a more tailored approach due to the unique curricular area being covered. Ms. Filtz noted that there has not been an increase in the dollar amount earned per DEU since the inception of DEUs in 2013-2014. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions, and they expressed support for the variety of professional development opportunities for staff. They are pleased to be investing in staff in this manner to help teachers continue their learning and remain current in their field.

ES-6 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Julie Timm to approve of the revised Supplemental Pay Plan as presented to begin with the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Carl Perkins Grant

Ms. Filtz introduced Eric Siler, Career & Technical Education Coordinator, who explained that the purpose of the Carl Perkins Grant is to help prepare students for high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations in current or emerging professions; promote the development of activities that integrate rigorous and challenging academic and career and technical instruction, linking secondary education and post-secondary education for career and technical education (CTE) students; provide technical assistance and professional development related to best practices that improve CTE programs, services, activities, and quality of CTE educators, faculty, administrators, and counselors; and support partnerships between secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, local workforce investment boards, and business and industry. The 2023-2024 Carl Perkins Grant application will focus on gaps found in the District CTE Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment in five CTE pathways: Agriculture, Business and Administration, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Family and Consumer Sciences Food & Beverage. Expenditures will focus on professional development, dual credit course expansion including software and hardware for the courses, and equipment for the five CTE pathways.

ES-7 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the application for the Carl Perkins Grant for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$52,942.00. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Department of Workforce Development (DWD) CTE Incentive Grant

Mr. Siler reviewed the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) CTE Incentive Grant which enables WRPS and area businesses and industry to provide apprenticeship opportunities and approved industry-recognized certifications for students. Lincoln High School (LHS) had ninety-five 2022 graduates earn industry-recognized certifications resulting in \$80,173.00 (funds estimated from DWD's amount per student in 2021). These funds are allocated for the growth of Career &

Technical Education programs and the expansion of opportunities for students to earn industry-based certifications. Mr. Siler expressed deep appreciation to the staff members involved in putting the effort forward to provide these certification opportunities for students. Committee members were pleased with the work done to have WRPS receive CTE grant funding.

ES-8 Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the Department of Workforce Development Grant Technical Incentive Grant funds for approximately \$80,173.00. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Renaissance Learning Purchase Contract

Ms. Filtz provided details around a proposed contract to purchase Renaissance products for the 2023-24 school year for a total cost of \$54,631.83. The products utilized by WRPS include Star Math, Star Reading, Star Early Literacy and Freckle Math.

Star Math is used to screen students three times per year to determine progress in mathematics and to decide whether a student needs intervention or acceleration in mathematics. In addition, student results on the Star math assessment are used for reporting math achievement as required by the State for participation in the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) program.

Star Reading is used to screen students three times per year in grades two through five to determine student progress, and it is helpful in deciding whether or not a student needs intervention or acceleration in reading. In addition, student results on the Star Reading assessment are used for reporting reading achievement as required by the State for participation in the AGR program. Students in other grades are screened in reading using other products. Students in kindergarten through grade two will be screened using the Star Early Literacy screener. Students in grades six through twelve are screened using the Reading Inventory (RI).

Star Early Literacy is a computer-based assessment designed to measure early literacy skills of beginning readers. The assessment is adaptive, meaning that questions get harder or easier based on how children respond. Star Early Literacy measures students' understanding of the alphabetic principle and print concepts, as well as their ability to identify and discriminate between letters (visual discrimination). Star Early Literacy will replace the PALS Screener for grades K-2 as PALS has been removed from the market by its manufacturer.

Freckle Math by Renaissance helps K-12 teachers differentiate instruction to reach every student at their own level. The District uses Freckle Math to provide differentiated instruction in grades 6–8. This resource allows teachers to assign targeted activities to students that help fill learning gaps from previous grades as well as support current skills and concepts.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-9 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the contract with Renaissance Learning for the 2023-24 school year in the amount of \$54,631.83, to be paid for with the ESSER III Formula Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. Boys & Girls Club ESSER III Summer Grant Application and Implementation

Ms. Filtz explained that The American Rescue Plan (ARP) of 2021 stipulates that states can allocate 1% of their total ARP funds towards evidence-based summer enrichment programs. These programs aim to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of students, particularly those with unfinished learning. As part of this initiative, school districts and community-based organizations can join forces with local education agencies (LEAs) to apply for the ESSER III Summer School Grant.

Jennifer Allen, Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area (BGCWRA), worked with Superintendent Craig Broeren and Ms. Filtz to successfully complete a grant application as part of a consortium between BGCWRA and WRPS. The application was approved, resulting in a two-year grant award totaling \$176,000.00.

The overarching objective of this grant is to address summer learning loss and foster collaborative efforts to support all students. The BGCWRA has outlined three primary goals for their work: to demonstrate improvement in reading skills, enhance math skills, and cultivate a sense of belonging at the club. Ms. Filtz explained how WRPS intends to collaborate with this community-based organization to enhance the overall well-being of students.

B. Student Engagement Facilitators (SEF) 2022-2023 Recap

Ms. Filtz stated that as part of the ESSER III Local Education Agency (LEA) Plan for WRPS, Student Engagement Facilitators (SEFs) were assigned to each District elementary building as well as Pitsch Early Learning Center, WRAMS, and LHS. The work of the SEFs has evolved as the year has progressed and the impact each has made on student achievement and their sense of belonging in the school family is immeasurable. Members of the SEF team were present to showcase the work they have done this past school year and share goals for the 2023-2024 school year. Details were shared concerning the results of a survey conducted with staff members around the utilization of SEFs within buildings during the 2022-23 school year. Areas covered by the SEFs include professional development, Educator Effectiveness, New Colleague support, behavior issues and on-call support, individual student or small group academic and enrichment support, and family engagement and communication. In a video message played during the presentation, building administrators expressed their support for the SEF positions and provided details around how these staff members have positively impacted the school environment and contributed to student success. Committee members thanked everyone for the informative, positive presentation showcasing the excellent work being done by SEFs.

C. Student Travel

Ms. Filtz provided details about student travel which occurred on Saturday, May 20, 2023 when LHS Music Instructor Jeanne Olson took 52 LHS students to Chicago, Illinois to visit the Field Museum, Millennium Park, and the Cadillac Palace Theatre

to see *Disney's Aladdin*. It was a great opportunity for students to see a live performance outside of Wisconsin Rapids.

Ms. Filtz then shared that after a successful State Leadership Conference (SLC) which was held in Green Bay on April 16-18, 2023, WRAMS FBLA has 13 competitors moving on to the National Leadership Conference (NLC) held on June 27 – July 2, 2023. The chapter also received 2nd place Outstanding Chapter in the State and Largest Chapter in the State. Only the top two place getters get to move on to the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Christina Mitchell is the FBLA group advisor, and eleven students, one advisor, and one parent look forward to the upcoming conference being held in Atlanta, GA from June 27 through July 2, 2023.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Grades 6-12 Health Education Curriculum Maps**
- ES-2 Grades K-12 Health Curriculum Resources Acquisition**
- ES-3 Grades 9-12 Science Education Curriculum Maps**
- ES-4 Grades 9-12 Science Curriculum Resources**
- ES-5 2023-2024 Professional Development Day Schedule**
- ES-6 Supplemental Pay Plan Revisions**
- ES-7 Carl Perkins Grant for 2023-24**
- ES-8 Department of Workforce Development Technical Incentive Grant Funds**
- ES-9 Renaissance Learning Contract for 2023-24**

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Pupil Academic Standards (July)
- Achievement Gap Reduction Report (July)
- Future Forward and Reading Corps Summary (July)
- Seclusion and Restraint Report (August)
- Board Policy 354 Student Travel (August)
- Parent Council for Instructional Improvement Representative (September)
- ESSA Update (September)

Ms. Medina adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.