WRPS

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
John Krings, President
Kathi Stebbins-Hintz
Julie Timm

August 7, 2023

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Aaron Nelson

I.   Call to Order

II.   The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III.   Public Comment – none.

IV.   Actionable Items

A.   Field Trip Policy Changes – First Reading

Ms. Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, presented proposed changes to Board Policies 352 – Field Trips, 352 Rule – Field Trip Planning Criteria, 354 – Travel and Exchange Programs, and 539.2 – Exchange Teaching for first reading. The revisions will align the policies with current practice and clarify expectations. Field trip updates would continue to come to the Board. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm, to recommend the first reading approval of Board Policies 352 - Field Trips, 352 Rule – Field Trip Planning Criteria, 354 – Travel and Exchange Programs, and 539.2 – Exchange Teaching. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Student Conduct, Cheating, Plagiarism and Instructional Goals and Objectives Policy Review and Changes – First Reading

Ms. Filtz explained that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly influencing the educational world and impacting both the way educators teach and students learn and demonstrate their learning. While AI presents unique challenges connected to potential plagiarism and cheating that needs to be considered, it should also be viewed as a unique tool to be embraced and understood so that it can be effectively used. AI is an emerging and evolving technology that is here to stay.

District Board policies related to plagiarism or cheating do not currently recognize AI as an example of how students may misrepresent mastery on an academic exercise. Ms. Filtz reviewed proposed changes to Policy 443 Student Conduct, 443 Rule – Code of Classroom Conduct, 443.9 – Cheating, 443.9 Rule (1) – Cheating Guidelines, 443.9 Rule (2) – Plagiarism Guidelines, and 310 – Instructional Goals and Objectives. Adding language prohibiting the use of AI generators without proper citations and without instructor knowledge or approval will provide classroom teachers the authority to deal with cases of cheating or plagiarism connected to students' use of AI. Certain policies included for review have no changes being recommended; however, since they are connected to the cheating and plagiarism policies it is a beneficial time for them to undergo review.

With regard to the Code of Conduct policy, this policy will likely come back for an additional review with possible proposed changes once the Multi-Level Systems of Support (MLSS) Handbook (which is the District behavioral/Response to Intervention (RtI) Handbook) gets updated in the coming months. Ms. Filtz stated that the policies are very clear in stating that removal of a student is to be the teacher's last resort when dealing with behavioral issues, and the work being done in the areas of professional development, social-emotional learning instruction, special education initiatives, and action by individual buildings will help reduce the number of removals that occur. References to the use of paper forms is also being stricken from policy language since the majority of discipline is now tracked through either the eduCLIMBER or Skyward systems.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions. With regard to Policy 443 Rule, a suggestion was made to perhaps wait on changing the language since it will be brought back for additional changes in the coming months. Commentary was also made around the policy being too prescriptive with regard to reasons for student removal. Ms. Filtz and Superintendent Broeren explained that the policy likely wouldn't be brought back for additional change until the MLSS Handbook is approved and leadership teams have had an opportunity to consider how aspects of Tiered instruction and behavioral RtI fit into existing policy language. If nothing else, perhaps the recommendation will be to have the policy simply make a cross reference to the MLSS Handbook.

ES-2 Motion by Troy Bier seconded by John Krings, to recommend the first reading approval of Board Policies 443 Student Conduct, 443 Rule – Code of Classroom Conduct, 443.9 – Cheating, 443.9 Rule (1) – Cheating Guidelines, 443.9 Rule (2) – Plagiarism Guidelines and 310 Instructional Goals and Objectives. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Grant
Application

Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, explained that the Title VI program is designed
to address the unique cultural, language, and educational needs of American Indian
and Alaska native students. Each year WRPS collaborates with a local committee of
families that are served under the Title VI program. Mr. Hepp provided information
about Title VI grant funding amounts, objectives, and priorities. Funding is tied to
students completing a federal ED 506 Form which at times has been difficult to get
families to complete and return; however, staff members continue to work on
removing any potential barriers in this regard. The grant funding amount for the
2023-24 school year is $20,771.00.

**ES-3 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, to recommend
approval to apply for the Title VI Elementary and Secondary Education Act:
Indian Education Formula Grant in the amount of $20,771.00.**

D. Skyward Qmlativ Purchase and Migration

Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, explained the long-standing history the
District has in using the Skyward Student Information System (SIS) to manage pupil
grades, attendance, discipline, health information, and much more. The Skyward
SMS 2.0 software is a crucial application in the day-to-day operations as a District.
Skyward launched a new version several years ago called Qmlativ but up until
recently, this version was not a viable option for the District since certain pieces of
the software needed were not yet developed. The needed components are now
complete, so a migration makes sense with the recent adoption of the Qmlativ
Finance software. The SIS software is very similar in layout to the Finance software
and will also allow the migration of Skyward servers out of District and to ISCorp for
hosting. Costs to upgrade to the Qmlative SIS were reviewed along with the potential
3-year contract being recommended.

**ES-4 Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to recommend
migrating from Skyward SMS 2.0 to Skyward Qmlativ and entering into a new
3-year contract with Skyward and ISCorp for a cost of $23,383.74 to be funded
from the 2023-2024 Technology Support Budget. Motion carried unanimously.**

V. Updates

A. School Health Manual Revisions

Mr. Hepp shared updates that have been made to the School Health Manual around
contact information, updated forms, and procedural changes in nursing services.

B. Seclusion and Restraint Report

Mr. Hepp shared the annual seclusion and physical restraint report, noting the decline
from 48 to 29 restraints which may be attributed to factors such as the increased
training of staff in this area, mental health and trauma training that has occurred,

and the implementation of social and emotional learning curriculum which has helped students and staff become more aware of triggers and regulation. Changes being implemented in the debriefing process after a second incident occurs were explained. Committee members discussed the report and asked questions around parent involvement in the seclusion/restraint process, the degree to which staff members are injured and the preventative measures to protect them, the success rate in retaining and securing staff members in these positions, and discussed the dynamics in society that have an increased number of students coming to school in a more dysregulated state.

C. Career and Technical Education Incentive Grant Funding

Ms. Filtz explained that the Career and Technical Education Incentive Grant awards funds of up to $1,000 per student for each class of 2022 high school graduate who has earned industry-recognized certifications. This appropriation incentivizes school districts to support CTE programming which ultimately leads to students earning industry-recognized certifications. The District had 95 claims approved, resulting in an allocation of $67,016.80.

VI.   Consent Agenda Items

ES-1   **First reading of Board Policies 352 - Field Trips, 352 Rule – Field Trip Planning Criteria, 354 – Travel and Exchange Programs, and 539.2 – Exchange Teaching**
ES-2   **First Reading of Board Policies 443 Student Conduct, 443 Rule – Code of Classroom Conduct, 443.9 – Cheating, 443.9 Rule (1) – Cheating Guidelines, 443.9 Rule (2) – Plagiarism Guidelines and 310 Instructional Goals and Objectives**
ES-3   **Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant**
ES-4   **Migration from Skyward SMS 2.0 to Skyward Qmlativ**

VII.   Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Parent Council for Instructional Improvement Representative (September)
- ESSA Update (September)

Ms. Medina adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.