



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

November 6, 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, Katie Bielski-Medina, Troy Bier, Larry Davis, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Lizzie Messerli, Aaron Nelson

- I. Call to Order
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment – none.
- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. Curriculum Proposals: New Course Proposals, Modifications and Name Change

Ms. Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, reviewed a number of curriculum proposals for the Committee's consideration which Committee members previewed at the October meeting. The proposed changes have undergone additional review by the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) Committee and building leadership teams which resulted in the original proposal to eliminate the "Explorations in Algebra, Geometry and Statistics" course to be reconsidered. Due to specific concerns raised during the process, a modification rather than elimination is being proposed. The Committee considered and took action on the following recommendations:

- 1) CLL: Character, Life and Leadership

ES-1 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Larry Davis, to recommend approval of CLL: Character, Life and Leadership to move from a 1.0 credit course to a .5 credit course that will concentrate on the unique needs of the freshman level special education students and focus on the executive functioning skills of special education students beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Work Prep and Your Finances

- ES-2 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Julie Timm, to recommend approval of Work Prep and Your Finances for a .5 elective course that will be offered in the third trimester and will fulfill the Financial Literacy graduation requirements for special education students beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

3) Independent Living in a Digital Age

- ES-3 Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by John Krings, to recommend approval of changing the name of the course Independent Living I to Independent Living in a Digital Age and accept this course to meet the IT Fundamentals requirement for special education students who are not able to successfully meet the requirement in our current IT Fundamentals courses. The course will continue to be offered for 1.0 credit to 9-12th grade students with changes to take effect in the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

4) America's Music History

- ES-4 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier, to recommend approval of the course America's Music History as a .5 music elective credit to be offered beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

5) Raider Rhythm

- ES-5 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to recommend approval of the course Raider Rhythm as a .5 music elective for our students with special needs who have an IEP or 504 Plan beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

6) Mental Wellness and Stress Management

- ES-6 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier, to recommend approval of the course Mental Wellness and Stress Management as an MSTC Dual Credit course and a .5 elective LHS course to be offered to 10th, 11th and 12th grade students beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

7) Sports Entertainment Marketing

- ES-7 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Krings, to recommend approval of the proposed name change to the current course Sports Entertainment Marketing to Sports Entertainment and Digital Marketing beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

8) Extended Algebra I

- ES-8 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis, to recommend approval of Extended Algebra I for 1.5 credits as a freshman level course to replace**

Algebra Topics beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

9) Introduction to Statistics

ES-9 Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Larry Davis, to recommend approval of Introduction to Statistics for a .5 mathematics credit at the junior or senior level beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

10) College Prep Math

ES-10 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Krings, to recommend approval of College Prep Math for a 1.0 mathematics credit at the senior level beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

11) AP Precalculus

ES-11 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, to recommend approval of AP Precalculus for a 1.0 mathematics credit at the junior or senior level beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Modification to the Original Request to Eliminate Explorations in Algebra, Geometry and Statistics

Ms. Filtz stated that after hearing commentary provided at the CII committee meeting and giving consideration to the concerns raised around the need for this course to fulfill a certain segment of the student population who relies on the course to earn the required 3.0 math credits for graduation, a modification is being proposed to the Explorations in Algebra, Geometry and Statistics course rather than eliminating it entirely. Lincoln High School (LHS) Math Department Chairperson Stacy Moyer presented a revised course proposal to drop the statistics portion and change the title of the course to Explorations in Algebra and Geometry, offering it as a .5 math credit to juniors and seniors to assist in the upcoming transition year. The course would be reevaluated in a year to determine if additional changes are prudent. Another advantage in offering the modified version of the course is that it will provide more flexibility in scheduling.

ES-12 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm, to recommend approval of the request to change the title of the course Explorations in Algebra, Geometry and Statistics to Explorations in Algebra and Geometry and offer it as a .5 math credit to juniors and seniors beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Early College Credit Program (ECCP) and Start College Now (SCN) Applications

Ms. Filtz shared that there are no ECCP requests for the spring; however, 27 students have applied to take 16 courses through the SCN program at Mid-State Technical College during the spring semester.

ES-13 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Krings, to recommend approval of the 27 student requests to take 16 courses through the Start College Now Program at Mid-State Technical College during the spring of the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

D. District Education Units and Retirement

Ms. Filtz shared that the main goal of the District Educational Units (DEUs) is to encourage as many professional staff as possible to share their expertise to help move professional development in the District forward, and also offer professional staff an avenue to enhance their salaries. The current Supplemental Pay Plan does not allow for compensation if a teacher decides to retire and has DEU hours "banked."

The Quality Educator Committee (QEC) has suggested that a change be made to existing Supplemental Pay Plan language to allow a professional staff member who meets the qualifications for early retirement (age 57 and 15 years in the District) to receive monetary compensation for up to 6 full DEUs that were completed in the year of retirement. Specific language changes were shared, and Ms. Filtz explained that the amendment would take effect for DEU hours earned during the 2023-24 school year. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-14 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to recommend approval of the suggested modifications to the Supplemental Pay Plan which would allow retiring professional staff members to be compensated for up to 6 full District Educational Units (DEU) in the year of their retirement. Each full DEU is worth \$175.00. Partial DEUs would be paid out at \$27.00 an hour. This modification will take place at the end of the 2023-2024 school year and will be eligible for those employees who meet the qualifications for early retirement (age 57 and 15 years or more in the District) and have had their retirement approved by the Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Board Policy 458 and 458R – First Reading

Lizzie Messerli, Director of Food Services, explained that school districts operating USDA Child Nutrition Programs are required to maintain a Student Wellness Policy and update it at least every three years. A triennial assessment report card was generated for WRPS to measure how effective District wellness policies support healthful practices and procedures for students, staff, and families. Ms. Messerli reviewed the results of the assessment and summarized policy objectives needing attention. Revisions to Board Policy 458 – Student Wellness Policy and 458 Rule – Nutrition Guidelines were reviewed and recommended for first reading.

ES-15 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis, to recommend approval of Board Policies 458 – Student Wellness Policy and 458 Rule – Nutrition Guidelines for first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. Student Travel

1. Justine Horvath, French language teacher at Lincoln High School, presented plans to take a group of approximately 24 French levels III-V students on a 10-day trip abroad, which includes visits to Paris, St. Malo, Loire Valley and Monaco among other stops. The trip is planned for June 16 – June 25, 2025 with an estimated cost per student of \$4,532.00. Fundraising will begin soon and families are responsible for any remaining costs not covered by their students.
2. Ms. Filtz presented a plan for Lincoln High School German Teacher Elizabeth Mancheski to take students to the Christkindlmarkt, or holiday market, in Aurora, Illinois on December 15, 2023. The trip will include a German dinner in Sauk City, Wisconsin and the cost per student is estimated to be \$67 to \$80.
3. Ms. Filtz presented a plan for Lincoln High School Orchestra Teacher Ginger Marten to take approximately 15 students to the Dorian Orchestra Festival at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa by bus on February 4-5, 2024. Students will attend rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, and master classes over two days along with other orchestra students from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The cost is approximately \$120 per student.
4. Ms. Filtz presented a plan for District Music Teacher Julie Stoffel to nominate and take students to attend the Dorian Vocal Festival held at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa from January 8–9, 2024. Generally, 4-6 WRPS students can attend this festival where singers from 7 states come together to form a huge festival choir. Students who attend pay their own fees and will be spending the night in a local hotel in Iowa.

B. Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) Results: 2022-2023

Ms. Filtz provided an analysis of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System test results from 2022-2023. Highlights shared include:

- Economically disadvantaged student population has decreased in 7 District buildings
- High numbers of students are being tested
- Significant growth in ELA at the 6th and 7th grade levels is occurring, but overall performance is still not at satisfactory levels
- Act 20 will have an impact on the approach in Reading at the primary grade levels
- Math scores in grades 3-6 continue to trend with the State; the goal for the upcoming year is to be above State scores
- Grade 6 had a 10% growth increase overall in proficient and advanced categories
- The slide occurring in 7th and 8th grade needs to stop and is being addressed. Any resource that has been requested from the Curriculum Department has been provided to the 7th and 8th grade teams which include professional development, increased times to meet and discuss progress, changing the schedule at 8th grade to help promote math support, purchasing of software to

- help enhance learning experiences and identify struggles of certain students through data collection, and increased intervention time
- Growth has been experienced in grades 4-8 science as they nearly reach State level performance; K-8 science will undergo a curriculum acquisition this school year
 - Grades 4 and 8 social studies scores continue to be at or above the State average and approach a 60% mark of proficient and advanced. Changes will be made this year in scheduling the 10th grade Forward Exam to optimize student success on the exam
 - Achievement gaps in certain areas continue to be a concern; the pupil services and curriculum departments will continue to work collaboratively to close these gaps
 - Comparative data with surrounding districts and Valley schools was reviewed, and Ms. Filtz described how comparative grade level data is a new component being used to analyze performance results and potentially detect deficits
 - ACT results indicate overall improvements in English/language arts and a slight decline in math and science
 - Lincoln High School ranks above the State in ELA and science, and slightly below in math
 - Pre ACT scores help predict how prepared students are to take the ACT; since this is the first year of the test, comparing data and trends is not yet possible

Committee members took the opportunity to ask questions concerning the student assessment data and discussed the impact of student opt-outs on the data. Appreciation was expressed for how the achievement gap piece continues to be reviewed to make improvement. Overall, Committee members recognized Ms. Filtz for the amount of work she devoted to analyze and report WSAS results and are encouraged with the steps being planned to continue improving results.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 CLL: Character, Life and Leadership Course Change**
- ES-2 Work Prep and Your Finances Course Addition**
- ES-3 Independent Living in a Digital Age Course Change**
- ES-4 America's Music History Course Addition**
- ES-5 Raider Rhythm Course Addition**
- ES-6 Mental Wellness and Stress Management Course Addition**
- ES-7 Sports Entertainment Marketing Course Name Change**
- ES-8 Extended Algebra I Course Modifications**
- ES-9 Introduction to Statistics Course Addition**
- ES-10 College Prep Math Course Addition**
- ES-11 AP Pre-Calculus Course Addition**
- ES-12 Explorations in Algebra, Geometry and Statistics Course Modifications**
- ES-13 Start College Now Spring, 2024 Course Requests**
- ES-14 District Supplemental Pay Plan Revisions**
- ES-15 First Reading of Board Policy 458 – Student Wellness and 458 Rule – Nutrition Guidelines**

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Innovation Mini Grant Recipients (December)
- School and District Report Cards (December)
- Elementary Science Acquisition (December)
- Summer Academy Modifications for Summer 2024 (December)
- Open Enrollment Space Determination Limits for the 2025-26 School Year (January)
- AGR Mid-Year Report (February)
- District Strategic Plan (February)

Ms. Medina adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.