



Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education  
**Educational Services Committee**

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 422-6005

**MINUTES**

Sandra Hett, Chairman  
Katie Bielski-Medina  
John Krings  
Anne Lee  
Mary Rayome  
Greg Swank  
Michelle Bean, President

October 6, 2008

LOCATION: Conference Room A/B

TIME: Immediately following the Business Services Committee meeting, but not before 6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Katie Bielski-Medina, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Anne Lee, Mary Rayome and Greg Swank

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Michelle Bean

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Crist, Jason Krug and Sharon Toellner

I. Call to Order

Sandra Hett called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Policy Review and Development

A. Policy 731.1 – Locker Room Privacy

**ES-1 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by John Krings, to approve Policy 731.1 – Locker Room Privacy for first reading.**

Tracy Ginter, principal of West Junior High School, and Kevin Yeske, associate principal at Lincoln High School, explained to Committee members that a requirement of the 2007 Wisconsin Act 118 is to have a written policy regarding privacy in locker rooms as of October 1, 2008. A draft of this policy was presented for a first reading. At this time, the draft policy is posted in all secondary locker rooms. Specifically, the policy indicates that there will be no recording devices allowed to be used in the locker rooms at any time. This includes cell phones, cameras, and video recorders.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Curriculum Development

A. Central Cities Health Institute (CCHI) Charter School Contract Renewal

**ES-2 Motion by Anne Lee, second by Katie Bielski-Medina, to approve the Central Cities Health Institute Charter School contract.**

Kathy Jarosinski and Rachel Lent, teachers at the Central Cities Health Institute (CCHI) Charter School, were present to discuss revisions made to the CCHI charter school contract. The original contract was written in 2005 and is due for renewal.

CCHI is offered to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the South Wood County school districts. Approximately 40 applications were received for the 2008-09 school year. CCHI is limited to 24 students per school year. Ms. Jarosinski indicated that the community has been very receptive and supportive of the charter school program.

Although the charter school has been in existence for three years, Ms. Jarosinski explained that she has begun to track student goals, post secondary education and changes in career.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Art Curriculum Report

Mark Larson, art teacher at Lincoln High School and Art CII Committee Co-Chair, presented an overview of the Wisconsin Rapids Public School art program. Along with Mr. Larson were the following District art staff: Dustin Anderson (Grant, Grove and Pitsch), Valarie Bath (East Junior High and Lincoln High), Joe Clark (Mead and Washington), Connie Henke (Woodside), Jeanine Kleman (Lincoln High), Patricia Larsen (Grove and Washington), Betsy Miller (Rudolph/Vesper), and Peggy Thornton (Howe and Pitsch).

Mr. Larson explained WRPS has a staff of 13 art specialists. Mr. Larson and Ms. Larsen serve as co-chairs on the CII Committee. Mr. Larson explained that the trends in art programs are visual literacy, which includes visual design, visual imagery and communication, and technology.

The following positive outcomes of the WRPS art curriculum were highlighted:  
1) Many District students compete nationally and regionally; 2) Students receive scholarships; 3) Art Department is career oriented; 4) Graduates continue their post-secondary education at technical colleges, universities and specialty art schools.

Mr. Larson discussed the importance of technology in art today. Some of the many computer programs used K-12 by the District include: Photoshop, Illustrator,

Dreamweaver, Image Reddi, and PowerPoint/Notebook. The Internet is another tool used by students for research, image gathering, tutorials, museum visits, portfolios and by teachers for student assessments, records, etc.

Joe Clark, elementary art teacher, gave a demonstration of a new technology tool called a document camera (ELMO). This tool is a real time digital camera which allows a teacher to present anything from a document, book, or hands-on demonstration onto a large screen. Mr. Clark explained that it has shown to engage students for longer periods of time. He also explained that the document camera was purchased through the Mead Charter School grant; however, other document cameras will be included in the upcoming art acquisition request.

In analyzing the acquisition needs of the art program, the Art CII Committee has found five areas of focus: Resources, equipment, hands-on technology, computer technology, and instructional delivery. Recommendations for the K-12 art acquisition will be brought to the Educational Services Committee in November.

C. Vesper Community Academy Charter Contract Revisions and Virtual Addendum

**ES-3 Motion by Greg Swank, second by John Krings, to approve the Vesper Community Academy contract additions and revisions necessary to comply with federal charter school guidelines with the verbiage change adding "WRPS and" made to 5.5 of the contract.**

Terry Whitmore, principal of Vesper Community Academy (VCA), and Dennis Nelson, member of the Vesper Community Academy Governance Council were present to discuss minor changes made to the charter school contract, which includes the following:

- Publicly funded learning environment
- Enrollment
- Transportation
- Class sizes
- Title funds
- Estimated budget
- Staff vacancies
- Special Education services
- IT support

When Christian Community Academy announced it would be closing its doors, VCA was contacted regarding the virtual school proposal. At this time, Mr. Whitmore explained 23 students are enrolled in the virtual school in grades 4K through 8. A virtual school at VCA alleviates families from traveling to Appleton for testing and allows virtual school students to socialize with regular school students through classroom and school projects, art, music and physical education.

The staff at VCA and area families are working together to create a pilot program to provide virtual school services. An addendum to the VCA charter school contract was added to include the virtual school component.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

D. Math Update

Shannon Matott, District Math Administrator, was present to update Committee members on the math curriculum study and upcoming acquisition of new materials. She explained that a survey of 7-12 math teachers administered in the spring of 2008 indicated that the teachers unanimously support a single-track math program. The group also surveyed graduates, and parents will be surveyed later this fall.

Teachers have been receiving vendor materials for pilot consideration. On October 10, the secondary math teachers will begin to review these materials. Ms. Matott explained that while teachers will focus on a given series, some individual teachers will review one strand of these materials to do a more in-depth analysis of the series. She also indicated that teachers plan to begin piloting some materials this spring. Teachers will be looking for materials that will ease the transition for students, and will be parent, student and teacher friendly.

Once the acquisition occurs, students in sixth grade will no longer be given the choice of a math track. However, students in seventh through eleventh grades will be allowed to finish CORE through their school career. Ms. Matott explained that parents will be notified if their child is taking part in the pilot.

E. Renaissance Learning Product Subscription Renewals

**ES-4 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by Katie Bielski-Medina, to approve the renewal of license subscriptions for Renaissance Learning, Inc. products for the 2008-09 school year at a cost of \$30,735.41 to be funded from referendum dollars.**

Sharon Toellner, Director of Instruction, explained that the Larry Nash Resolution provided funding for the purchase of numerous products (STAR Reading, STAR Math, Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math, STAR Early Literacy) and licenses from Renaissance Learning, Inc. For the past two years referendum money has been used to fund the subscription renewals for these products. Also, the implementation of two more products, Math Facts in a Flash and Read Now with Power Up! has been funded through a combination of referendum funds and District money.

Ms. Toellner reminded Committee members that the Larry Nash Resolution will expire at the end of the 2010-2011 school year. The WRPS/RLI Resolution Committee will meet on October 9 and discussion will include how the District partnership with Renaissance Learning, Inc. will continue once the Resolution

expires. She explained that there will be continuing cost of licenses and support needs. Ms. Toellner has been in communication with Lynda Borgen of Renaissance Learning, Inc. to discuss training options to support for Renaissance Learning, Inc. products.

**Motion carried with Greg Swank abstaining.**

F. Parent Representative Appointment to the Council for Instructional Improvement

Sharon Toellner, Director of Instruction, explained to Committee members that there is one parent representative position open on the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) for a three-year term. Five parents submitted applications to serve on this Committee. Ms. Toellner explained that in the past a lottery system has been used to choose the parent representative.

Denise Orr was drawn for the three-year term. Ms. Toellner will notify Ms. Orr and the other applicants of the Committee members' decision after the Board of Education meeting on October 13.

Discussion ensued regarding how to change the process of choosing a parent representative to include a personal interview.

G. Speak Your Peace Curriculum

Anne Lee has been meeting with representatives of the public and private/parochial schools in the area including WRPS, Nekoosa School District, Port Edward School District, Immanuel Lutheran and WRACS to determine how the Civility Project Curriculum might be used within various schools.

Diane Schirger, Language Arts teacher at East Junior High School, has piloted portions of the Civility Project Curriculum created by the Duluth Public School District in her homeroom. Ms. Schirger indicated that the curriculum has a variety of short activities that are simple and easily adaptable. She explained that the curriculum might work well with seventh grade teaming and using the curriculum as reinforcement in eighth and ninth grades.

The Speak Your Peace curriculum planning group will meet with a few teachers to develop a proposal for how the curriculum could be used. This proposal will be brought back to the Educational Services Committee for approval.

V. Updates

A. State Performance Plan: Special Education – Indicator 12

Jane Jauquet, Director of Pupil Services, explained to Committee members that within the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), a State Performance Plan (SPP) has been put in place. The SPP is divided into 20 indicators which assist in monitoring the children with disabilities. Ms. Jauquet explained that Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools did not meet Indicator #12. This indicator pertains to the

Preschool Transition from the Birth-to-Three Program. Of seven children leaving the Birth-to-Three Program from Unified Services, four children did not meet the criteria. All children in Birth-to-Three program referred must be placed by their third birthday. Some reasons that WRPS did not meet the 100% goal were parents were late to have their child evaluated, the referral was late, or the parents did not allow an evaluation to be conducted.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Policy 731.1 – Locker Room Privacy
- ES-2 Central Cities Health Institute (CCHI) Charter School Contract Renewal
- ES-3 Vesper Community Academy Charter Contract Revisions and Virtual Addendum
- ES-4 Renaissance Learning Product Subscription Renewals

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

*\*Agenda items are determined by Committee Chair after consultation with appropriate administration depending upon other agenda items, presentation information, and agenda availability.*

Future agenda items include, but are not limited to:

- Technology Literacy Assessment (November)
- ACT Report (November)
- 2008-09 Professional Development Plans (November)
- Special Education Self-Assessment Update (November)
- Youth Options (November)
- Art Acquisition (November)
- New Course Proposal (November and December)
- Science Equivalency Credit for Technology Education and Project Lead the Way Courses (December)
- Advanced Placement Report
- Multiple Assessment Measures

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.