



Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee

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

MINUTES

Anne Lee, Chairman
John Benbow, Jr.
Katie Bielski-Medina
Larry Davis
Sandra Hett
John Krings
Mary Rayome, President

June 1, 2009

LOCATION: Conference Room A/B

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Katie Bielski-Medina, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Anne Lee, and Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Robert Crist, Jason Krug, and Sharon Toellner

I. Call to Order

Ann Lee called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Curriculum Development

A. 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) Grant Renewal for Club Mead

ES-1 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by Larry Davis, to approve the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to fund the Club Mead after-school program.

Margie Dorshorst, Principal of Mead Elementary Charter School, was present to discuss the first year of the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) Grant. The program includes enrichment courses and supportive reading and math.

Ms. Dorshorst explained that this is the sixth year of Club Mead. Due to the grant, the school has to show success and increase in services, and collect data. She shared that 91% of students took part in Club Mead, and 21% of those students have attended for 30 days or more. Club Mead has also received \$25,000 from United Way to increase services and programs.

Ms. Dorshorst further explained that while a majority of the funding pays for Club Mead, it also provides dollars for the Leap Ahead program, which focuses on reading and math support for grades one, two and three.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Mead AmeriCorps Program

ES-2 Motion by Larry Davis, second by John Krings, to approve an AmeriCorps Volunteer to work with the Club Mead program for a stipend of \$5,100 to be funded from the 21st Century Community Learning (CLC) Grant.

Margie Dorshorst, Principal of Mead Elementary Charter School (MECS), explained that under the 21st Century Community Learning Grant, MECS is part of the whole state association that is under the DPI after-school program. The Marshfield Clinic has recruited AmeriCorps volunteers who are federally trained employees who will work with daytime and after-school programs. The cost of the volunteer will be a \$5,100 stipend for the school year and summer. The cost is built into the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Reading First Grant Report

Sharon Toellner, Director of Instruction, and J.L. Gray, Principal of Washington Elementary School, along with staff members were present to discuss the Reading First Grant. Members of the Washington staff present were: Winnie Jeffers, Reading Specialist; Diane Miller, kindergarten teacher; Jane Natzke, Library Media Specialist; Erin Schmidt, first grade teacher; Kim Martin, first grade teacher; Linda Pollnow, third grade teacher; and Jean Westover, secretary.

Ms. Toellner explained that in April 2004 Washington Elementary School received the federal Reading First Grant. She indicated that it was a unique grant at the time as it required schools to follow the guidelines of the National Reading Panel and asked schools to focus on five areas of reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, literacy, and comprehension. The Reading First Grant had a huge impact on not only Washington Elementary school, but the District as a whole. Some of the areas impacted include the District selection of Trophies, professional development opportunities funded by grant monies for all District teachers, Response to Intervention, and enhancement to technology with the use of SMART Boards™.

Mr. Gray said the key component of the success of Reading First at Washington Elementary has been the work of the staff. He shared some of the investments made through the Reading First Grant: SMART Boards™, document cameras, computers/software, supplemental books in classroom libraries, Family Library,

Learning Center, children's magazine subscriptions, and additional core materials such as Trophies and Quick Reads, professional development opportunities, visitations, parent/author visits and various conferences that teachers have attended.

Ms. Jeffers explained that in meeting other coordinators, she has found that the District is advanced in the area of literacy compared to other districts. She further explained that there was significant professional development required through the grant for not only staff, but also the principal.

The 2008-09 school year represents the last year of the Reading First Grant. Ms. Jeffers indicated that Washington Elementary has set aside money this year to be used for sustainability projects. Although this is a K-3 program, sustainability projects will be extended to grades 4, 5, and 6. She shared a few minutes of a DVD that is being created for staff development and parent education.

Ms. Miller shared information regarding school-parent compacts at the kindergarten level. A compact is a written commitment to agree to share responsibility for student learning between the teacher, student and parent. Ms. Miller shared a Kinderpack that is sent home with books, games, and puzzles for parents and students to work on together. This project will be shared with other teachers in the District, and Ms. Miller and Ms. Martin will work on creating compacts for first grade.

In team teaching with sixth grade teacher Howard Hintz, Ms. Natzke integrated ITLS standards in both Health and Social Studies. They also used the Big 6 Research Model, Destiny, online databases, subscriptions and World Book online. The students also practiced their keyboarding skills while learning Microsoft Word to create SMART Board™ slides and pPodcasts.

As a way to create sustainability for incoming sixth graders, Mr. Hintz and Ms. Natzke created three sustainability projects:

- a) Integration of content areas with technology – using the Senteo responders, students can key in answers to an assessment and receive immediate feedback. This also assists the teacher in determining any areas of need.
- b) Newberry Award winning books to prevent summer reading loss – fifth graders will take home four to six books for the summer. In the fall, the students will choose their favorite book and create a podcast, Destiny or SMART Board™ slide project.
- c) Reading list of 30 books (ordered through Reading First grant) – a wide range of genres for students to read. In October students will listen to book talks and choose high interest books, which will culminate in a project that integrates technology.

Ms. Schmidt currently teaches first grade; however, she will be teaching grade five in the 2009-10 school year. She explained that the school offers Writer's Workshop, which is a year-long curriculum. Because of the Reading First Grant,

teachers were able to see an author, listen to ideas for Writer's Workshop, collaborate with other teachers, and integrate what was learned into the classroom setting. The Writer's Workshop has given students the power as writers, thinkers and readers, and has put more focus on the writing process for teachers.

Ms. Schmidt explained that she and other primary teachers will be reviewing the continuum to see how it can be advanced to the third through fifth grades. They will then create a model to be used at those higher grade levels.

Fluency, meaningful reading, is an important component of sustainability for Washington. Ms. Jeffers explained that lack of fluency keeps students from being able to sustain any reading. Students lose interest and cannot keep up with the demands as they continue in their learning. Using Audacity software, Ms. Jeffers is able to record student reading, which allows students to listen to a model. In addition, Ms. Jeffers creates sentence arrangers, multiple choice assessments, and crossword puzzles. This becomes fun interactive learning for students. Ms. Jeffers then shares student work with classroom teachers. Next year projects will be created to extend fluency instruction in grades three through five.

D. Career and Technical Education Curriculum and Acquisition Update

Eric Siler, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator/LVEC, was present to discuss the Carl Perkins Grant update and CTE acquisition progress. Presenting with Mr. Siler were the following staff members:

- Deb Kinney, Business and Information Technology Education, LHS
- LouAnn Horgan, Family and Consumer Education, WJH
- Rachel Lent, Health/Science, LHS and CCHS
- Phil Bickelhaupt, Technology and Engineering, LHS

Mr. Siler reviewed the nine pathways: Business Financial Management, Marketing Communications, Technology and Engineering, Information Support and Services, Restaurant and Food Services, Early Childhood Development, Therapeutic, Plant Science, and Manufacturing Production. He explained that the 2009-10 acquisition will be for needs not met by the purchases made with the Carl Perkins Grant money to meet industry and business standards.

Ms. Kinney explained that for the past two years Business, Marketing, and Family and Consumer Education teachers have been focusing on improving the financial literacy curriculum. There is a great need for business financial education due to the large number of new entrepreneurial businesses, global competition, and business failures. All students need financial literacy in order to learn to plan and make wise financial decisions. Ms. Kinney expressed a desire to involve more members of the financial community to reinforce specific financial topics next school year.

Ms. Kinney is working with Mid-State Technical College to get a transcribed credit for Accounting. Accounting I would become basic accounting and Accounting II, III and IV will be one year-long transcribed course. This change in curriculum will be presented with New Course Proposals in the fall of 2009.

Ms. Horgan explained that West Junior High School students participate in a simulation entitled "This is Your Life," which builds understanding of personal finance. In the Food Services areas, students are able to earn technical college and college credits, participate in food competitions, and learn to be chefs right out of high school. The Early Childhood Development pathway assists early childhood teachers and allows students to be trained at LHS to work with children in daycare centers. The course also prepares students to become assistant childcare teachers. The Infant and Toddler class adds to the certificate for Assistant Childcare Teacher.

Ms. Lent indicated that healthcare is the highest demanded job at this time. She explained that 15 of the top 20 jobs are in all aspects of health care. Central Cities High School (CCHS) focuses on careers in healthcare and is proactive by working with 24 community partners. Students participate in an externship with these partners on five-week rotations. The community partners include physical therapy, clinic, dentists, hospital, Marshfield Clinic and Humane Society. Students gain credit through Mid-State Technical College, receiving certification as a Nursing Assistant as juniors. There are four students who will be training as EMTs.

Mr. Siler explained to Committee members that the area of Marketing is looking to align curriculum with Mid-State Technical College. Standards will be implemented for entrepreneurship classes and small business classes. The number one state industry is tourism and event planning.

Project Lead the Way is a national engineering curriculum. Mr. Bickelhaupt explained that this is the main initiative in the Technology and Engineering pathway. This includes the courses of Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, and Introduction to Engineering Design. He indicated that there is discussion to expand Project Lead the Way into the junior high setting. With this curriculum more students are receiving college credits as part of their high school experience.

Mr. Bickelhaupt explained that building construction is in high demand, as is manufacturing/machinists. He would like to update the LHS machine tool and welding areas to be more like a manufacturing setting. The transportation/automotive curriculum is offering national certification in mechanics and work in electronics, computers and robotics.

Mr. Siler explained that agriculture is the second highest industry in the state, and includes animal science, renewable energy, and urban forestry.

The Career and Technical Education Departments will be identifying needs for acquisition during the 2009-10 school year.

E. 2008-09 WKCE-CRT Results for Grades 3-8 and 10

Sharon Toellner, Director of Instruction, and Scott Kellogg, Principal of Howe and District Assessment Coordinator, were present to discuss the 2008-09 WKCE-CRT results.

Ms. Toellner shared a longitudinal chart of WKCE-CRT achievement performance from the 2003-04 school year to the present and commented on areas of growth in several content areas across the buildings. She indicated that analysis of longitudinal data is essential when identifying trends in performance.

Mr. Kellogg shared WKCE-CRT Valley Comparison results for the 2008-09 school year with Committee members. He explained that as the gap between scores closes, it becomes harder to rank the Districts.

East Junior High School did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the area of reading for Students with Disabilities. Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Principal of East Junior High (EJH), explained that the EJH data team met and has identified a plan of action to address the gap in achievement. This plan mirrors many of the same actions that were taken when Lincoln High School (LHS) did not meet AYP with the same subgroup and was developed in collaboration with Jane Jauquet, Director of Pupil Services. Changes will be considered in the areas of test accommodations and pre-teaching of test vocabulary.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz told Committee members that East Junior High School staff will review the following areas:

- item analysis by department
- re-configuration of test administration
- delivery of services
- absenteeism
- professional development with regard to poverty and education

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz shared with Committee members that since the 2000-01 school year, the number of students on Free and Reduced lunch that participate in the WKCE-CRT has risen from 16% to 31% in the current school year. The ELL student population has also risen from 16 students in 2000-01 to a current total of 29 students. The number of Students with Disabilities has also increased from 28 to 53 in those same years.

The Special Education Department has also identified current sixth and seventh grade students who will be attending East Junior High in the 2009-10 school year, and will conduct a file review of each student to see how best to administer the WKCE-CRT.

F. 7th and 8th Grade Spelling Recommendation

ES-3 Motion by Larry Davis, second by Mary Rayome to approve the use of the McDougal Littell Spelling and Vocabulary consumable workbooks for grades seven and eight beginning in the 2009-10 school year.

Sharon Toellner, Director of Instruction, and Tracy Ginter, Principal of West Junior High and Secondary Language Arts Coordinator, were present to discuss a staff request to purchase Spelling and Vocabulary consumable textbooks for seventh and eighth grade students at East and West Junior High Schools. Ms. Ginter indicated these books will be a better match to reading, writing, grammar, and spelling than what is currently being used.

The consumable workbooks are part of the Language and Literature language arts materials purchased as part of the middle level language arts acquisition during the 2004-05 school year.

The cost of the workbooks is \$1.50 per book. However, Ms. Toellner requested special pricing and was given a "buy one-get one free" offer. The total cost of the workbooks for all 7th and 8th grade students would be approximately \$600.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Updates and Reports

A. LHS Out-of-State Travel Request

Ryan Christianson, Principal of Lincoln High School, and Stefanie Tryba, CDB teacher and LHS dance team coach, were present to inform Committee members of an out-of-state trip being planned by the Lincoln High School Dance Team.

Ms. Tryba explained that the trip will include 9 to 12 dancers, 2 to 3 spectators and 2 chaperones. The competition is being held in Orlando, Florida, on November 27, 2009. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1,000 per student, with the majority of the cost being paid through fundraisers. She shared a tentative itinerary with Committee members.

Mr. Christianson explained that this trip is similar to the trips taken by the Cheer and Stunt and Girl's Soccer Team.

V. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 21st Century Community Learning Center (CLC) Grant Renewal for Club Mead
- ES-2 Mead AmeriCorps Program
- ES-3 7th and 8th Grade Spelling Recommendation

VI. 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:

- Policy 332 – Experimental/Innovative Programs (July)
- Science Curriculum Acquisition Recommendation (July)
- Reading Intervention Recommendation (July)
- Volunteer Programs (July or August)
- 2008-09 Writing Assessment Results (July or August)
- LHS WKCE 10th Grade Testing Date (July or August)
- LHS Assessment Report (August)
- Grove VISTA Volunteer (August or September)
- Grade 3 and 6 Exit Survey Results

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.