



Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

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

MINUTES

August 11, 2008

Michelle K. Bean, President
Sandra K. Hett
Mary E. Rayome
Gregory L. Swank
Anne Lee
John A. Krings
Katie Medina

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Location: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Center, Conf. Rm. A, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids WI 54494

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Michelle Bean, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Anne Lee, Katie Medina, Mary Rayome, Gregory Swank

Administration Present: Robert Crist, Kay Marks, Sharon Toellner, Daniel Weigand

Student Representative: Jason Krug

Media Present: Alex Schenk and Jim Walsh – River Cities Community Access

Michelle Bean called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Student Representative's Report

Student Representative Jason Krug reported on student introduction activities occurring at Lincoln High School, including sophomore orientation and schedule distribution to juniors and seniors.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Crist reported on several items taking place in preparation for the 2008-09 school year, including directors finalizing curricular and technology activities as well as the induction for new teachers scheduled for August 20, 2008.

An update on the positive response from participants wishing to become involved again with the Restructuring Committee was shared. Some may attend only the first meeting, while others plan to be involved in the entire process. Dr. Crist would like to see good representation from each school, and plans to invite one or two employees from each building and possibly a few more parents. The first meeting of the Restructuring Committee will occur on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Anne Lee requested that future meetings be scheduled to avoid Wednesday evening church activity conflicts within the community.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome that the minutes of the July 14, 2008 special Board of Education meeting, the regular Board of Education meeting of July 14, 2008, the special Board of Education closed session meeting of July 16, 2008, the special Board of Education meeting of July 16, 2008, the special Board of Education closed session meeting of July 21, 2008, the special Board of Education closed session meeting of August 5, 2008, and the special Board of Education meeting of August 5, 2008 all be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee, August 4, 2008. Report given by Greg Swank.

Greg Swank reviewed the following consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Business Services Committee and asked if there were any motions to be held.

- BS-1 Approval of the proposed development of a cooperative budget forecast model by PMA Financial Network at a cost of \$8,500 to be funded from the 2008-09 budget.
- BS-2 Approval of the 66.03.01 cooperative resolution with the Nekoosa Public School District and the Port Edwards School District for cooperative 4K programs beginning with the 2008-09 school year.
- BS-3 Approval of the 66.03.01 cooperative resolution with the Nekoosa Public School District for a virtual academy program beginning with the 2008-09 school year.
- BS-4 Approval of the proposed District facility rental rates effective July 1, 2009.
- BS-5 Approval to accept the proposal for inter-school mail and food service meal delivery by Bob's Delivery Service for the 2008-09 school year at a cost of \$85.00 per day and \$79.00 per day, respectively.

Sandra Hett requested that Consent Agenda Item BS-1 be held.

Motion by Greg Swank, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items BS 2-5. Motion carried unanimously.

In regard to Consent Agenda Item BS-1, discussion took place on the benefits of using PMA-WISC as it relates to shared services and the ability for Port Edwards Public Schools, Nekoosa Public Schools, and Wisc. Rapids Public Schools to better preview and understand the impact of shared services. Time constraints have hampered this type of information to be generated by WRPS District personnel in recent years. Discussion took place on accuracy rates of the information the PMA forecast model can generate, customized scenario analysis reports, data sharing between school districts, and the ability to forecast costs for any joint ventures.

Motion by Greg Swank, seconded by John Krings to approve consent agenda item BS 1. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Greg Swank reviewed updates and reports on:

- Technology and maintenance purchases – two purchase orders for technology using referendum funds and one purchase order for a roofing project using insurance claim funds were reviewed.

Motion by Greg Swank, seconded by Anne Lee to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and the minutes of the August 4, 2008 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee, August 4, 2008. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Mary Rayome reviewed the following consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Personnel Services Committee and asked if there were any motions to be held.

- PS-1 Approval of the support staff resignation of Lisa O'Shasky (District – Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant); the professional staff appointments of Valerie Bath (Lincoln – Art), Jacob Bertagnoli (Lincoln – Social Studies), Lynn Mrozek (District – Occupational Therapist), Nicholas Sydorowiz (Lincoln – Social Studies), Nou Vang (Howe – Social Worker), Justin Weinhold (District – Phy Ed/Adaptive Phy Ed); the support staff appointments of Denise Drechsler (Central Office – Accounts Payable Secretary), Theresa Hamus (Buildings & Grounds – Secretary), David Klingforth (District/Buildings & Grounds – Maintenance/Technology), James Krause (River Cities – non-union Custodian), Ryan Leverance (District/Buildings & Grounds – Maintenance); and 31 summer school support staff posting results for Mary Marzofka, Janet Cavanaugh, Tammy Twait, Jane Lubeck, Renee Heineck, Ka Zoua Thao, Debra Althoff, Jean Merriman, Karen Hiti, Sara Matthews, Jan Babcock, Ardell Mueller, Terri Huebner, Laurie Jensen, Sandra Lowe, Susan Akey, Carla Kniech, Suzanne Onesti, Deb Christensen, Linda Weinfurter,

Cynthia Milkey, Cheryl Statz, Kathy Vruwink, Janet Ciardelli, Pam Berg, Jo Knipple, LeeAnn Tack, Amy Whitmore, Deana Fisher, Noel Kolo, Debra Vechninski.

PS-2 Approval of Policy 345.41 – Promotion of Fourth and Eighth Grade Students for second reading.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items PS 1-2. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve the regular Personnel Committee meeting minutes of August 4, 2008, and the special Personnel Committee closed session minutes of July 14, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee, August 4, 2008. Report given by Sandra Hett.

Sandra Hett reviewed the following consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Educational Services Committee and asked if there were any motions to be held.

ES-1 Approval of the Initial Educator/Mentor Program document.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda item ES 1. Motion carried unanimously.

Sandra Hett shared reports and updates on the following:

- LHS CONNECT Program – Cindi Borski and Brigitte Musallam explained this unique program for sophomores at Lincoln which focuses on certain assets that will enable students to be successful at school, such as feeling that adults are concerned about them. LHS students ranked higher than the national average on many of the assets. It has been determined that meeting six times per year is not enough, and a new schedule to meet twice monthly has been set. CONNECT meetings will have a specific curriculum that addresses assets selected from student survey information.
- Vesper Community Academy – Terry Whitmore provided an update on the Vesper’s charter school planning, including the virtual school component. It will be approximately two weeks until final notification of the grant is received. The staff had been working with an educational consultant on project based training, and Mary Schulz, Counselor and Virtual School Coordinator, summarized the individual, school-wide, and community based projects. Vesper will partner with Lincoln High School and UWSP on the community curriculum to coordinate activities for students every Wednesday.

Mr. Whitmore explained there are currently 20 students interested in attending the virtual school component, which will be grades 4K-8. Calvert Curriculum will be used, and students will be required to log in daily so that attendance may be taken. Students may also participate in any available activities such as art or music classes, field trips, and school wide events.

- 2007-08 Writing Assessment Results – Sharon Toellner presented information on the 2007-08 Writing Assessment Results, which is the fourth year of implementation of a pre/post writing assessment process using the Six Traits of Writing. A longitudinal three-year comparison from Grant Elementary was shared. Similar charts are being developed for each elementary building, and eventually the secondary schools will also be included. A 7th grade writing sample was shared and explanations were provided on how prompts were selected and scoring of papers is done.
- Survey Sample Information – Survey sample information for students, staff, and parents in the District was shared by Sharon Toellner. With the current Board goal to conduct exit surveys at grades 3 and 6, discussion took place regarding whether all buildings should use the same survey, or if they should be tailored to individual buildings. Ms. Toellner will meet with principals and staff to generate some ideas for the surveys and will return to the Board later in the school year with some samples.
- Professional Development Waiver – The DPI has approved the Professional Development Day waiver for the 2008-09 school year, and Sharon Toellner shared a summary of the DPI recommendations for the waiver approval for 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12. A plan will need to be developed and taken to the WREA negotiations team. Recommendations are:
 1. Develop an evaluation plan, collect numerical data showing how professional development is put to use in the classroom, and teacher effectiveness and student achievement has improved.
 2. If the District maintains five Professional Development Days in the calendar, the days must be full days. Recordkeeping time cannot be counted as professional development time. Compensatory time

- for portfolio conferences at the elementary level cannot be counted as professional development time.
3. If Professional Development Days are to be used, they need to be scheduled equally for elementary and secondary staff.
 4. A public hearing must be held to gather input regarding the proposed calendar for professional development.
 5. New calendars with bell schedules need to be submitted.

Concerns brought up in the past regarding half day professional development days include parental issues with having to find daycare for children, and teachers not being able to accomplish as much during a half day.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by John Krings to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and the minutes of the August 4, 2008, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Greg Swank requested information through the Educational Services Committee on the use of curriculum that is not research-based, and how the curriculum is being coordinated through the use of technology. Sharon Toellner plans to provide an update on this topic and demonstrate the “Build Your Own Curriculum” software in September which should address this request.

Anne Lee inquired whether anything had been done to recognize and honor the passing of former Board member, Clyde Deitz. Dr. Crist explained that this had been handled through the Board Secretary.

Anne Lee asked that a meeting be set to complete the Superintendent’s evaluation. The Board agreed to meet on August 20, 2008, after the Board Reception for New Teachers, in order to finalize the written evaluative summary.

Legislative Agenda

Katie Medina had no new information to share.

Bills

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve July receipts in the amount of \$4,985,359.47 and July disbursements in the amount of \$3,642,881.23. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the Special Personnel Committee meeting minutes of July 23, 2008 and Special Personnel Committee closed session minutes of July 23, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Mary Rayome advised the Board that clarification of an item pertaining to the non-represented, non-union employees was necessary, and this clarification occurred in closed session prior to the Board meeting.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve following items regarding compensation for non-represented, non-union employees:

- Confidential Administrative Assistant wage increase of 3.8%
- Nurses may utilize \$300.00 per year for course reimbursement, continuing education units (CEU’s) or conference registrations
- Board will pay 90% rather than 97% of single premium for medical insurance
- Nurses wage increase of 3.0%
- Physical Therapist wage increase of 3.0%
- Psychologists credit reimbursement increase from \$300.00 to \$350.00 per credit up to a maximum of six credits per year
- Psychologists wage increase 3.0%
- Technology Group wage increase 3.8%
- Bus Drivers wage increase 3.8%

Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Joint Signage Venture with Nekoosa and Port Edwards – John Krings explained that the Nekoosa Public Schools Board of Education has extended an offer to Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools and Port Edwards Public Schools to join the Nekoosa district in co-sponsoring several sign boards they presently have displayed in strategic locations throughout the area wide community. Nekoosa is willing to revamp the signs to display a mutually agreeable message which the three districts would collaboratively develop. The cost for each district would be \$2,500. The Board learned that the Port Edwards Schools Board of Education is taking up this matter at their August meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the advantages and disadvantages of becoming involved in the advertising venture. The Board requested that Dr. Crist obtain a more specific breakdown of the costs of each sign including costs to design a new sign, and monthly or annual service fees for the signs. The Board would also like to view the proposed sign and also be kept apprised about whether or not the Port Edwards Schools Board of Education agreed to join in the signage venture.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed with additions and changes as necessary.

Michelle Bean adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Michelle Bean – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

John A. Krings – Clerk