



Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

MINUTES

John A. Krings, President
John Benbow, Jr.
Larry Davis
Sandra K. Hett
Anne Lee
Katie Medina
Mary E. Rayome

March 13, 2017

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Krings, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome, John Benbow, Anne Lee, Larry Davis, Katie Medina

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Matt Green, Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt

MEDIA PRESENT: Jesse Austin – River Cities Community Access

President John Krings called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Student Representative’s Report

Drake Blossfield reported on the following:

- Students are settling into the final trimester of the school year.
- Spring sports are beginning, including track and baseball.
- Students performed well at the DECA state competition, and 17 students will be competing at the national level in Anaheim, California.
- The Powerlifting team recently received two (2), fourth-place finishes, and three (3), fifth-place finishes.
- Forensics had their district meet, and 23 members will be going on to UW-Madison to compete at the state level.
- An online business simulation competition was held recently, with two teams from Wisc. Rapids obtaining first and third place. The first place team secured scholarship funding as a result. Additionally, a second place finish in radio ads was achieved, which earned the students a shadow experience at a radio station and the ability to compete at the state level.
- Student Council members and other classmates recently attended an event where they heard college and professional level athletes speak about athletics and academics at the college and professional level.
- Juniors recently completed ACT testing; sophomores toured the UW-Stevens Point campus; and seniors participated in “Reality Check.”
- Student Council elections will occur soon, with new officers being determined.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of February 13, 2017; special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of February 13, 14, and 15, 2017 as well as March 7, 2017; and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of March 8, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – March 6, 2017. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow 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 proposal to continue the Police School Liaison Officer program at Lincoln High School through an agreement with the City of Wisconsin Rapids for another five school years from 2017-2022, with the District paying 60% of the annual cost for the police officer.

BS-2 Approval of the proposal to file an application for a Focus on Energy grant to fund 50% of the \$250,000 cost for a 100 Mg Watt solar panel installation.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items BS 1-2. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Various invoices from CESA 5, St. Lawrence Early Childhood Center, Biron 4K Head Start, Lots of Tots Preschool and Building Blocks 4K, Wolosek Landscaping, and the Boys & Girls Club
- Projector purchases to replace equipment at Lincoln High School and Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School
- Chromebook purchases for Mead Elementary Charter School
- Copy paper purchase

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular March 6, 2017, Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – March 6, 2017. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Ms. 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 professional staff early retirement requests of Daniel Kuhl (Teacher – Grove/Woodside), Mary Walton (Teacher – Mead), Kimberly Marshall-Melby (Teacher – Washington), Sharon Aiken-Bruha (Teacher – WRAMS), Jennifer Huntington (Teacher – Mead), Susan Johnson (Teacher – Washington), and Stephen Slattery (Teacher – THINK).

PS-2 Approval of Board Policy 533 – Staff Recruiting/Hiring and Board Policy 533 Rule – Staff Recruiting/Hiring Procedures, for first reading.

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

Ms. Rayome provided updates and reports on:

- A proposal to implement an employee handbook for administrative and non-represented staff members. A draft copy of the Administrators and Non-Represented Staff Handbook was introduced and discussed with Committee members. Further consideration and possible action on the approval of the handbook will be on a future Personnel Services Committee meeting agenda.
- A proposal by Dr. Ryan Christianson, Director of Human Resources, and Elizabeth Severson, Director of Food Services, to increase 2016-17 wages for food service employees. A final recommendation will be brought back for Committee consideration at a future meeting.
- The Administration continues to review the District athletic co-curricular wage structure for compensating individuals serving as coaches in grades 6-12 athletic programs. Additional information and a possible recommendation, which may include adjustments to wage rates and coaching assignments offered in the District, will be presented at a future meeting.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of March 6, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – March 6, 2017. Report given by Anne Lee.

Ms. Lee 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 2017-18 Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools' Strategic Plan.
- ES-2 Approval of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant request for Mead Elementary Charter School in the amount of \$145,000.
- ES-3 Approval of the United Way grant request for Mead Elementary Charter School in the amount of \$61,500.
- ES-4 Approval of the K-12 Art Curriculum for implementation beginning in 2017-18.
- ES-5 Approval of the purchase of “Words Their Way” in the fall of 2017, and “The Reading Units of Study” with supporting classroom libraries in the fall of 2018, in the amount of \$213,012 to be funded by curriculum acquisition and referendum dollars.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-5. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Youth Options and Course Options program requests for 2016-17

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the March 6, 2017, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- A public hearing is scheduled to occur on March 14, 2017 concerning the modernization of meeting minutes and a bill concerning Board member salaries.
- An item being watched is the potential repeal of Obama healthcare, and what it might be replaced with.
- The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) has released a chart containing key 2017-19 State budget provisions.
- The WASB “Day at the Capitol” is scheduled to occur on March 15, 2017.
- A local group called “Save Our Schools” will be hosting a presentation on March 20, 2017 at the McMillan Memorial Library concerning the state voucher program and its impact on public schools.

Dr. Dickmann shared that she has been hearing the following:

- The rules and federal regulations tied to ESSA are being eliminated, and it appears that cuts will be coming to Title 1 funding.
- The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will likely set Governor Walker’s budget aside and start from scratch.
- Representative Patrick Testin has expressed an interest in coming to a future Board meeting. Sandra Hett shared that Representative Patrick Testin and Representative Scott Krug will be at the Grand Rapids Town Hall on Saturday, March 18, 2017 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. to meet with interested constituents.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note February, 2017 receipts in the amount of \$7,575,571.78 and approve February, 2017 disbursements in the amount of \$4,173,570.37. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointment, Resignation, Retirement Requests

Dr. Christianson presented an employee resignation request for Jessica Hintz (Speech/Language – Woodside Elementary) effective June 5, 2017.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the resignation request of Jessica Hintz effective June 5, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Phase 2 - Construction at WRAMS

Dr. Dickmann explained that the Phase 1 construction project for Lincoln High School was approved several months back. The Administration has been working with the project's contractors involved to finalize drawings. She anticipates final drawings and a budget update concerning the project will be available soon to share with the Board.

The Phase 2 construction project involves renovation to expand the gymnasium and add 13 classrooms to the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School in order to accommodate the eighth grade class to be moved there at the same time ninth grade would move to Lincoln effective for the 2018-19 school year. To keep all of the projects on track in terms of time, a decision will need to be made by sometime in April at the latest about whether to approve the Phase 2 project.

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, explained that there are several ways to arrive at funding the Phase 2 project, which is projected to cost approximately \$7.9 million. In 2015-16, the District defeased \$1.8 million which was the remaining portion of General Fund debt. \$2.9 million was placed into fund balance in an effort to decrease short-term borrowing. This total of \$4.7 million was then available in 2016-17 to put toward the Phase 1 high school project, and will similarly be available in 2017-18 for the completion of Phase 1.

The Phase 2 middle school project would then begin to use dollars which should be available in 2018-19 with the Phase 1 project finishing up. This amount would be used in combination with as much as \$1.3 million from fund balance, depending upon what the final expense for all projects ends up being. Any funds potentially needing to be borrowed from fund balance for the Phase 2 project should be repaid in full by the end of the 2019-20 school year. Mr. Weigand expects that funding should be available in the District budget through 2019-20 to accomplish these projects. The final numbers are dependent upon how much can be saved from the Phase 1 project, including any energy exemption savings which, at the moment, is projected to be around \$1.1 million.

Beginning in the 2019-20 budget year, the Board may wish to consider diverting available dollars into the areas of curriculum, technology, safety measures, and potential salary increases.

The Board requested to have the budgeted amounts, timelines, and overall project design drawings available by the next meeting in order for discussion and possible action to take place. The Board also requested an update on Phase 1 costs and progress being made.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk