



# Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

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

## MINUTES

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

March 9, 2020

### 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 Benbow, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Katie Medina, Troy Bier, Mary Rayome

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Daniel Weigand, Roxanne Filtz, Brian Oswald, Danielle Scott, Ed Allison

MEDIA PRESENT: Kevin Bargender – 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

Jacqueline Sii provided an update on Lincoln High School activities as follows:

- ♦ A forensics District competition is coming up on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at the middle school
- ♦ A DECA competition is slated for Thursday, March 12, 2020 at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
- ♦ Lincoln Student Council has been selected to receive the "Spirit of Excellence" award, which is a program that honors Wisconsin schools that achieve excellence in leadership development, school spirit, sportsmanship and service to school and community. Winners of the award receive free tickets to an upcoming Milwaukee Bucks game and are honored on the court during half-time. Jacqueline shared the "Spirit of Excellence" portfolio which demonstrates achievement in each of three key dimensions in a calendar year. Board members expressed their pride and appreciation for the hard work of all students involved.

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of February 10, 2020; and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of March 2, 2020.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

#### Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – March 2, 2020. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Ms. Rayome 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 Board Policy 345.11 – Procedures for Academic Excellence Scholarships for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of Board Policy 423 – Public School Open Enrollment and 423 Rule – Procedures for Processing Public School Open Enrollment Applications for first reading.
- ES-3 Approval to reschedule the January 2021 Professional Development Day from January 25, 2021 to January 18, 2021.
- ES-4 Approval of a Blended Strength and Fitness Summer School pilot class during the 2020 Summer School session for .5 PE or elective credit.
- ES-5 Approval of a Method Prep ACT Course to be offered during the 2020 Summer School session for .5 graduation credit.
- ES-6 Approval of the pilot course, America’s Voice, to be offered during the 2020-21 school year for .5 ELA credit and .5 Social Studies credit.
- ES-7 Approval of the pilot course, America’s Story, to be offered during the 2020-21 school year for 1.0 ELA credit and .5 Social Studies credit.

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-7. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Rayome provided updates and reports on:

- Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, explained that Jacob Bertagnoli has been serving the District as the K-12 Social Studies Coordinator and has historically received a stipend for his work. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, Mr. Bertagnoli will instead be allowed one class period each day to complete his Coordinator work in lieu of receiving a stipend.
- Ms. Filtz also provided an update regarding the restructuring of the K-12 Literacy Coordinator position. Currently, Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction, serves as the Literacy Coordinator for grades K-12. There are distinct differences between early literacy and elementary reading and writing instruction, and secondary ELA instruction. In order to better serve the ELA needs of our students in K-12, as well as the professional development needs of K-12 staff, the District has created a Secondary Literacy Coordinator position which Miranda Moody, Language Arts Department Chair and English Language Arts (ELA) Instructor at Lincoln High School, will serve in. Ms. Moody will be allowed one class period each day to complete her Coordinator work.

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the March 2, 2020 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Business Services Committee – March 2, 2020. 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 proposed purchase of Oasys Special Education Administrative Software at a first-year price of \$20,500 followed by an annual cost of \$14,500 for a second and third years, to be funded from the 2020-21 Special Education budget.
- BS-2 Approval of the proposed purchase of Discovery Education Online from Capstone at a cost of \$23,950 to be funded from the 2019-20 District Common School Fund budget.
- BS-3 Approval of the proposed purchase of PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next from Capstone at a cost of \$12,593.70 to be funded from the 2019-20 District Common School Fund budget.
- BS-4 Approval of the proposed renewal of various online databases and resources from WiLS at a cost of \$13,916.73 to be funded from the 2019-20 District Common School Fund budget.
- BS-5 Approval of the purchase of 350 Bump Armor CB Slim Hard Shell cases at a cost of \$6,891.50 to be funded from the 2020-21 District Technology budget.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items BS 1-5. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- The Committee was updated on purchases of police liaison services and the purchase of 96 Chromebooks for use at THINK Academy, Woodside, and Washington Elementary Schools. The Chromebooks were purchased prior to Board of Education approval as there is a price increase of \$7.00 per Chromebook effective March 6, 2020. Ordering prior to March 6, 2020 saves the District over \$600.00. The Chromebook purchase will be funded from the 2019-20 District Common School Fund budget.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the March 2, 2020 Business Services Committee. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Personnel Services Committee – March 2, 2020. Report given by Sandra Hett.

Ms. Hett 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 appointment of Samantha Svoboda (Behavior Interventionist – WRAMS).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Trisha Svoboda (Study Hall Aide – Lincoln), and Ashley Worzalla (Special Ed Aide – Woodside).
- PS-3 Approval of the professional staff retirement of Richard Larson (Teacher – District).
- PS-4 Approval of the professional staff early retirements of Lori Thompson (Teacher – Washington/THINK), Julie Space (Teacher – Lincoln), Carol Molski (Teacher – Grove), Lynn Borski (Teacher – Lincoln), and Tammy St. Myers (Teacher – WRAMS).
- PS-5 Approval of the support staff early retirement of Susan Simons (Special Ed Aide - Lincoln).
- PS-6 Approval of a professional staff base wage increase for starting teachers with no experience to \$41,500; and an increase for starting teachers with no experience and who hold a master’s degree to \$46,500, effective for the 2020-21 school year.
- PS-7 Approval of Board Policy 361.1 Rule – Procedures for Selection and Reconsideration of Library Materials for second reading.
- PS-8 Approval of an increase from 2.0% to 3.0% for the Archery Club co-curricular assignment at WRAMS.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-8. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources, provided information concerning the District’s utilization of the Employee Assistance Program.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the March 2, 2020 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- The United States Dept. of Justice has announced that the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services has \$50,000,000 in grant funding available for programs that keep students safe. The “STOP School Violence Prevention Program” provides funding to improve school security through evidence-based school safety programs.

- The state Assembly met on February 20, 2020 to pass a number of bills before adjourning for the year – several were K-12 related as follows:
  - AB 422 – raises the minimum legal age requirements under state law relating to cigarettes, tobacco, and nicotine products from 18 to 21
  - AB 459 – incorporates cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and requires cursive writing in elementary grades
  - AB 662 – creates a three-year online early learning pilot program for low-income children
  - AB 753 – modifies the tax treatment of tax-option corporations that elect to pay tax at the entity level – provisions added by the Assembly essentially allow districts to keep their “windfall” overpayments, while correcting for underpayments which resulted from 2018 errors made by the state Department of Revenue
  - AB 779 – would allow virtual charter school students who reside in a district to participate in district athletics and other extracurricular activities, and would prohibit school districts from belonging to an organization such as the WIAA that regulates interscholastic athletics unless that organization requires its member school districts to allow both homeschooled students and virtual charter school students who reside in the district to participate in the district’s athletics programs and teams – the bill was amended on the floor to remove language prohibiting school boards from being members of WIAA unless the WIAA allows virtual charter school students who reside in a district to participate in the district’s athletic teams
  - AB 810 – would create an 11-person committee to advise the DPI on the creation and design of the financial information portal making school district and school financial information available to the public
  - AB 849 – expands the part-time open enrollment program which currently applies to public school pupils at the high school level and renames it the “course choice” program – the expansion would bring in additional “educational institutions” as defined in the bill, including private schools, independent charter schools, and non-profit organizations approved by the DPI, and broadens the range of grade levels that may participate from just high school grades to grades 1-12
  - SB 72 – requires the Dept. of Workforce Development to include 16 specific occupational areas, commonly referred to as “career clusters,” in the youth apprenticeship program
  - SB 437 – pertaining to the revenue limit ceiling for school districts – this bill corrects a situation that narrowly affects the Freedom Area School District and had prevented that district from utilizing the adjustment made by the Legislature in the low revenue ceiling
  - SB 527 – modifies requirements pertaining to seclusion and physical restraint of pupils
- Three Assembly representatives (Deb Kolste, D-Janesville; Bob Kulp, R-Stratford; and Mike Rohrkaste, R-Neenah) are retiring from the legislature; two (Rob Stafsholt, R-New Richmond; and Melissa Sargent, D-Madison) are running for the state Senate in the fall, and one (Amanda Stuck, D-Appleton) is running for Congress.
- The Assembly stands adjourned for the 2019-20 Legislative Session while the state Senate is expected to have one more floor day in March before also adjourning.
- Governor Evers and the Legislature are in a showdown on how to use surplus funding. The state Senate passed a proposal to cut income taxes by \$250 million, buy down state debt and reduce the personal property tax on businesses. The Governor has his own plan to spend about \$250 million on public schools and property tax relief.
- All three of the school referenda on the February 18, 2020 ballot were turned down by voters. Voters in the Edgar and Lakeland Union High School districts rejected requests to exceed revenue limits for operational purposes on a recurring basis. Voters in the River Ridge school district rejected a referendum asking for approval to borrow money for an outdoor educational facility, including athletic fields and site improvements.
- Bipartisan legislation that would require lead testing of drinking water in schools passed the state Assembly after being tacked on as an amendment to another bill on water quality (AB 797). The amendment language would address lead in school drinking water by requiring testing and, if necessary, require contaminated water sources be taken offline and replaced with clean water sources – the bill provides no state funding for this purpose and leaves it to schools and communities to address costs associated with these mandates.

Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note February, 2020 receipts in the amount of \$8,616,853.45 and approve February, 2020 disbursements in the amount of \$3,173,856.04. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

New Business

CESA 5 Contracted Services for 2020-21

Superintendent Craig Broeren reviewed the 2020-21 CESA 5 contract being recommended for approval. Actual charges ebb and flow, based upon student need in areas such as audiology, hearing and visually impaired services, physical therapy, and reservation of slots at the Wood County Alternative School. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the contract.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the proposed CESA 5 contracted services agreement for the 2020-21 fiscal year. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds and Establishment of an Escrow Account

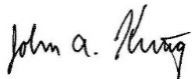
Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, explained that the Bond market hasn't been favorable to the District's plan to defease \$2,144,998.76 in debt, and it will cost a bit more than originally anticipated. The District will be able to defease the final three years of debt taken out from the last referendum, leaving two payments remaining which totals \$920,000 of the \$5.2 million borrowed. He reviewed a recommended Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds, the establishment of an escrow account with respect to and the defeasance of certain of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015, dated June 29, 2015. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the Resolution.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the proposed Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds, the establishment of an escrow account with respect to and the defeasance of certain of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 dated June 29, 2015. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk