



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

Note: Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Board Committee meetings were not held in April, 2020 and business normally conducted by the committees was taken up directly at the regular Board of Education meeting held on April 13, 2020. No Student Representative report was provided in April, 2020.

April 13, 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, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Katie Medina, Troy Bier, Mary Rayome

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Davis

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren

MEDIA PRESENT: Kevin Bargender – Wisconsin Rapids Community Media

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of March 9, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

Mr. Krings read aloud public commentary submitted by Tim and Heather Mckellips. The topic addressed in their commentary dealt with their support for the District to honor its commitments to bus contractors by providing compensation to the contractors which, as they understand it, has already been budgeted for by the District. With a sense of community and belief that school district success is intrinsically linked with its busing partners, Mr. and Mrs. Mckellips expressed concern for the long term impact to bus employees and the organizations themselves, as well as for services to potentially be unavailable when school resumes due to a possible shortage in qualified drivers and personnel to perform the work. The Mckellips urged the Board to follow the lead of sister communities that have largely come to the conclusion that their busing partners are critical elements to the school district, students, and community.

Committee Agenda Items

Craig Broeren, Superintendent, reviewed a number of topics as an update or actionable item for Board consideration which would normally fall under individual Board Committee agendas:

A. Educational Services Committee

Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct

Mr. Broeren shared recommended changes for the WRPS Code of Conduct (Grades 6-12) document. The revisions have to do with aligning trimester grade reporting periods in lieu of the quarter/semester approach; including references to the newly formed Valley Football Association (VFA); including Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) “Felony Rule” language; adding language for students to “earn a step back” if they

haven't had a code violation over a fifteen-month period; adding use or abuse of nicotine as a violation; updating language about student responsibilities in relation to eligibility and reinstatement; and other miscellaneous changes intended to clean up and clarify current language.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the suggested revisions to the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct. Motion carried unanimously.

Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) Five-Year Contract Renewal

Mr. Broeren explained that the AGR contract expires on June 30, 2020 and must be renewed by June 15, 2020 to maintain program eligibility. The District has and will continue to utilize all of the flexible options allowed under the contract, including 18:1 student-teacher ratios, instructional coaching, and one-to-one tutoring in each K-3 classroom. No significant changes will occur with the new five-year contract being recommended.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools entering into a five-year Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP) Applications

Mr. Broeren presented requests from nine students applying to take 13 courses through the SCN program during the fall of 2020-21; and one student applying to take one course through the ECCP program at UW-Milwaukee - Waukesha.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the nine applications to participate in the 13 requested courses at Mid-State Technical College through the Start College Now program in the fall of the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the one application to participate in the one requested course at UW-Milwaukee – Waukesha through the Early College Credit Program in the fall of the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

2018-19 Results from District AP Exams and ACT Graduates Exam

Results from the 2018-19 District AP and ACT Graduates Exams were reviewed. Staff members and the administration are giving thought to how they might increase test participation in the future. Factors contributing to low test participation include student stress caused by worry over failure; trimester scheduling as students might have time gaps in between their studies and when the exam gets taken in May; and the potential impact on a student's college transcript relative to low scores. A comparison of 2018-19 ACT scores was shared. Mr. Broeren stated that one factor to keep in mind when reviewing the data is that the scale of measurement ranges from 18-22%, which is a fairly constricted range to consider when looking at the bar graphs.

Forward Exam Updates

Due to the extended school closure and evolving COVID situation, standardized state testing in the form of the Forward Exam and/or Dynamic Learning Maps assessment for Wisconsin students is being cancelled by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). This is made possible through a waiver the DPI received concerning federal assessment and accountability requirements. Since the waiver also addresses accountability relative to School Report Cards, these will likely not be produced for the 2019-20 academic year.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Updates

In light of school closure, 2019-20 AP exams will be administered to students online at home, and exam content will only include topics and skills most AP teachers and students would have covered by early March. Students will be able to take the exams on any device they have access to. Individuals with limited connectivity or technology access are having their needs addressed by the school and College Board in order to resolve any issues and provide the means necessary for the exam to be taken.

2020-21 Middle School Schedule Update

Mr. Broeren explained that when the 8th grade class moved from East Jr. High to the Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) in the 2018-19 school year, the schedule adopted was slightly different than the schedule in place at the time for grades 6-7. A concern raised for 8th grade students under this modified schedule is the need

to choose between music and foreign language offerings. A proposal for WRAMS schedule modifications was introduced by the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) committee for implementation in 2019-20 to rectify concerns; however, the proposal produced broader ramifications which might potentially impact other choices for students. Tracy Ginter, Principal of WRAMS, organized a committee to study the building schedule and develop a proposed solution. The 22-member volunteer committee included two Lincoln High School representatives, and a survey was developed for eighth grade students and staff members to complete. The student survey revealed that given a choice of two electives in grade 8, the majority would choose a study hall as their second elective. Those indicating that they would take a foreign language in grade 8 also indicated that they would continue in that foreign language course when moving up to Lincoln in grade 9. Only 16% reported being dissatisfied with the current middle school schedule. Two subgroups are currently working on a recommended change which will incorporate a Wednesday activity homeroom advisory time to better align with Lincoln's late start, and to also refocus on middle school philosophy. Ultimately, the committee's final recommendation is to maintain the current schedule in elective choice for eighth graders, but incorporate a weekly activity period. Mr. Broeren shared that while the final recommendation to align schedules was not initially part of the consideration, it does help alleviate some issues related to traveling staff members to have the WRAMS and LHS schedules more in alignment.

Acquisition Materials Update

The shutdown has forced the Curriculum Department to consider how the acquisition process may differ for the upcoming year. In the past, these acquisitions and curriculum changes went through approval from subject area committees, the Quality Educator Committee, and finally the District CII committee. Elementary social studies and math, and grades 6-12 world languages are preparing for at least a partial materials acquisition for the upcoming school year. Mr. Broeren explained that during the 2020-21 school year, there are plans to pilot the elementary math curriculum being considered with a targeted full implementation in 2021-22 if the pilot goes well. Elementary social studies curriculum will be brought to the Board in December, 2020 for consideration. Lastly, the World Languages curriculum will go to the CII committee for consideration in September, 2020, and then to the Board in October, 2020.

B. Business Services Committee

Caterpillar Bobcat Skid Steer Purchase

Mr. Broeren presented a recommendation for the purchase of a 2018 Caterpillar Bobcat skid steer for use by the Buildings and Grounds Department. Storm damage from the 2019 summer added up to over \$100,000 in damages to trees and property, and the District is receiving reimbursement through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to recoup much of the expense. A portion of the unanticipated FEMA relief revenue would be utilized to pay for the skid steer. This equipment will be helpful for snow removal in small, confined areas around school buildings, and also for wood chip spreading and miscellaneous excavation work typically requiring rented equipment.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of a proposal to purchase one 2018 Caterpillar Bobcat skid steer with attachments for a total cost of \$58,000.00 from Ziegler Inc. to be funded from the Buildings and Grounds budget. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Skyward Software Renewal

The current three-year contract with Skyward expires on June 30, 2020. Skyward provides student management, fee tracking, LMS/One Roster API, and food service database management. The special education module has been removed from the contract as the District is now using Oasis as a provider for this service. Optional one-year and three-year pricing has been quoted, with one-year pricing at a cost of \$50,461.72 and three-year pricing at a cost of \$46,286.28. The administration recommends renewal of the Skyward contract at the three-year pricing structure.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the renewal of the Skyward contract for the services listed in the shaded "2020 Pricing," three-year pricing column with an annual cost to the District per year of \$9.09 per student, based on the annual Third Friday pupil count, to be funded through various District accounts. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Wireless Access Point Purchase

The Technology Support Department is seeking to upgrade several wireless access points (WAPS) at Lincoln High School (LHS) and the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) in an effort to provide the best possible wireless access for student and staff technology devices. A total of 120 WAPS would be purchased to replace less efficient WAPS currently in place at LHS and WRAMS. The less efficient WAPS are still very usable and would be repurposed at several elementary buildings. Completion of this project would bring the entire District's wireless infrastructure up to the current wireless standard of 802.11ac. LHS and WRAMS would have the next generation of

wireless access in place, also referred to as “Wi-Fi 6” or the “802.11 ax” standard. The administration recommends approval of the purchase of 120 Meraki WAPS from PDS at a total cost of \$86,594.40 to be funded at 80 percent from the Federal e-Rate program pending approval, and 20 percent from the 2020-21 Technology budget.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of a proposal to purchase 120 Meraki Wireless Access points from PDS for a total cost of \$86,594.40 to be funded at 80 percent from the Federal e-Rate program pending approval, and 20 percent from the 2020-21 Technology budget. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Broeren provided updates and reports on purchases of library media technology software, equipment for the technology education program, Chromebook purchases for use at WRAMS, and the annual renewal of the Kompas Care contract for school based services related to Medicaid billing.

C. Personnel Services Committee

Mr. Broeren presented the following employee retirement and resignation requests:

Darlene Ashbeck	Location:	Howe Elementary School
	Position:	Food Service Second Cook (7.0 hours/day)
	Effective Date:	March 10, 2020

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the support staff early retirement request of Darlene Ashbeck effective March 10, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Tongtong Zhang	Location:	Lincoln High School
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Effective Date:	March 12, 2020

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the professional staff resignation request of Tongtong Zhang effective March 12, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Sara Bain	Location:	Howe Elementary School
	Position:	Food Service Helper/FVP (3.25 hours/1.5 hours day)
	Effective Date:	March 5, 2020

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the support staff resignation request of Sara Bain effective March 5, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

The following Board policies were approved for first reading by the Board in March, 2020. Mr. Broeren presented them to the Board for second reading:

Policy 345.11 – Procedures for Academic Excellence Scholarships

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of Board Policy 345.11 – Procedures for Academic Excellence Scholarships for second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 423 – Public School Open Enrollment

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of Board Policy 423 – Public School Open Enrollment for second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy 423 Rule – Procedures for Processing Public School Open Enrollment Applications

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of Board Policy 423 Rule – Procedures for Processing Public School Open Enrollment Applications for second reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing to Consider Waivers

Mr. Broeren explained that in light of the pandemic and extended school closure, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has the ability under the Governor's Emergency Order #10 to waive the hours of instruction requirement for school districts. The DPI has developed an expedited waiver process and has indicated that they will approve all such requests. In order to secure a waiver, school boards need to hold a public hearing and document the date of the public hearing in a form prescribed by the DPI. In the prior school year due to the severe winter weather that closed school on multiple days, the District added instructional minutes to school days and added days back into the academic calendar for students to attend. In the case of this "polar vortex," the DPI would not honor requests for waivers; however, the pandemic situation is very different, and the extended school closure has greatly impacted the ability of school districts to provide continuity in education. At the high school level, students must earn credits for graduation and have grades on transcripts for colleges and post-secondary institutions to take into consideration, so the instructional approach is being customized at that level to ensure students receive what they need to stay on track to graduate. Once it became clear that school would likely not resume for the year, the focus for the District shifted toward student engagement and customer service and support for families during these difficult times. To relieve the District of the statutory obligations tied to hours of instruction, Mr. Broeren recommends that the Board approve a waiver under the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 121.02(1)(f) and the administrative rules promulgated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction regarding required instructional hours for students for the 2019-2020 school year only, due to the COVID-19 public emergency.

Additionally, Mr. Broeren recommends approval of a waiver of the requirements to complete the Educator Effectiveness Cycle for educators in their Summary Year in 2019-20, including waivers of the requirements to meet PI 8.01 and Wis. Stat. §§ 115.415 and 121.02(1)(q) for the 2019-20 school year only, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Educator Effectiveness Cycle is the mechanism by which administrators evaluate professional staff members. With Board approval, the District will not be required to meet the requirements of the Educator Effectiveness protocol for this school year. Mr. Broeren explained that in some cases, staff members will still be able to have their evaluations wrapped for the year because they were close to having them completed before the pandemic hit. Others may not be able to be finalized because there simply isn't enough time left in the year to perform evaluations properly in a classroom setting since schools are not open.

Mr. Krings opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of a Resolution to submit a request to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to waive the instructional hours requirements of Wis. Stat. § 121.02(1)(f) and the administrative rules promulgated by the department regarding required instructional hours for students for the 2019-20 school year only due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by John Benbow to approve of a Resolution to submit a request to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to waive requirements to complete an Educator Effectiveness cycle for educators in their Summary Year in 2019-20, including waivers of the requirements to meet PI 8.01 and Wis. Stat. §§ 115.415 and 121.02(1)(q) for the 2019-20 school year only due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Agenda Referrals / Information Requests

Mary Rayome requested to have the topic of the Board's involvement in memorializing deceased individuals on a future agenda.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- The Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services held a public hearing to take testimony on Senate Bill 364, which would raise the legal age for sale, purchase, and possession of cigarettes and nicotine and tobacco products from 18 to 21, and would establish a legal age of 21 for sale, purchase, and possession of vapor products. The bill has been nicknamed the "Tobacco 21" or "T-21" bill, for short. WASB supports SB 364. Assembly 422 is the companion to SB 364, and it has been passed by the state Assembly. On March 17, 2020, T-21 passed Committee on a 4-1 vote, but on April 1, 2020 it failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1 which effectively stalls the bill. A broad coalition of 28 groups support passage of the bill.
- The Senate Committee on Education held a public hearing on March 11, 2020 concerning SB 789 which expands the part-time open enrollment program and renames it the "course choice" program. The expansion would bring in additional educational institutions and expand the number of grades that may participate from

just high school to grades 1-12. The identical companion bill AB 849 has already passed the state Assembly. WASB opposes this bill.

- Senate Bill 506 relates to grants to the Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Center and making an appropriation. WASB supports this bill.
- Senate Bill 744 relates to incorporating the Holocaust and other genocides into the state model social studies standards and requiring instruction on the Holocaust and other genocides.
- With school now closed indefinitely due to the pandemic, the DPI has provided an opportunity for school districts to apply for a waiver of the hours of instruction requirement.
- Senator Fitzgerald postponed the late March Senate floor session scheduled and will instead call an extraordinary floor session to occur on April 14, 2020.
- The April 7, 2020 election has concluded, and results for all contests are still trickling in. Mr. Bier congratulated John Krings and Sandra Hett on their re-election to the Board of Education as they ran unopposed.
- On March 18, 2020 the U.S. Senate passed the federal Coronavirus Aid Package which has since been signed into law as the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) which is estimated to cost around \$104 billion. Provisions of the Act address emergency food assistance including waiver and funding authority for school meal programs, free coronavirus testing, expanded family and medical protected leave, and paid leave including tax credits for some employers, extended unemployment insurance, and increased medical reimbursement for states.
- On April 10, 2020 WASB issued a legislative call to action in partnership with the National School Boards Association to urge members of Congress to strongly support the issuance of resources and guidance to school districts in order to provide a reasonable level of continuity in special education services to students with disabilities educated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in light of the pandemic. Two key concerns negatively impacting services are 1) targeted flexibility school districts need for continuity in services, and 2) federal funding and resources needed to provide appropriate services.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to note March, 2020 receipts in the amount of \$13,005,335.09 and approve March, 2020 disbursements in the amount of \$3,344,595.46. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Update on Closure Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Mr. Broeren provided an update to the Board on the District's current approach to continue learning opportunities for students in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools were closed and off-campus learning began on March 16, 2020 when Governor Evers issued an Emergency "Safer at Home" Order. Schools quickly set up distance learning through a variety of means with teachers utilizing technology where possible, and physical learning packets as appropriate. The long-term ramifications of the pandemic have yet to be seen, and the District's approach has been to transition to a "customer-service oriented" model to help struggling families as much as possible. The pandemic has been very stressful on students and their families, staff members, and our community at large as they navigate job loss, social isolation, and fears affiliated with the spread of the virus. However, Mr. Broeren has seen students, parents, staff members, and the community come together and help one another navigate this unprecedented, difficult situation. At the State level, there has been no legislative action to determine what federal funding will be available to support schools through the pandemic. The District will keep students engaged and continue offering as many services as possible as long as it is able to. If the Order gets lifted after April 24, 2020, staff members will be extremely happy to get back into classrooms and resume school. Mr. Broeren anticipates an announcement from Governor Evers' office within the next week concerning any extensions to the Emergency Order. The Board discussed the District's approach to off-campus learning, and expressed support for the creative ways in which schools have engaged with students and families. The staff's interaction through the use of technology has been impressive, and the customer service approach which includes services such as the meals being provided is commendable.

Suspension of Board Policy 151 – Board Policy Development and Adoption

Mr. Broeren explained that in light of current circumstances and the social distancing guidelines in place, the Board is able to continue to conduct its meetings under the allowable 10-person gathering language in the Governor's "Safer at Home" Order. However, there is a possibility in the future that gatherings of even ten people may be restricted; should that occur, the Board may choose to hold remote meetings in order to continue to conduct business for the District. At the moment, there is no language in Board policy to allow for these types of meetings to occur. Mr. Broeren has developed new language which will be introduced as Policy 189 – Virtual Board Meetings in Emergency Situations for the Board's consideration. However, in order to adopt the policy quickly and forego the typical first and second readings required through committees, he recommends the Board suspend Board Policy 151 – Board Policy Development and Adoption so that approval of the new policy can take place in one meeting.

Adoption of Board Policy 189 – Virtual Board Meetings in Emergency Situations

Mr. Broeren then introduced a new policy for the Board's consideration and approval. Policy 189 – Virtual Board Meetings in Emergency Situations would allow the Board to safely and legally conduct its meetings in remote fashion. Working with guidance provided by the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB), the recommended policy will help the Board continue to conduct its business and provide continuity in District operations should circumstances further restrict in-person meetings. The Board had an opportunity to discuss the recommendation.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of suspending Board Policy 151 – Board Policy Development and Adoption for the specific purpose of allowing the newly introduced Board Policy 189 – Virtual Board Meetings in Emergency Situations to be considered for first and final approval on the same date. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of new Board Policy 189 – Virtual Board Meetings in Emergency Situations for first and final approval effective April 13, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Bus Contractor Compensation During Coronavirus Closure

Superintendent Craig Broeren explained that both Safe-Way Bus Transit and Lamers Bus provide contracted services to transport District students. Transportation services have not been needed since March 16, 2020, when the mandated school closure began as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The language in each bus company's contract does not require the District to continue making payments on days of closure. The unusual and unprecedented circumstances surrounding the pandemic are causing unanticipated hardship for the bus contractors, and they are requesting that the Board provide assistance in the form of compensation for days of closure in order to remain viable until some point in time in the future when school resumes. Safe-Way's formal request is for the District to pay their contracted base rate for each day of closure. Lamers is requesting to be paid 80% of the current AM/Noon/PM billing for all days of COVID-19 shut down.

Mr. Broeren has been participating in virtual meetings involving attorneys from various firms who are providing guidance to school districts, and he has been receiving information from multiple sources concerning the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which is new federal legislation recently passed by Congress to address the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act is designed to provide fast and direct economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses; preserve jobs for American industries; and provide for payments to State and local governments as they navigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. There are many questions surrounding what school districts and private contractors/businesses might be eligible for in terms of assistance through the CARES Act. While Mr. Broeren supports doing something to assist the bus contractors in these uncertain times, he recommends that the Board hold off and perhaps table action on the request until more information and clarity around the CARES Act develops. One specific item in the Educational Stabilization Fund Section (18006) of the CARES Act contains language stipulating that local education agencies receiving funds continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus "to the greatest extent practicable." Since the disruption will likely extend further than school closures, there is no current way to assess the impact of the disruption to determine what payments to contractors is "practicable." Attorneys from the BoardmanClark law firm suggest districts proceed with caution when attempting to make the determination of what is "practicable" concerning payments to contractors at this time. Utilizing this cautious approach will enable both the District and bus contractors to capitalize on all funding made available through the CARES Act without violating any potential statutory regulation or obligation that either party might have. Consideration should also be given to the fact that dollars expended by the District are always subject to audit; therefore, proceeding carefully to ensure WRPS is in compliance as required under statute is particularly important. The Legislature will be meeting in an extraordinary session to consider developing rules

and statutes surrounding CARES Act funding, which will hopefully help clarify how districts should proceed. Mr. Broeren hopes that within a week or two, enough information will be made available to provide a solid recommendation concerning the contractor requests.

The Board had an opportunity to discuss the requests. Mr. Benbow expressed strong support for doing something for the contractors sooner than later; from a business operating perspective, he recognizes how critical it is for the bus companies to continue making payments consistently to avoid great financial harm and potential bankruptcy. Mr. Benbow questioned what other school districts are doing to compensate their bus contractors. Tracy Wardour, President of Safe-Way Bus, and Theresa Hanneman, Terminal Manager at Lamers Bus in Wisconsin Rapids, were participating in the meeting via teleconference, and both indicated that a number of other districts have committed to paying them some type of compensation during the shutdown. They offered to gather and provide this information to the Board for their consideration. Mr. Broeren stated that he could also provide information from a contractor payment survey conducted by CESA 5 in late March to gauge what districts might be considering when it comes to contractor payments. He will request to have CESA 5 update the information with each district, since the information may have changed since the survey was initially conducted. Ms. Hett requested a breakdown of bus contractor expenses since Lamers is requesting an 80% payment, while Safe-Way is requesting 100%. Ms. Wardour clarified that no particular amount was stipulated in their request, and they are looking for any help from the District and would be satisfied with a percentage similar to the Lamers 80% request, which removes the driver wages from the calculation. Board members considered the fact that dollars remain in the 2019-20 budget for transportation expenses. Ms. Rayome indicated she would prefer to wait to decide on what to pay the contractors until more information surrounding the CARES Act becomes available. Mr. Krings made mention that there could potentially be other contractors that provide services to the District who are similarly impacted, and it behooves the District to act prudently with all of the information necessary to make informed decisions for any and all requests. If the request is tabled, Mr. Broeren will continue to work with legal counsel to develop an agreement with each contractor, and bring the information back for Board consideration at either the reorganizational meeting scheduled for April 27, 2020, or at a special Board meeting as necessary.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of tabling the requests from Safe-Way Bus Transit, Inc. and Lamers Bus for continued compensation during days of shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic until more information becomes available. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-1. John Benbow voted no.

Building Construction Trades Home Build for 2020-21

The Building Construction Trades Home Committee met on April 6, 2020 to review applications for the house build by the Lincoln High School Building Trades Home construction class in 2020-21. The committee recommends approving of the application submitted by Matthew and Amanda Walloch for construction of a home in the upcoming school year.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the application from Matthew and Amanda Walloch for construction of a home by the 2020-21 Lincoln High School Building Trades Home Construction class. Motion carried unanimously.

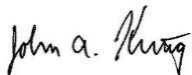
Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

No requests were brought forward for consideration.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk