



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 Hett
Katie Medina
Mary Rayome

Note: Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Board Committee meetings were not held in June, 2020 and business normally conducted by the committees was taken up directly at the regular Board of Education meeting held on June 8, 2020.

June 8, 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, Troy Bier, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Katie Medina, 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 John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of May 11, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

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

2020-21 School Calendar

Mr. Broeren explained that the November 2021 Professional Development/Recordkeeping Day is scheduled for Monday, November 29, 2021, which falls on the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday break. A significant number of students across the district are absent on the Wednesday prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. In order to make it more convenient for students and families traveling for the long holiday weekend, the administration recommends rescheduling the Professional Development/Recordkeeping Day from Monday, November 29, 2021 to Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

Additionally, the District currently has a Professional Development Day scheduled for January 31, 2022. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed on January 17, 2022. A growing number of our students are involved in community events that recognize and honor the work of Dr. King, Jr. on this annual holiday. In order to make it

more convenient for students to take part in these community activities, the administration recommends moving the previously scheduled Professional Development Day from January 31, 2022 to January 17, 2022.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of rescheduling the November 2021 Professional Development/Recordkeeping Day from November 29, 2021 to November 24, 2021, and the January Professional Development Day from January 31, 2022 to January 17, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

2020-21 Carl Perkins Grant

Mr. Broeren reviewed the Carl Perkins Grant with the Board, which is intended to focus on preparing students for high-skill, high-wage or high-demand occupations in current or emerging professions; promote the development of activities that integrate rigorous and challenging academic and career and technical instruction, linking secondary education and postsecondary education for career and technical education (CTE) students; provide technical assistance and professional development related to best practices that improve CTE programs, services, activities, and quality of CTE educators, faculty, administrators and counselors; and support partnerships between secondary schools, postsecondary institutions, local workforce investment boards, and business and industry.

The 2020-21 Carl Perkins Grant of \$41,076 will focus on gaps found in the District CTE Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment in five CTE pathways: Agriculture, Business and Administration, Engineering, Manufacturing, and Family and Consumer Sciences Food & Beverage. Expenditures of grant funds include professional development, dual credit course expansion including software and hardware for the courses, and equipment for the Manufacturing and Fab Lab.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the Carl Perkins Grant for the 2020-21 school year in the amount of \$41,076. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Department of Workforce Development Career & Technical Incentive Grant

Mr. Broeren explained that the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) CTE Incentive Grant enables Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) and area business and industry to work together to provide apprenticeship opportunities and approved industry-recognized certifications for students. Lincoln High School had fifty-four 2019 graduates earn industry-recognized certifications resulting in \$54,000 in funding. These funds are allocated for growth of Career & Technical Education programs and expansion of opportunities for students to earn industry-based certifications.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the Department of Workforce Development Career and Technical Incentive Grant funds in the amount of \$54,000. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

CESA 6 Smart Thinking Foundation Micro-Grant

The Board received an update on a micro-grant award of \$1,000 from the CESA 6 Smart Thinking Foundation, through the generous donation of CM Regent Insurance Company. The CESA 6 Smart Thinking Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to promote innovation in learning by supporting directed programs for educational systems. The Foundation was created by CESA 6, and generous donations from CM Regent Insurance Company have allowed the CESA 6 Smart Thinking Foundation to help schools and educators. The Smart Thinking Foundation Board selected the grants using one or more of the following criteria: demonstrated financial need; demonstrated need based upon student performance; award increases services to students and/or staff; and/or requested product or services align to system or site strategic plan.

WRPS will be using this grant to help provide training for ELL staff on the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Model. SIOP is a research-based and validated instructional model that has proven effective in addressing the academic needs of English learners. When implemented, SIOP is proven to: a) increase student achievement; b) improve academic content skills and language skills; c) deliver results aligned to district objectives; and d) prepare students to become college and career ready.

B. Business Services Committee

Prior to the Board of Education meeting, Board members toured the Building Trades Home project located at 4430 20th Street North in Wisconsin Rapids. The home was built by the 2019-20 Lincoln High School Building Construction class.

Mead Elementary School Kitchen Remodel

Five contractors submitted bids for the Mead Elementary School Kitchen Remodel project. All five proposals listed below were reviewed by Plunkett Raysich Architects LLC. The administration recommended approval of the bid from Eagle Construction Co., Inc.

Altmann Construction Company, Inc.	\$195,425
Eagle Construction Company, Inc.	\$191,945
Ellis Construction	\$212,479
Findorff	\$216,720
Miron	\$198,628

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the proposal from Eagle Construction Company, Inc. for the renovation of the Mead Elementary School Kitchen for a total cost of \$191,945 to be funded from the Building and Grounds budget and Fund 50. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

CESA 5 Rental of Vesper Building for 2020-21

CESA 5 has expressed an interest in renewing the rental of the Vesper Building for the 2020-21 School Year. The Board reviewed the use agreement.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the 2020-21 lease agreement with CESA 5 for rental of the Vesper Building. Motion carried unanimously.

Asbestos Abatement – Grove and Grant Elementary Schools

There are six rooms at Grove Elementary School with asbestos floor tile that is in extremely poor condition. The subfloor underneath is wood and is becoming loose and causing the asbestos floor tile to crack and become friable. The administration proposes the abatement of the last six rooms with asbestos floor tile at Grove and the last two rooms at Grant during the summer of 2020. This will eliminate the need to have continued annual asbestos monitoring of the floors in both elementary buildings. The cost for abatement at Grove will be \$13,400 and the cost for abatement at Grant will be \$1,600.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the proposal for abatement of the asbestos floor tile in six rooms at Grove Elementary School and two rooms at Grant Elementary at a total cost of \$15,000 to be funded from the Building and Grounds budget. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Lucidcharts/LucidPress Purchase

During the COVID closure many staff and students explored new tools and options to create content and complete assignments. One of the tools discovered was Lucidcharts and LucidPress. Both programs have incredible potential to create, make, design, edit and complete assignments. After a significant amount of research, the Library Media Specialist staff along with the Technology Department, believe these programs are a great tool for our staff and students to use to create and design all sorts of documents to aid in the learning process. Additionally, purchasing a site license allows the tool to be open for use by all District staff. A District-wide license will cost \$10,200.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the purchase of a District-wide license of LucidCharts and LucidPress from Lucid Inc. at a cost of \$10,200 to be funded from the 2020-2021 Common School Fund budget. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Gaggle Safety Management Renewal

The District has used the Gaggle Safety Management Platform for several years to monitor student emails and Google Drive documents for signs of bullying, suicide, and general misconduct while using these types of platforms. This tool has been an invaluable part of the overall student safety program. This year alone, the program was used extensively over the COVID closure to aid administration in monitoring student activity online. Current monitoring includes student emails in grades 5-12 and Google Drive content in Grades 3-12. For the 2020-2021 school year, the administration plans to add student email to grades 3 and 4. Additionally, the Gaggle Google Drive backup tool is utilized to back-up staff Google Drive content. The administration recommends approval of the renewal of the Gaggle Safety Management Suite for Google and Google Drive backup for staff from Gaggle at a cost of \$27,900 to be funded from the 2020-2021 Technology budget.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the purchase of the Gaggle Safety Management Suite for Google and Google Drive backup for staff from Gaggle at a cost of \$27,900 to be funded from the 2020-2021 Technology budget. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Updates on Purchases

The Board received an update on various purchases for technology software, police liaison services, copy paper, and a contract renewal for District firewall maintenance and support. With regard to police liaison services, Ms. Hett questioned whether the District would be responsible for any payment for the portion of the school year that buildings were closed due to the pandemic. Mr. Broeren will contact the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department to address this question.

C. Personnel Services Committee

Mr. Broeren presented the following professional staff appointments for the 2020-21 school year:

Christine Skogg	Location:	RCHS
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Salary:	\$51,000
Kayla Kopacz	Location:	District
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Salary:	\$46,500
Jacob Jensen	Location:	Lincoln High School
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Salary:	\$41,500
Laura Reichert	Location:	WRAMS
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Salary:	\$41,500

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the professional staff appointments of Christine Skogg, Kayla Kopacz, Jacob Jensen, and Laura Reichert effective with the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren presented the following support staff appointments for the 2020-21 school year:

Cindy O'Loughlin	Location:	Howe Elementary School
	Position:	Second Cook (7.0 hours/day)
	Hourly Rate:	\$16.02
Amanda Grant	Location:	Howe Elementary School
	Position:	Helper/FFVP (4.75 hrs/day M-Th, 3.25 hrs/day Fri)
	Hourly Rate:	\$15.33

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the support staff appointments of Cindy O'Loughlin and Amanda Grant effective with the 2020-21 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren presented the following 2020 summer school professional staff appointment:

Stefanie Tryba	Location:	District
	Position:	Summer School Site Coordinator
	Salary:	\$2,000.00

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the professional staff appointment of Stefanie Tryba to the Summer School Site Coordinator position effective July 6, 2020, contingent upon summer school not getting cancelled. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren presented the following 2020 summer support staff appointments:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Summer Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hourly Wage</u>
August Bambenek	Technology Support	District	\$10.50
Emma Mischnick	Technology Support	District	\$10.50
Justin Abraham	Technology Support	District	\$10.50
Nu Thao	Technology Support	District	\$10.50
Caleb Krommenakker	Grounds Helper	District	\$11.00
Chani Pulchinski	Grounds Helper	District	\$11.00

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the 2020 summer support staff appointments of August Bambenek, Emma Mischnick, Justin Abraham, Nu Thao, Caleb Krommenakker, and Chani Pulchinski as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren presented the following youth apprenticeship support staff appointments for the 2020-21 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Hourly Wage</u>
Collin Kozlowski	Student Webmaster	District	\$10.00
August Bambenek	LHS Chromebook Repair Tech	Lincoln	\$10.00

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the youth apprenticeship support staff appointments effective with the 2020-21 school year of Collin Kozlowski and August Bambenek as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren presented the following professional staff resignation requests:

Karen Salzwedel	Location:	WRAMS
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 8, 2020
Robert Cummings	Location:	Mead Elementary
	Position:	Teacher (.62 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 8, 2020

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the professional staff resignation requests of Karen Salzwedel and Robert Cummings effective June 8, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren presented the following support staff resignation requests:

Jade Johnson	Location:	Mead Elementary School
	Position:	Club Mead Teaching Aide (average 3.6 hours/day)
	Effective Date:	June 5, 2020
Kristine Novey	Location:	Mead Elementary School
	Position:	Teacher (7.0 hours/day)
	Effective Date:	June 5, 2020

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the support staff resignation requests of Jade Johnson and Kristine Novey effective June 5, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren explained that the District has received 40 applications from parents requesting their child(ren) be allowed to attend the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools under the Open Enrollment Law for the upcoming 2020-21 school year, and 82 applications to attend a school district outside the District.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of all 2020-21 pupil Open Enrollment applications under the Open Enrollment law, pending a review of discipline records and special services needs. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Broeren presented a recommendation to approve of a one-time stipend of \$2,000.00 for the Lincoln Athletic Department Secretary, Betsy Borski, for additional responsibilities she performed during the 2019-20 school year. Ms. Hett raised some questions concerning the request.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of paying a one-time stipend of \$2,000.00 to Betsy Borski for additional athletic department secretary responsibilities during the 2019-2020 school year. Motion carried 5-1 on a roll call vote. Sandra Hett voted no.

Mr. Broeren presented a recommendation to approve of a one-time stipend of \$1,943.20 to Chris Feidt to cover five days of Lincoln athletic director duties he will perform during the month of June, prior to assuming his new role as the athletic director on July 1, 2020.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to approve of a one-time stipend of \$1,943.20 to Chris Feidt for athletic director duties for the month of June, 2020. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Update on 2020-21 Professional Staff Hiring

Mr. Broeren provided an update on the status of professional staff hiring for the 2020-21 school year. Twenty-two positions have been filled as of May 28, 2020 with five positions remaining open. Upcoming interviews for a number of the vacant positions have been scheduled.

Agenda Referrals / Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- The U.S. Department of Justice Office of School Safety is launching a new Speak Up, Speak Out (SUSO) Resource Center as a comprehensive, one-stop place to turn with important concerns currently offering threat assessment consultation, critical incident response, and general school safety guidance.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published guidelines for reopening the economy which impacts schools and other entities.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture extended three nationwide waivers for schools and local nutrition programs to make it easier to feed eligible children through August 31, 2020.
- Congress is moving toward another emergency supplemental bill which would provide relief for state and local governments and schools. This emergency bill H.R. 6800 is dubbed the “HEROES Act,” and would provide \$3 trillion to help states, communities, and individuals. Support for the bill is divided, with Democrats in support of the bill and Republicans against.
- Applications for federally funded childcare provider grants are now open. The Department of Children and Families announced applications are open for this program which will provide \$51 million in assistance to an industry deemed essential during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- State Senator David Craig announced he will not seek reelection to the state Senate, making him the eighth member of the 33-member Senate that will not return in the next session. Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald is running for Congress, Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling recently announced she is resigning, and longtime State Senator Luther Olson, who has chaired the Senate’s education committee, is retiring. Senator Tom Tiffany was recently elected to Congress, leaving a vacant seat; and other seats are open due to the retirements of Senators Mark Miller, Fred Risser and David Hansen.
- Jill Underly, Superintendent for the Pecatonica Area School District, and Sheila Briggs, Wisconsin Assistant State Superintendent, have announced their intentions to run in the upcoming State Superintendent’s race to be held in April, 2021.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note May, 2020 receipts in the amount of \$1,881,840.15 and approve May, 2020 disbursements in the amount of \$3,921,973.56. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New BusinessEmployee Resignations and Appointments

Mr. Broeren presented the following professional staff resignation request:

Professional Staff Resignations

David Schleihs	Location:	WR Area Middle School
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 8, 2020
	Date of Hire:	August 24, 1998

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the professional staff resignation request of David Schleihs effective June 8, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

District 10-Year Facility Plan

Mr. Broeren provided details concerning recommended updates to the District 10-Year Facility Plan which includes a topographic survey for athletic upgrade planning at Lincoln High School in the amount of \$43,400.00; as well as a District telephone system upgrade at an estimated cost of \$200,000.00. Adding these projects to the 10-Year Plan will allow the District to utilize Fund 46 dollars to cover the costs, ultimately freeing up money in Fund 10 for other initiatives which might prove particularly helpful when future school funding levels are unknown in light of the pandemic.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the recommended updates to the District 10-Year Facility Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Datacenter Infrastructure Upgrade

Mr. Broeren explained that the current District datacenter infrastructure needs upgrading. The servers and storage have been in place for six years and while they are still operational and functional, the initial warranty and support purchased with these devices has expired. Typically, the District has refreshed the devices every five years. These devices support critical computing and network infrastructure running several financial and student management programs. With a need for increased storage capacity and overall infrastructure performance, the solution developed by the Technology Department will meet the District’s needs over the next five years, allow for the repurpose of current servers and storage to the District recovery site, and upgrade the current backup storage repository. The administration recommends the purchase of the following equipment as the most cost effective solution which includes a hybrid flash storage array, three physical servers to run the virtual server environment, and a backup appliance that will be located at the disaster recovery site in Rudolph, to be funded through Fund 46 in accordance with the District’s 10-Year Facility Plan:

HP Nimble Hybrid Flash Storage Array.....	\$42,036.85
3 – HP DL360 Servers.....	\$33,460.29
HP StoreOnce Backup Repository	\$15,465.89
Installation.....	<u>\$4,500.00</u>
TOTAL.....	<u>\$95,463.03</u>

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the proposed Nimble Storage Array, three HP DL360 Servers, the HP StoreOnce Backup repository, and installation from PDS at a total cost of \$95,463.03 to be funded through Fund 46 in accordance with the District 10-Year Facility Plan. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

District Reopening Committee

Mr. Broeren updated the Board about a Reopening Committee that is being developed and will be comprised of multiple school staff members across the district including administration, professional and support staff members, Wood County Health Department representatives, local community healthcare professionals, business and transportation partners, and individuals from area private/parochial schools. The group’s first meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2020, and Mr. Broeren is interested in knowing whether the Board would prefer to have a member or two join the committee or alternatively have him provide updates as appropriate before ultimately bringing a plan forward for the Board’s consideration at the conclusion of the committee’s work. Mr. Broeren anticipates that the group’s work will focus around planning for three potential scenarios of varying degrees: in-person instruction at buildings with safety measures in place; a hybrid blend of in-person and distance learning; or one hundred percent off-campus, virtual learning. A rational, pragmatic approach will be utilized in planning, and it will be based upon the status of local conditions relative to COVID-19 viral spread since the situation is continually changing. Multiple resources and guidance from agencies such as the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wood County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Department of Public Instruction will be relied upon as well. Mr. Broeren anticipates having a plan to present to the Board by early August. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions and indicated a preference for the committee to do its work without Board participation and ultimately bring the final plan forward for Board review and consideration once it is complete.

2020-21 District Budget

Mr. Broeren presented information on the proposed 2020-21 District budget. In light of circumstances surrounding the pandemic, he fully anticipates that a budget repair bill at the state level will likely impact school aid and ultimately cause a need for budget adjustments to be made. Property values, the annual pupil count, and equalization aid all impact the upcoming budget. Mr. Broeren explained several factors that went into building the proposed budget, which represents a zero increase over 2019-20. Utilizing Fund 46 dollars to support upcoming

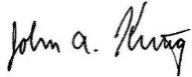
planned projects, as well as anticipated CARES Act dollars that the District should be receiving are contributing factors in maintaining a balanced budget. Insurance renewal rate projections are looking favorable since the loss ratio is currently around 68%. While wage increases have been included in the budget, this is an area that could be looked at for savings if needed. The current mill rate is 10.4, and the projected budget would change the mill rate to 8.9. State certified aid amounts will be known in October, and a great deal is likely to change leading up to that point. Should the Board approve of publishing the proposed 2020-21 budget, it will be taken up at the Board budget hearing scheduled on June 29, 2020 for formal adoption.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the 2020-21 District budget to be published.
Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk