



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

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

June 14, 2021

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Services Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Troy Bier, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Mary Rayome

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: Katie Medina

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Steve Hepp, Brian Oswald, Danielle Scott, Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Elizabeth Messerli

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Special Recognition – Student Representative

President Krings recognized Rachel Marten and thanked her for her service to the Board as the Student Representative during the 2020-21 school year. Rachel then introduced Madelyn Hepp, who will be serving as the Student Representative during the 2021-22 school year.

Public Comment

A number of individuals spoke on the topic of the continued face mask requirement for students:

Mike Schedgick – he is opposed to masking and urged Board members to resign

Samantha Franz – believes the Board does not hear, acknowledge, or properly represent the public, suggesting an open forum be scheduled for the purpose of sharing dialogue and having genuine conversation with constituents

Heidi Kawleski – believes Board members are violating their sworn Oath of Office by upholding the unconstitutional mask mandate requirement

Joann Zag – opposes the requirement for children to wear masks

Becky Kressin – urged the Board to lift the mask mandate during the hot summer months, similar to surrounding districts

Anita Jacisin – believes masks are creating lifelong childhood fears in students and wants the mandate lifted

Mike Derrie – opposes masks and urged Board members to do their own homework to determine the truth about masks

Rose Steinhafel – opposes the Board’s reliance on the medical professionals involved to guide decisions around COVID precautionary measures; believes that other medical professionals and parents are intelligent enough to make their own healthcare decisions for their children; believes the mask mandate is unequal, unethical, and unfair and wants parents to have a choice for their children regarding masking

Jean Gustin - opposes masks and vaccine requirements for children

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of May 10, 2021, and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of May 10, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee ReportsA. Educational Services Committee – June 7, 2021. 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 the Carl Perkins Grant for the 2021-22 school year in the amount of \$52,584.00.
- ES-2 Approval of the Department of Workforce Development Technical Incentive Grant funds for \$55,200.00.
- ES-3 Approval of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Fab Lab Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00.
- ES-4 Approval of the purchase of a three-year contract for eduCLIMBER and FastBridge software from Illuminate Education at a cost of \$211,965.00 to be funded from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Grant funds.
- ES-5 Approval of the purchase of a 3-year subscription to READ 180 in the amount of \$33,129.84 to be funded from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Grant funds.

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

Ms. Rayome provided updates and reports on:

- Jake Wendtland, World Languages Teacher, provided an overview on how students achieve Global Education Achievement Certification (GEAC) through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Sarah Price earned the GEAC designation in 2021. *At the Board meeting, Sarah Price presented information on her Global Scholar journey. The Board expressed their appreciation for her presentation, and formally recognized her for her accomplishments.*
- The Committee learned that Typing Club is being renewed for three years at a cost of \$10,103.10 using ESSER II Grant dollar. Ms. Hett requested information about which age levels the program applies to, which Mr. Broeren will verify and provide at a later date.
- The Committee was updated on the use of Fast ForWord which is an evidence-based, adaptive reading and language program offering a personalized and differentiated pathway for learners to maximize achievement. Fast ForWord with Reading Assistant Plus is being renewed for three years at a cost of \$13,825.00 using ESSER II Grant dollars.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the June 7, 2021 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – June 7, 2021. 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 to purchase the live video display board from Daktronics in the amount of \$385,455.00 from the 2021-22 Capital Projects Fund.
- BS-2 Approval of a 5-year loan agreement provided by WoodTrust Bank with the principal balance of \$385,945.00 and the interest rate of 2.25% for the purchase of the video display board.
- BS-3 Approval to purchase 100 iPads from Apple at a cost of \$29,900.00 from the 2021-22 Technology Referendum or ESSER II funds.
- BS-4 Approval to purchase 1 Lu Interactive Mobile playground, setup and training from Tierney Brothers at a cost of \$33,793.46 from the 2021-22 Technology Referendum or ESSER II funds.
- BS-5 Approval of the purchase of 30 Audio Enhancement Sentinel Sound Systems from Tierney Brothers at a cost of \$32,170.00 from the 2021-22 Technology Referendum or ESSER II funds.

Ms. Hett requested that consent agenda items BS-1 and BS-2 be held out.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items BS 3, 4, and 5. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

With regard to consent agenda items BS-1 and BS-2, Ms. Hett expressed her displeasure in first learning about the expensive video board item and affiliated loan during June, 2021 meetings when a quote for acceptance was signed on behalf of the District on May 12, 2021. She expressed concern that without dedicated funds available for the purchase, the District will be liable for any funds not contributed.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items BS 1 and 2. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 4-2. Sandra Hett and Mary Rayome voted no.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Various invoices, bid specifications, and purchase orders.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the June 7, 2021 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – June 7, 2021. 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 appointments for the 2021-22 school year of Nicole Fatsis (Teacher – District), Matthew Bates (Teacher – Lincoln), Adele Riley (Teacher – Woodside), Kalie Forcier (Teacher – THINK), Tia McElvain (Teacher – Woodside), Lisa Butzen (Teacher – Grant), Maloree Beste (Teacher – Grant), Brooklyn Podgorny (Teacher – THINK), Kendra Jaenke (Teacher – Grove), Alanna Ehrike (Teacher – Mead), Sarah Ranum (Teacher – Grant), Isaac Pulchinski (Teacher – WRAMS/Howe/Grove), Jacob Miller (Teacher – Mead), Dawn Drossel (Teacher – Mead), Sheila Marg (Teacher – Howe).

PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Malissa Rosenthal (Health Aide – Mead), Abbi McCarty (Reading Intervention Aide – Lincoln), Kristin Ashenberg (Secretary – Lincoln), Meg Ratelle (Library Aide – Woodside), Melissa Call (Library Aide – Howe), Kelli Harris (Library Aide – Grove), Amanda Grant (Head Cook – Howe), Michael Tushkowski (Cleaner – Mead), Elizabeth Tushkowski (Custodian – WRAMS), Adam Doerrler (Custodian – WRAMS), and Jackie Gaupp (Special Ed Aide – Washington).

Committee members requested additional information around the Pitsch Early Learning Center Office/Health Aide and Central Oaks Academy Secretary position requests, and referred the item to the regular Board agenda to be taken up under New Business for discussion and possible action.

PS-3 Approval of the Youth Apprenticeship support staff appointments for the 2021-22 school year of Natalia Montoya (Copy Assistant – District), Owen Bessey (Performing Arts Center – Technician), Eric Huglen (Chromebook Repair Tech – District), Jacklyn Greening (Student Webmaster – District).

PS-4 Approval of the following individuals to 2021 summer support staff appointments in various positions: August Bambenek, Emma Mischnick, Justin Abraham, Collin Kozlowski, Chani Pulchinski, Abias Wilhorn, Dane Siler, Harrison Lambert, Tanner Peters, Riley Huiras, Geordan Straughan, Michelle Zuege, Angela Wirth, Casey Saeger, Nicole Crowley, Keegan Crowley, Patty Halbur, Marita Mitchell, Zoe Wirtz, Holly Miller, Maria Lopez, Carole Pfahning, Jillian Alekna, America Arts, Tessa Atwood, Ava Etheridge, Ellie Heiman, Marlene Holtz, Sarah Korte, Nicholas Millner, Isabelle Pechinski, Greta Plummer, Josie Staven, Kacey Vanzee, Teagan Bondioli, Macey Back, Morgan Benedict, Fiona Gaugert, Emily Hartjes, Madisyn Hasenohrl, Sophie Hasenohrl, Destinee Steinhafel, Laynee Steinhafel, Yanissa Quilantán, Lydia Zacher, Kim Ahles, Abigail Krug, Carrie Schultz, Vicki Shafranski, Anita Hernandez, Lori Hogue, Ashlee Bloyd, Michelle Diebel, Tania Halbersma, Melissa Wagner, Mabelle Anderson, Alanna Behreandt, Anna Bouchard, Carl DeLuca, Kiralyn Felts, Kaitlyn Kouba, Madeline Krzykowski, Lucas McKeon, Kayelyn Schulze, Elliot Schultz, Tyler Schultz, Aliyah Tafoya, and Maggie Weiland.

PS-5 Approval of the support staff retirements of Sandra Nieman (Secretary – District Office), and Steven Herman (Custodian - WRAMS).

PS-6 Approval of the professional staff resignations of Abrielle Tiffany (Teacher – WRAMS/Grove), Megan Fox (Teacher – Mead), and Amberell Applebee (Teacher – District).

- PS-7 Approval of the support staff resignations of Renee Briese (Noon Duty Aide – Mead), Kathleen Pyburn (Noon Duty Aide – Lincoln), Todd Marcoux (Noon Duty Aide – Mead), Debra Blevins (Special Ed Aide – Grove), Holly Ihrcke (Special Ed/Noon Duty Aide – Grove), Maria Lopez (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Rachel Teeselink (Special Ed Aide – Washington), Tracy Tometzak (Special Ed Aide/EC – Pitsch), Betsy Borski (Secretary – Lincoln), Brandon Frank (Cleaner – Woodside), Kue Thao (ELL Aide – WRAMS), Dawn Sukala (Noon Aide – Lincoln), and Tammy Klingforth (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln).
- PS-8 Approval of the Summer Swim Site Coordinator title change to Assistant Summer Swim Coordinator and a pay rate increase to \$17.00 per hour, effective June 14, 2021 for summer swim lessons.
- PS-9 Approval of the Food Services Meal Delivery Driver position.
- PS-10 Approval of the Food Services Breakfast Server position at Pitsch Early Learning Center.
- PS-11 Approval of the Food Services Second Cook position to become a First Cook position at Lincoln High School.
- PS-12 Approval of the Food Services Kitchen Helper position to become an A La Carte Cook position at WRAMS.
- PS-13 Approval of a name change to the Athletic Director Secretary position to Administrative Assistant to the Lincoln High School Athletic Director/LHS Athletic Facilities Coordinator and increase the position to an 8 hour, 260-day work schedule and pay increase to \$17.80 per hour after the probationary period.
- PS-14 Approval of 10 extended days for the Equity Coordinator position.
- PS-15 Approval of Board Policy 347 Rule (1) – Guidelines for the Control and Maintenance of Student Records, second reading.
- PS-16 Approval of the deletion of Board Policy 672.1 – Proposals for Professional Services, second reading.

Ms. Hett requested that consent agenda items PS 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 be held out.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items PS 1-8, 15, and 16. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hett requested clarification around the following consent agenda items:

Items PS 9-12: Ms. Hett questioned whether the positions are being funded by Food Service Fund 50, and if the Pitsch Food Services Breakfast position is part time. Mr. Oswald clarified that the positions will be paid for from Fund 50, and that the breakfast position is part time, working two hours per day.

Item PS 13: Ms. Hett questioned the need for the position to expand in hours when the additional workload from the quadplex is not yet known, noting that the position recently received additional compensation. She requested copies of the Secretary and Athletic Director position job descriptions.

Item PS 14: Ms. Hett questioned what the net amount of contracted days will be for the Equity Coordinator position since it was not contained in the minutes. Mr. Oswald confirmed that the position would move from a 190-day contract to a 200-day contract.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items PS 9, 10, 11, and 12. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items PS 13. Motion carried 5-1 on a roll call vote. Sandra Hett voted no.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda item PS 14. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the June 7, 2021 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Ms. Hett made mention that Board members should consider contacting legislative representatives concerning the potential loss of \$1.5 billion federal school funds if the educational maintenance of effort is not properly met by the State. Mr. Broeren explained that he has been hearing that there is broad sentiment among representatives to do what is necessary to ensure the federal funding opportunity is not lost. Mr. Benbow suggested a Board resolution be drafted to state the Board's position as well as having individual Board members contact legislators.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- A number of K-12 related bills were voted on and passed by the Senate and/or Assembly on May 11, 2021, including:
 - SB 51 relating to qualification of newspapers to receive compensation for publication of legal notices and requirements relating to publication
 - SB 52 relating to public notice of non-candidacy for incumbent local elected officials
 - SB 235 relating to measuring a school district's improvement for the school and school district accountability report
 - SB 238 relating to requiring each school board to post the child abuse and neglect reporting hotline number in school buildings
 - SB 302 relating to the Department of Public Instruction's waiver authority in parental choice programs, the Special Needs Scholarship Program, and independent charter schools
 - AB 59 related to open enrollment and income eligibility for the statewide voucher program
 - AB 226 related to requiring playing or singing of the national anthem at sporting events held in a venue constructed at least in part with public funding
- On May 19, 2021, Governor Evers announced that a round of broadband expansion funding would be launched to expand high-speed broadband internet across the state with \$100 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) announced they were postponing a vote on putting state money into broadband expansion grants until they see details of the Governor's plan.
- On May 27, 2021 the JFC approved its version of the state education budget, leaning heavily on the large influx of one-time federal dollars to greatly reduce increases to state funding for public schools in Wisconsin. The K-12 funding plan proposes to spend only about \$128 million more on K-12 education over the next two years, which is roughly one-quarter of the investment the Legislature made in schools in the last state budget, and less than one-tenth of the amount proposed by Governor Evers. Mostly concerning is that the limited proposed increases could jeopardize \$1.5 billion or more in federal funding. Comparisons of the JFC versus Governor's budget proposal and its potential impact on education were shared. This concerning situation is not only one to monitor, but also contact legislative representatives about.
- Mr. Benbow made mention of a Wisconsin Assembly bill which would require the national anthem to be played before all sporting events at fields and stadiums that receive public funding, stating that in his experience and involvement with high school sports over the years, this is already occurring.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note May, 2021 receipts in the amount of \$5,465,186.45 and approve May, 2021 disbursements in the amount of \$3,582,843.14. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New BusinessEmployee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

Central Oaks Academy Secretary and Pitsch Early Learning Center Office/Health Aide Positions

Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources, provided additional details as a follow-up from the June, 2021 Personnel Services Committee meeting around the request to appoint an individual to the Central Oaks Academy Secretary position. Details about the virtual program's move to the East Jr. High location and need for clerical support were shared. Enrollment numbers were discussed. Mr. Oswald also shared information about the need to hire a Pitsch Early Learning Center Office/Health Aide, and affiliated duties. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the appointment of Ashley Haferman to the Central Oaks Academy Secretary position effective June 14, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the appointment of Tracy Weiss to the Pitsch Early Learning Center Office/Health Aide position effective August 23, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

District Co-Curricular Activities Code

Mr. Broeren explained that the District is interested in moving the requirement for parents to sign the Co-Curricular Activities Code as part of the On-line Enrollment Verification (OEV) process for secondary level students beginning with the 2021-22 school year, and is recommending a wording change to the Code to incorporate this change. This modification will streamline the signing and tracking process for both parents and the schools involved. The administration and athletic directors have discussed when Code violation infractions would begin to count, and have determined that Code violations will apply after a pupil has begun to involve themselves in an activity, rather than the actual date upon which the Code was signed. This will allow students who may have had infractions or discipline issues prior to entering an activity the chance to begin the activity with a clean slate.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the recommended changes to the District Co-Curricular Activities Code effective June 14, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Regarding the Sale of Cooperative Educational Service Agency 5 (CESA 5) Property

Mr. Broeren explained that the proposed Resolution for the sale of CESA 5 property is being made at the request of CESA 5. The property is located at 6471 Cameron Avenue in Vesper, Wisconsin and is not District-owned. The Wood County Alternative School operated by CESA 5 was formerly housed at the location up until CESA 5 began leasing the Vesper Elementary School building in July, 2019. CESA 5 is required to have three-fourths of its school districts covered under their region provide approval for the sale of CESA property.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed Resolution for Cooperative Educational Service Agency 5 to sell property located at 6471 Cameron Avenue in Vesper, Wisconsin. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$34,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021

Mr. Broeren reviewed the proposed Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$34,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021 and pursuant to Section 67.12(1)(b), Wisconsin Statutes. PMA Securities and Robert W. Baird & Company provided the District with an outline of the Sale Summary and Referendum Financing Plan which Mr. Broeren shared. Items reviewed include a 20-year interest rate trend with historical lows being experienced since 1994, the financing process and next steps involved, and the award Resolution action involving Bond Anticipation Notes to be taken up by the Board. The Administration recommends approval of the Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021 in an amount of \$34,000,000 at a projected rate of 2.00% with a settlement date of July 6, 2021 and call date of September 7, 2021. The Board would approve of refunding of the \$34,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes at its July 12, 2021 meeting. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to approve of the proposed Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$34,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021 pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 67.12(1)(b). Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Preliminary 2021-22 District Budget to be Published

Mr. Broeren shared the preliminary 2021-22 District budget to be published in anticipation of the upcoming June 30, 2021 budget hearing meeting. While the final budget cannot be finalized until the State certifies aid in October, the administration predicts that the tax levy will be slightly lower as had been communicated to voters in referendum information meetings. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the proposed preliminary 2021-22 District budget to be published. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.


John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk