



**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

July 12, 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, Katie Medina,
Mary Rayome

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Steve Hepp, Brian Oswald, Roxanne Filtz, Tina Miller, Ed Allison

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Special Recognition – District Retirees

President Krings recognized the following District retirees, thanking them for their years of dedication and service: Connie Henke, Judy Grover, Cheryl Koch, and Sara Esser.

Public Comment

A number of individuals made public comment:

Tom Heiser – pointed out warning labels on paper mask boxes which claim no protection against disease; opposes mandatory masks and urged the Board to discontinue the mask requirement for not just summer, but also for the upcoming school year

Scott Kissinger – questions the efficacy of masks and shared excerpts concerning masking from a variety of publications

Ranee Graf – opposes requirement for mask wearing by unvaccinated individuals; spoke on the number of adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccinations and the potential for school districts to be sued for requiring it and attempting to make decisions for children that do not belong to them

Mike Schedgick – opposes masking and the shaming that accompanies it; believes fear mongering is what is driving the pandemic which he states needs to stop

Becky Kressin – commented on the number of individuals vaccinated and unvaccinated who have contracted COVID-19, stating she believes the vaccine is harmful and suggested the Board do their own research on the topic; urged the Board to establish a working relationship with community members; she opposes masks and is hopeful that the Board will lift the mask mandate

Lynn Derrie – believes political motivation and fear is driving the pandemic or as she calls it, the “plandemic” and does not support required COVID-19 vaccination or the requirement to wear a mask if you are unvaccinated

Brent Eisberner – as an alum of WRPS he is saddened by the District’s failure to protect the health and well-being of its students, making note of the number of districts across the state that have already removed the mask mandate; he believes the science shows that infection rates are low in children under 17, students are not significant vectors of COVID-19, schools are not breeding grounds for the virus, and masks negatively impact the social and emotional well-being of children; he made mention of his representation of families as an attorney, stating that he is arguing for parents to be given the ability to make their own health decisions for their own families

Brock Maddox – stated he is a parent of a WRPS student who he says suffered through the policies created by the Board which he believes are not in the best interest of families; he opposes masks and wants them to be optional, giving parents freedom of choice on the matter

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of June 14, 2021; special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of June 14, 2021; special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of June 15, 2021 and June 16, 2021; and special Board of Education meeting minutes of June 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – July 6, 2021. Report given by John Krings.

Mr. Krings 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 making masks optional for individuals 12 and older effective July 13, 2021. For individuals at pre-K age through 11, masks will be optional effective July 13, 2021 through the end of summer school; circumstances will then be evaluated prior to the beginning of the 2021-22 school year to determine if optional mask wearing for ages pre-K through 11 will be continued.
- ES-2 Approval of the Pupil Academic Standards that will be in effect for the 2021-22 school year as presented.
- ES-3 Approval of the contract with Renaissance Learning for the 2021-22 school year in the amount of \$44,161.55 to be paid for from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II Funds (ESSER II).
- ES-4 Approval of the SEL-Life Tools Grant of \$2,400.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ES-5 Approval of the Healthy Schools b.e.s.t. Grant application for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ES-6 Approval of Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Grant application for the 2021-2022 school year.
- ES-7 Approval of the revised Gifted and Talented Educational Services Plan as presented.
- ES-8 Approval of the revised school day schedules beginning with the 2021-22 school year to accommodate Professional Learning Communities meeting time as presented.

Mr. Krings requested that consent agenda item ES-1 be held out.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 2-8. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

With regard to consent agenda item ES-1, Mr. Krings held it out to allow for any additional discussion and to have the item voted on separately. Board members had no additional discussion on the topic.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda item ES 1. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Krings provided updates and reports on:

- Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, reviewed the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) End-of-Year Report which includes information on each school's implementation of AGR contract requirements, performance objectives, and success in attaining the objectives. Ms. Filtz noted that the District did offer off-campus instruction for elementary learners throughout the 2020-21 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also provided five-day, in person instruction all year. The District did not lower its 80% benchmark goal set in Reading and math, even given the difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic. With learning loss experienced from the shutdown of March, 2020 to the end of the 2020-21 school year, and the transiency of students switching between off-campus and in person learning in 2020-21 as well as extensive quarantine situations across the district, the benchmark set was not met in all areas; however, good improvement was shown in many areas from mid-year to the end of the year. The data gathered will be used in PLC meetings to help improve student success and outcomes into the future.
- Ms. Filtz shared information around the Wisconsin RtI Center recognizing Grove Elementary, Mead Elementary, THINK Academy, Washington Elementary, and Lincoln High School at the Bronze level for

their work toward fully implementing a Response to Intervention system that leads to improved student outcomes.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the July 6, 2021 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – July 6, 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 of the 2021-22 school year annual insurance premium payment in the amount of \$411,672.00 from the District Insurance Budgets.

BS-2 Approval to purchase 58 scrubber units through NASSCO in the amount of \$287,903.00 to be paid with ESSER III funds.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items BS 1-2. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Various invoices, bid specifications, and purchase orders
- An auditor engagement letter to the Board of Education
- Stadium project cost updates, noting that the Board approved the total cost of the project in the amount of \$1,630,177.00; the updated cost estimate to complete the project is \$1,579,148.00, which is \$51,029.00 less.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the July 6, 2021 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – July 6, 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 support staff appointments of Jenna Hake (Secretary – District), Lori Hogue (Instructional/Noon Duty Aide – THINK), Dan Shaurette (Cleaner – Woodside), Bonnie Thomas (Kitchen Helper – Howe), Rae Ann Nelson (Cashier – LHS), and Tenille Brost (Cashier – WRAMS).
- PS-2 Approval of the 2021 summer professional staff appointments of Pete Larsen, Kelly Bluell, Stacy Moyer, Jack Smalley, Greg Rauls, Emily Randrup, Samantha Powers, Jeanne Olson, Ginger Martin, Julie Stoffel, Kylee Krzykowski, Sarah Gildenzoph, Dawn Krommenakker, Joshua Dorshorst, Cara Johnson, Megan Fox, Jennifer Gause, Ashley Muehlenkamp, Janet Alekna, Angela Peters, Kelsey Johnson, Lynnette Mitchell, Kaitlin Handel, William Hamilton, Randy Duxbury, Tom Nolan, Megan Thayer, Jeremy Radtke, Chris Bondioli, Tony Biolo, Dan Witter, Mitch Wolding, Val Tonn, Deena Gordon, Nathali Jones, Chauncey Jones, Kylie Hodgson, Jodi Williamson, Marti Olivarez, Stefanie Tryba, Michelle Forcier, Lori Harmsen, Elizabeth Rogus, Melissa Miller, Chang Thao, Shelley Moon, Yia Xiong, Greg Matthews, KaZoua Thao, Mimi Doerrler, Alyssa Krueger, Jerene Sillars, Kao Vue, Andrew Miller, Jean Robinson, Amanda Mantik, Marissa Grubba, Becky Steckbauer, Scott Sigourney, Samantha Radtke, Autumn Michlig, and Paige Jackan.
- PS-3 Approval of the professional staff resignations of Sunshine Broeren (Teacher – District), Rachel Wisniewski (Teacher – Washington), Rachel Carrasquillo (Teacher – WRAMS), Rachel Schilling (Teacher – Howe/Woodside/Central Oaks), and Tia McElvain (Teacher – Woodside).
- PS-4 Approval of a five percent contract for each of the three athletic seasons for the LHS Live Stream Advisor position, for a possible total of 15 percent per school year.
- PS-5 Approval of increased hours for some Food Services positions and for all noon duty aide schedules, effective with the 2021-2022 school year.
- PS-6 Approval of moving the Academic and Career Planning Coordinator position from a Group V to a Group VI* effective with the 2021-2022 school year.

- PS-7 Approval of adding a five percent Assistant Varsity Coach position for both Boys and Girls golf effective with the 2021-2022 school year.
- PS-8 Approval of compensation of \$2,400.00 for six staff members responsible for facilitating the sixth grade orientation days 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:

- Lincoln High School has agreed to co-op with Pacelli Catholic Schools for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons for the Boys Lacrosse Club team. Pacelli will act as the host school for those two years and then the status of the team will be reevaluated. Lincoln will support athletes participating in the club, but will not hold any financial commitments. Athletes who choose to participate will be required to sign and follow the District Code of Conduct.
- Grove Elementary special education caseloads were shared, along with a plan to potentially add an additional special education teacher after filling a Mead Elementary vacancy.
- As enrollment of Native American students within the District increases, it has been difficult for the Native American Program liaison to meet the needs of the Native American families. The addition of a Title IV position at the elementary level will work specifically with elementary Native American students and their families. The individual in the position will work a maximum of 15 hours per week at a pay rate of \$10.00 per hour.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the July 6, 2021 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Ms. Hett requested that the Board be updated on the status of donations toward the Daktronic video display scoreboard being installed at Lincoln High School.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- A state task force appointed by Governor Evers in July 2020 to explore ways to support construction of broadband infrastructure and address digital equity issues in Wisconsin has released a report and its recommendations which Mr. Bier briefly described, along with ways in which the state has funded and/or will potentially fund initiatives into the future.
- On July 1, 2021 the DPI released its estimate of General School aid for school districts during the 2021-22 fiscal year. It is estimated that 66% of the state's 421 school districts will receive 66% more in general aid, and 33% will receive less. Final official aid certifications for districts will be released on October 15, 2021.
- On July 8, 2021 Governor Evers signed the 2021-2023 State Budget which passed both houses of the legislature on a bipartisan vote. No major changes were made to K-12 provisions in the budget. Governor Evers announced he plans to allocate an additional \$100 million in one-time federal funding for schools from COVID relief funds.
- On July 9, 2021 Governor Evers vetoed Assembly Bill 383 which would have prohibited a school district from being a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) in the 2021-22 school year unless for the year prior the association allows an exception to its transfer rules based on the manner in which programming was delivered during the 2020-21 school year.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note June, 2021 receipts in the amount of \$13,455,984.85 and approve June, 2021 disbursements in the amount of \$6,210,854.64. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

Tentative Agreement – Wisconsin Rapids Education Association (WREA)

Superintendent Broeren stated that a wage settlement has been reached with the Wisconsin Rapids Education Association (WREA), and recommended approval of a tentative Collective Bargaining Agreement with WREA which includes a total base wage increase amount of 1.23% at a total cost to the District of \$218,217.00. This increase will be distributed in an equalized manner among employees, and will amount to a \$598.00 increase per employee and be pro-rated based upon each individual employee's Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) status.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the tentative agreement reached with the Wisconsin Rapids Education Association (WREA) collective bargaining group. Motion carried unanimously.

Amendment of the 2020-21 District Budget

Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services, presented recommended changes to the 2020-21 District budget. He reviewed each account code area, explaining that revenues and expenditures tied to the pandemic, open enrollment, staffing, and the quadplex/stadium project caused a need for adjustment in numerous areas. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve to amend the 2020-21 District budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$32,855,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021

Mr. Nelson reviewed a recommended Board Resolution which would authorize the issuance and sale of \$32,855,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 which would be paid back over the course of the next 20 years. He explained why the amount is lower than the original \$34,000,000 anticipated in relation to the sale of bonds and driving market factors involved, as well as a premium amount paid to the District in conjunction with the sale. The Bond Anticipation Notes approved by the Board in June, 2021 will be paid off once the General Obligation Refunding Bonds sale concludes.

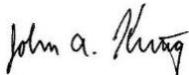
Mr. Broeren reviewed sale summary information provided by PMA Securities, explaining that the final all inclusive interest rate the District will pay is 1.91%, which is an excellent rate. A debt service schedule was shared which shows the interest rates are at a higher amount on the front end of the schedule, which is typical.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$32,855,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk