



**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

December 13, 2021

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: East Jr. High School, 311 Lincoln Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
Cafeteria

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: John Benbow

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Aaron Nelson, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Brian Oswald, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ed Allison

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None

Student Representative Report

Madelyn Hepp provided an update on:

- The first trimester is complete and students are transitioning to their second trimester courses
- Student Council recently held a food drive and collected over 100 pounds in donations to benefit the local food pantry
- The HOSA student organization hosted a door decorating contest to also benefit local charity
- Tickets to the upcoming Madrigal Dinner to be held on December 18-19, 2021 are sold out

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of November 8, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – December 6, 2021. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Ms. Rayome stated there were no actionable consent agenda items from the Educational Services Committee for December. She provided updates and reports on:

- The Committee heard a report from Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of Lincoln High School, as he provided an overview of ACT Aspire and ACT assessment results. The ACT Aspire test is administered to grades 9 and 10, and the ACT test is administered to grade 11. This is the final year that the ACT Aspire product will be used, and the State is making a determination on which assessment will be utilized in future years. ACT Benchmarks including composite scores were shared along with historical performance of students considered to be “college ready” based upon the data. There is an optional writing component involved in the ACT assessment, and WRPS students who opted to take the writing portion of the test scored slightly above the State average. Mr. Rasmussen explained the differences in ACT Benchmarks and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) proficiency standards. The District invested in new math curriculum in recent years, and test results indicate that math performance by WRPS students has been improving as a result. Demographic data by gender, ethnicity, disability,

English proficiency, and socioeconomic status was reviewed. A comparison of data to surrounding and Wisconsin Valley Conference schools was shared. Mr. Rasmussen made mention of a pre-ACT test that was administered to all juniors in September prior to the regular ACT assessment in order to establish a benchmark for students to help them determine how they might perform on the regular ACT. This data is further analyzed by an LHS data team to detect how classroom teaching and curriculum are aligning with state standards and college benchmarks, and to consider any need for adjustments. As a result of the circumstances of the pandemic, a number of colleges are not requiring the ACT or a standard assessment for admission which has caused a lack of enthusiasm by students to participate. The assessment is still helpful for students attempting to secure scholarships and gain entrance into a variety of programs.

Similar data was shared for ACT Aspire results. Unlike the paper version LHS chooses to administer for the ACT, the only option for the Aspire exam is a computerized version. For many students, this is the first time they have experienced taking a standardized exam using an electronic device

- Superintendent Craig Broeren provided an overview of the application and selection process for 2021-22 Innovation Mini Grant awards. Five applications were submitted, and the final three selected include: *Play to Learn Economics and Government (Paula Reaves – LHS)*, *Math for the Floors! (Lisa Laatsch-Sullivan – Washington)*, and *Going Gaga for Middle School Play (Stefanie Tryba, WR Area Middle School)*. Each grant recipient receives \$1,000 for project materials, and a \$1,000 stipend to implement the project.
- Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction, explained that the Wisconsin “Dyslexia and Related Conditions” guidebook has been posted to the District website by December 1, 2021 as required by Wisconsin State Statute. A team of administrators and professional staff members are delving into the informational guidelines to consider current interventions being utilized and identify areas where growth is needed and improvements can be made.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the December 6, 2021 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – December 6, 2021. Report given by Katie Medina.

Ms. Medina stated there were no actionable consent agenda items from the Business Services Committee for December. She provided updates and reports on:

- Various invoices, bid specs, and purchase orders
- 2020-21 audited financial statements and the “Independent Auditor’s Report on Communication with Those Charged with Governance Management Advisory Comments”

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the December 6, 2021 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – December 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 professional staff appointments of Sunshine Broeren (Social Emotional Learning Coordinator – District), and Erin Cleveland (Teacher – Lincoln).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Jessica Holberg (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Laura Carlson (Second Cook – Lincoln), Kim Ahles (Production Kitchen Manager – Mead), Miranda Behr (Second Cook – WRAMS), Kate McAllister (Special Ed Aide – Grove), Faith Peaslee (Kitchen Helper – Lincoln), Carol Koeshall (Kitchen Helper – WRAMS), Toni Girard (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside), Robyn Vicker (Special Ed Aide – Howe), and Ashley Larsen (Accounts Payable Secretary - District).
- PS-3 Approval of the professional staff resignations, pending liquidated damages, of Sheena Vitello (Teacher – WRAMS), and Jennifer Farmbrough (Teacher – WRAMS/Lincoln).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff resignations of Tenille Brost (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Penny Quinnell (Noon Duty Aide – Lincoln), Stephanie Rebolledo Gonzalez (Special Ed Aide – WRAMS), Karrie Moore (Accounts Payable Secretary – District), Jordan Bernette (Noon Duty Aide – Lincoln), Ann Sculley (Special Ed Aide – WRAMS), Rebecca Bubolz (Kitchen Helper/FFVP – Mead), Lisa Wendt (Activities

Clerk – Lincoln), Sativah St. Claire (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside and Title VI Liaison – District), Bonnie Thomas (Kitchen Helper – Howe), and Adam Doerrler (Custodian - WRAMS).

PS-5 Approval of a one-time stipend of \$2,000 for Hallie Ritchay for the supervision of the Title VI program for the 2021-22 school year.

Ms. Hett requested that consent agenda item PS-1 be held out.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 2-5. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to consent agenda item PS-1, Ms. Hett held it out to clarify that the .5 FTE Social Emotional Learning Coordinator position was posted with only one candidate applying. The successful candidate has an Occupational Therapy background which is hugely beneficial to the needs and tasks associated with the position. The individual will be reporting to the Director of Pupil Services and work closely with District staff to design and implement evidence based strategies to cultivate skills and create environments that advance students' learning and development while also working toward decreasing the number of student behavioral incidents, incidents requiring seclusion and restraint reporting, and the number of students identified for special education services. The position will be funded through Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) flow-through dollars as part of the 15% allocation to address the District's disproportionality identification by DPI.

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

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the regular December 6, 2021 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- Governor Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 449 into law as 2021 Wisconsin Act 109. This new law: a) allows critical incident mapping data to be submitted in lieu of school blueprints when school districts submit required school safety plan information the Office of School Safety; and b) provides up to \$2 million funding to the Department of Justice in the 2021-23 biennium that must be used to award school grants to assist with submitting critical incident mapping data.
- Governor Evers vetoed Senate Bill 463 which would have required each school board to post on its internet home page a lengthy and prescriptive list of the learning materials and educational activities used in pupil instruction in the school district as well as any procedure or policy in effect that applies to the documentation, review, or approval of such learning materials or educational activities. Under the bill, any district resident could sue the district to force compliance and could be awarded up to \$15,000 in attorney's fees.
- State Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, who has been a member of the Assembly Committee on Education since first being elected in 2010, has announced he will not seek reelection to the state Assembly.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note November, 2021 receipts in the amount of \$1,604,186.35 and approve November, 2021 disbursements of \$4,643,572.19. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None

Central Oaks Academy Pupil Enrollment Caps for 2022-23

Ms. Jen Wilhorn, Principal of Central Oaks Academy Charter School, explained that the charter contract allows for the Governing Board to set enrollment caps that they deem are appropriate and within reason to ensure financial viability of the program. The Governance Board for the school met recently, and a student to teacher ratio of 40:1 was set. If the caps are in place and there is no additional staffing added due to availability of qualified candidates, student applicants

would be placed on a waiting list and selected according to the lottery process outlined in the charter contract. The administration recommended acceptance of the enrollment caps set by the Central Oaks Academy Governance Board.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the recommended pupil enrollment caps for the 2022-23 school year as established by the Central Oaks Academy Charter School Governance Board. Motion carried unanimously.

District and School Report Cards for 2020-21

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided an update on the District’s performance on Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) District and School Report Cards for the 2020-21 school year. Ms. Filtz stated that the State report card scores are only one piece of data utilized to determine how well students are performing. A summary of the results can be found below:

SCHOOL	SCORE 2020-21	RATING
Central Oaks Academy	75.7	Exceeds Expectations
Grant Elementary	63.9	Meets Expectations
Grove Elementary	84.6	Significantly Exceeds Expectations
Howe Elementary	70.6	Exceeds Expectations
Mead Elementary	77.6	Exceeds Expectations
THINK Academy	73.0	Exceeds Expectations
Washington Elementary	74.0	Exceeds Expectations
Woodside Elementary	68.1	Meets Expectations
WR Area Middle	57.0	Meets Few Expectations
Lincoln High	64.6	Meets Expectations
River Cities	AR	Satisfactory Progress
District	62.6	Meets Expectations

VALLEY CONFERENCE SCHOOLS	SCORE 2020-21	RATING	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED
DC Everest	70.3	Exceeds Expectations	34%
Marshfield	71.8	Exceeds Expectations	35.9%
Merrill	68.6	Meet Expectations	42.4%
Stevens Point	66.8	Meets Expectations	40.5%
Wausau	68.0	Meets Expectations	47.5%
WRPS	62.6	Meets Expectations	50.6%

WOOD COUNTY SCHOOLS	SCORE 2020-21	RATING	ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED
Auburndale	65.6	Meets Expectations	27.5%
Marshfield	71.8	Exceeds Expectations	35.9%
Nekoosa	65.6	Meet Expectations	54.2%
Pittsville	66.0	Meets Expectations	36.2%
Port Edwards	70.5	Exceeds Expectations	47.1
WRPS	62.6	Meets Expectations	50.6%

Ms. Filtz explained that the larger the percentage of a school or district’s students who are economically disadvantaged, the more the growth measure contributes to its overall score. While the District has met expectations at the WR Area Middle School, the administration is working with staff and gathering data to identify ways learning may be improved. Various assessments such as the pre-ACT test for grade 8 will be administered as a way to help prepare students for the Forward Exam since it is based on the same standards. Ms. Filtz provided background around “Target Group Outcomes” which were developed to help districts better interpret data that will be more reliable in order to properly address challenges around closing statewide achievement gaps for students from traditionally marginalized populations.

Lastly, Ms. Filtz called attention to a new addition to the last page of the District Report Card which shows the percentage of grades 9-12 high school pupils participating in various kinds of arts courses such as Art and Design, Dance, Music, and Theater. The District has participation rates in all categories with the exception of Dance. Ms. Medina requested information around why Dance is not offered as an option for students. Ms. Filtz will research this question and provide an update to Board members. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions concerning Report Card information.

District Employee Health Insurance Update

Superintendent Craig Broeren stated that approximately 48% of staff members selected Narrow Network coverage under the health insurance carrier switch to Aspirus Health Plan. While the administration initially anticipated a savings of around \$750,000 based upon the 6% premium reduction and anticipated participation in the Narrow Network option, there

have been 19 new policies taken out by employees which was not anticipated. The Board questioned whether or not the District attempts to coordinate benefits for spouses. Mr. Broeren indicated that this is done where possible.

School Violence Drill Evaluation/School Building Safety Assessments/District Crisis Plan

Mr. Broeren referred to the confidential School Violence Event drill evaluations submitted to the Board for their review, providing an explanation of the various types of drills conducted by buildings in the interest of school safety. Ed Allison, Director of Buildings and Grounds, has been conducting safety assessments at each school building in collaboration with local law enforcement officials and has developed comprehensive site reports for each visit which the Board has also had an opportunity to review. The District has developed a strong partnership over the years with local law enforcement, fire/EMT, and emergency management officials which is critical to maintaining a strong school safety program. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions regarding the information.

Lastly, Mr. Broeren reviewed recommended updates to the District Crisis Action Plan which the Board is required to review and update every three years in accordance with State statutes. A focus around the development of reunification procedures and threat assessment protocols has been undertaken as the plan has been updated. Through coordinated efforts with law enforcement and other community partners, work will continue in the reunification area to refine procedures. The buildings will all be enhanced by additional security upgrades as a result of the funding made possible through the April, 2021 capital referendum. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the plan.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the annual school violence event drill reports submitted by each building principal for drills conducted in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 118.07(4)(cp). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the School Safety Assessment reports as required under Wisconsin Statute 118.07(4)(b) and conducted at each school building by the Director of Buildings and Grounds in partnership with local law enforcement officials. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the updated District Crisis Action Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

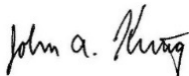
ESSER III Funding – Plan Update

Ms. Filtz provided an update on the fact that the State recently provided information around the timelines affiliated with ESSER III funds which are ready to be released to schools having a plan in place. The application for this third round of funding is more intense than the first two, and twenty percent of the allocated dollars must be used on Evidence Based Intervention Strategies (EBIS). For WRPS, that amount equates to around \$1.4 million. A committee has been formed to create a plan around the use of these funds. Once a plan has been developed, it will be communicated with stakeholders who will have an opportunity to provide feedback, and it will also be brought to the Board for review and approval. It is possible that portions of ESSER III funding will be utilized to backfill the 2022-23 District budget since the State budget provides no new dollars for schools in the coming year.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk