



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

John A. Krings, President
John Benbow, Jr.
Troy Bier
Larry Davis
Julie Des Jarlais
Sandra K. Hett
Katie Medina

May 9, 2022

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, John Benbow, Julie Des Jarlais, Sandra Hett, John Krings

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Davis, Katie Medina

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

Ed Schmidt – spoke highly of Mary Rayome and commended her for her years of service on the Board of Education.

Special Recognition

President John Krings presented special recognition on behalf of the Board to former Board Member Mary Rayome, thanking her for her dedication and service to the Board for the past 21 years.

Mr. Krings presented special recognition on behalf of the Board to outgoing Student Representative Madelyn Hepp, thanking her for her service to the Board during the 2021-22 school year.

Student Representative Report

Madelyn Hepp introduced incoming Board Student Representative Sarah Panzer, and then provided updates on:

- DECA students performed well at the International Conference held recently in Atlanta, Georgia
- The Cinderella high school performance was well attended and was excellent
- A number of students were recognized at recent awards ceremonies including the Olympiad and Evening of Roses events; scholarship awards will be presented in the coming week
- The quadplex fields are finished with teams beginning to utilize it

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of April 11, 2022; special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of April 11, 2022; and special Board of Education meeting minutes of April 18, 2022 and April 25, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – May 2, 2022. 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 the adoption of the proposed K-5 Physical Education Curriculum maps beginning with the 2022-23 school year.
- ES-2 Approval of the proposed modifications to the Elementary School Student Agenda Planner for the 2022-23 school year.

- ES-3 Approval of the proposed modifications to the Lincoln High School Student Agenda Planner for the 2022-23 school year.
- ES-4 Approval of the proposed modifications to the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Student Agenda Planner for the 2022-23 school year.
- ES-5 Approval of the Get Kids Ahead Initiative Grant in the amount of \$74,974.00.
- ES-6 Approval of applying for the Peer Review and Mentoring Grant for the full amount of \$25,000.00 for the 2022-23 school year.
- ES-7 Approval of the proposed 2022-23 Professional Development Plan.
- ES-8 Approval of the proposed Professional Development Day Schedule as proposed for the 2022-23 school year.
- ES-9 Approval of the purchase of five Lu Projector Systems for installation at Grant, Grove, Howe, Mead and Woodside Elementary schools, to be purchased July 1, 2022 and installed during the summer of 2022. This purchase would be funded through a combination of Technology and Curriculum Referendum funds as well as ESSER III Grant Funds. The total purchase with installation will be \$151,442.20.
- ES-10 Approval of joining with WSAW for the “Schools are a Great Place to Work” campaign with a six-month commitment.

Motion by John Krings, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda items ES 1-10. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Krings provided updates and reports on:

- Ms. Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, updated the Committee on the status of the German world language program at WRPS, which was in jeopardy due to the inability to secure a teacher for the program. A German language instructor has been hired, and the German language class will continue to be offered at Lincoln High School as it has in the past. In addition, those students who first indicated that they would like to pursue German and enrolled in the German I class but then were asked to choose a different elective when the future of German I was in jeopardy, have since been able to once again enroll in German I for the 2022-2023 school year if they prefer to.

Motion by John Krings, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the May 2, 2022 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – May 2, 2022. 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 Grant Elementary School kitchen serving line with equipment and installation from Streich Equipment for a total cost of \$28,089.00 to be funded by the 2022-23 Food Service Budget.
- BS-2 Approval of the creation of Fund 46 Stadium Revenue Account, Stadium Video Board Account, Quadplex Revenue Account and Quadplex Concessions Account.
- BS-3 Approval of the purchase of new PAC curtains and curtain hardware with installation from Soundworks Systems, for a total cost of \$53,066.33 to be funded from PAC Incentive funds and the 2022-23 Fund 80 Budget.
- BS-4 Approval of PAC carpet replacement with installation from Macco’s Commercial Interiors, for a total cost of \$143,430.00 to be funded from PAC Incentive funds and the 2022-23 Fund 80 Budget.
- BS-5 Approval of the purchase of 310 iPads from Apple in the amount of \$96,565.00 to be funded from the 2022-23 Technology and Curriculum Referendum Budget.
- BS-6 Approval of the purchase of two Lenox high efficiency furnaces and AC units from Rapids Sheet Metal which will include reconfiguring ductwork and creating 2 zones for a total cost of \$26,575.00 to be funded by the 2021-22 Buildings and Grounds Budget.

Sandra Hett requested that consent agenda item BS-4 be held out.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by John Krings to approve consent agenda items BS 1-3 and 5-7. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

With regard to consent agenda item BS-4, Ms. Hett was surprised to learn that there is a moisture problem within the PAC facility and requested more information regarding the issue. Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds, explained that the moisture barrier that was installed at the time the PAC was built was not as robust as the material that is available currently. The barrier began to lose its effectiveness around 2009, and has caused bubbling and lifting of the carpet in various areas of the PAC which has caused a tripping hazard. The maintenance department has taken steps to steam the carpet back down over the years as needed, but this solution is not as effective any longer and the carpet's seams are unraveling. Mr. Allison explained the process used to develop a quotation for replacement which includes carpet tiles instead of rolls. He provided a carpet remnant sample to show which pattern was chosen for replacement. Mr. Allison estimated that the durable carpet being installed for replacement will last approximately 20 years before replacement might be needed again.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Various invoices, bid specs, and purchase orders

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the May 2, 2022 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – May 2, 2022. 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 2022-23 school year of Whitney Pascoe (Teacher – Woodside), Olivia Baehman (School Counselor – THINK), Patrick Spray (Teacher – Lincoln), Natalie Raymond (Teacher – WRAMS), Sydney Erspamer (Teacher – WRAMS), Megan Hernandez (Teacher – Mead), Aisha McDade (Social Worker – District), Christopher Kleist (Teacher – WRAMS), Jason Robbins (Teacher – Lincoln), Elizabeth Wirth (Teacher – Lincoln/WRAMS), Faith Bristow (Teacher – Lincoln), Anna Radtke (Teacher – Grant), Shanna Henriksen (Teacher – District), Vaughan Kukler-Khan (Teacher – District), Katelyn Belcher (Teacher – Howe), Isabella Gemza (Teacher – Howe), Nicole Brezinski (Teacher – THINK), Cameron Anderson (Teacher – WRAMS), Rylyn Donahue (Teacher – Grove), Brooke Lapour (Teacher – WRAMS), Elli Esselman (Teacher – Mead), Ashley Wojtalewicz (Teacher – THINK), Tanner Schlender (Teacher – THINK), Mara Peterson (Teacher – Grove), Megan Nolan (Teacher – Howe), Logan Christie (Teacher – Lincoln), and Macyn Elliott (Teacher – District).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Tonya Hawke (Study Hall Aide – Lincoln) and Eric Callahan (Custodian – WRAMS).
- PS-3 Approval of the professional staff resignations of Kathryn Fix (Teacher – Howe), Rachel Christian (Teacher – Lincoln/WRAMS), Megan Kuntz (Teacher – THINK), Hallie Ritchay (Teacher – Washington/Woodside), Leah Stubb (Teacher – Central Oaks), Emeline Ritchie (Teacher – Pitsch), Gregory Rauls (Teacher – Lincoln), and Bailey Babcock (Teacher – Mead).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff resignations of Stacey Shaw (Special Ed Aide – THINK), Charles Stebbins (Custodian – District), and Emily Stieve (ACP Coordinator – Lincoln).
- PS-5 Approval of the support staff retirements of Charles Ruiz (Custodian – East), Jennifer Dietsche (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Debra Vechinski (Special Ed Aide – WRAMS), and Lynn Berger (Instructional Technology Aide – WRAMS).
- PS-6 Approval of Board Policy 380.1 – Therapy Dogs in Schools for second reading.
- PS-7 Approval of 2022-2023 Open Enrollment applications under the Open Enrollment Law, pending a review of discipline records and special services needs.

- PS-8 Approval of using one of the elementary ESSER sections to add another elementary physical education teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
- PS-9 Approval of an increase from 6.0 hours per day to 6.5 hours per day at Grant Elementary, THINK Academy, Woodside Elementary and Pitsch Early Learning Center for six District 4K aides, starting with the 2022-2023 school year.
- PS-10 Approval of increasing the District elementary keyboarding instructor position to a 1.0 FTE effective for the 2022-2023 school year.
- PS-11 Approval of an elementary reading specialist position for the 2022-2023 school year.
- PS-12 Approval of approve adding three summer technology positions for the summer of 2022.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda items PS 1-12. 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 regular May 2, 2022 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Ms. Hett inquired about an article she read in an elementary school newsletter which stated that the District is making transportation changes to include pick-up of students who live .5 mile or further from their school. She referenced Board Policy 751 which indicates the distance is 2 miles or greater, and expressed concerns that a change hasn't come before the Board to reduce the distance, and if the communication isn't accurate, families may be confused. Superintendent Broeren explained that he wasn't aware of the communication in the newsletter, but will circle back with the administrator to rectify any miscommunication. He further stated that the administration is currently analyzing transportation routes and surveying families to determine whether reducing the distance as noted in Board policy is plausible. Any recommended changes or updates on the topic will be brought to the Board as they are finalized.

Ms. Hett asked for an update on the RESET program at WRAMS that was recently brought up as an idea at a Board listening session, and an explanation of what "RPT" is as referenced in the schedule in the student handbook. Essentially, she wants the Board to be kept apprised about any changes that are happening for WRAMS for the upcoming school year. Mr. Broeren stated that he is aware that WRAMS staff members are working through the development of plans for next year, and he will share more information with the Board once more details are fleshed out.

Mr. Krings and Mr. Benbow requested information about how tickets are able to be purchased for athletic events at the high school. They have been approached by individuals regarding the inability to purchase physical tickets at the gate and have concerns about individuals not being let into events or being expected to purchase tickets using their phones at the entrance when this might not be an option for some, or for individuals who didn't realize this would be the only way to purchase tickets and arrived at the event unprepared to do so. Mr. Broeren stated that he would work with high school staff to determine what procedures they are using and ensure any concerns are addressed.

Ms. Hett inquired about whether the quadplex project is complete, and if it was completed within budget. Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds stated there are approximately 24 items left on the punch list to complete which are mostly cosmetic in nature. Mr. Broeren stated that the project has remained within budget.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- Governor Evers took action on 43 bills passed by the Legislature, signing 15 and vetoing 28. Among the educational related bills vetoed were:
 - AB 963 – rights reserved to a parent or guardian of a child
 - AB 966 – reorganizing the Milwaukee Public School System into four to eight school districts
 - AB 970 – eliminating income limits for parental choice program; eliminating pupil participation limits for the statewide parental choice program; private school tuition charged to a pupil participating in a parental choice program; and creating an education expense reimbursement program for the 2022-23 school year and the summer of 2023
 - SB 585 – reporting certain crimes and other incidents that occur on school property or school transportation and granting rule-making authority

- SB 695 – the number of independent charter schools authorized by the College of Menominee Nation or the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College
- The Joint Legislative Council establishes special legislative study committees which meet to study certain issues in depth during the interim period. The Council voted to approve of a Study Committee on Shared School District Services which will include Representative Robert Brooks as Chair, and Senator Dan Feyen as Vice Chair.
- State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly convened the first meeting of a new State Superintendent’s Reading Advisory Council which was formed to learn together and share information about how to strengthen literacy learning in Wisconsin’s schools.

Bills

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to note April, 2022 receipts in the amount of \$2,067,820.89 and approve April, 2022 disbursements in the amount of \$3,518,750.31. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources presented the following employment recommendations:

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary/Rate</u>
<u>Professional Staff Appointments</u>				
Cassie Golke	Howe	Teacher (1.0 FTE)	August 25, 2022	\$41,500/year
Christina Schmick	Howe	Teacher (1.0 FTE)	August 25, 2022	\$56,000/year

Support Staff Appointment

Elizabeth Morrison	District	Accounting Manager	June 1, 2022	\$25.51/hour
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	<u>Location</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>
<u>Professional Staff Resignation</u>				
Amanda Schwartz	Woodside/Grove	Teacher (1.0 FTE)	June 6, 2022	August 24, 2021

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the employee appointments and resignation as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

WRPS Continuity of Services Plan and ESSER III Spending Plan Update

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided an update on the WRPS Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Spending Plan. With regard to the Continuity of Services Plan, in accordance with stipulations of the ESSER III funding grant, the plan is required by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to be reviewed and updated every six months. The original plan was approved by the Board on November 8, 2021 and since that time there was a change made in mitigation strategies on February 16, 2022 when the District moved to making the requirement for staff members and students to wear face coverings optional. The other change is from February 28, 2022 when face coverings were no longer required to be worn on District modes of transportation. The letters generated as communication to families by Superintendent Broeren to explain these changes will be linked as an update in the plan that is currently posted on the District website. The next update for the Board on the plan will occur on November 14, 2022.

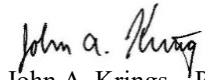
Ms. Filtz provided an update on the status of ESSER III Spending Plan which was approved by the Board on February 14, 2022. Ms. Filtz explained that once the Board approved the ESSER III Plan in February, it was submitted to the DPI and subsequently approved. The DPI then issued their version of the approved plan (which is identical to the District’s version) and it has been posted to the WRPS webpage area specifically designated for ESSER III information. With spending concluding in September, 2024, the plan is a fluid document that will continually change until the funds are exhausted. Public feedback on the plan was solicited throughout the month of February, 2022 with 17 feedback responses returned. After receiving this feedback and meeting with the Board of Education about the plan, the request to spend funding on additional District vehicles has been removed. It is possible that by assessing current bus routes, there will be ways to increase bus transportation availability for students. This would help alleviate the transportation barrier concerns expressed during the ESSER III planning process. While the vans are off the table for the moment, they could be returned to the plan should it be warranted. Mr. Broeren stated that should the van request come to the forefront again, approval from the Board would be sought.

With regard to the Boys & Girls Club Morning Jumpstart program which is approved in the plan, the administration has been working in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club to set up a before-school program in each elementary that would be scheduled to run prior to the start of the school day from 7:00-8:30 a.m. The Boys & Girls Club has a current waiting list with 150 children on it and the thought process is that by moving the program to each individual school building, more students/families will receive the services needed. Surveys have been sent to District families to gauge interest in the offering, and also to staff members to determine if there are any current staff that might be interested in working in the program. This employment would be through the Boys & Girls Club as opposed to the District, and Club employees would be paid \$20.00 per hour except for those holding lead positions, which would earn \$25.00 per hour. The District would reimburse the Boys & Girls Club for bringing the Jumpstart Program into individual schools. While the program will be guaranteed for two years as long as ESSER III funding is available, after two years it may be possible to solicit support from the community to have the program continue if it is as successful as it is anticipated it will be. The Board asked whether the program would impact any YMCA before/after school programming currently offered in the District, and Ms. Filtz explained that only Grant Elementary has a YMCA offering currently which is very successful. The administration is working with the YMCA to brainstorm ways to ensure that Grant Elementary families are equitably served with a before school offering. Survey results will be available in the coming week for the administrative team to review and make determinations about where and to what degree the Jumpstart Program will be offered based upon interest.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk