



**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
Julie Timm

December 12, 2022

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: District Board Office, 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, Julie Timm

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: Larry Davis

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Brian Oswald, Tina Wallner

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None.

Student Representative Report

None – the student representative was unable to attend the meeting.

School Showcase – Woodside Elementary School

Grove Elementary Principal Tina Wallner was accompanied by staff members Janet Alekna and Sarah Mohrbacher to present on “Grove Evergreens Strengthening Relationships.” Grove’s mission and vision was shared along with a number of examples of how staff and student connections are being made and strengthened through such initiatives as the mentor program, scheduled breaks, skills groups, and future forward tutors. Family and school connections are also enhanced through events planned such as the back-to-school open house, a “Learn the Routine” night, outdoor movie nights, a Grove family dance, family game nights and grade level family events, and school assemblies. Lastly, student peer connections are strengthened through the establishment of school-wide buddies, buddy classrooms, 5th grade escorts, classroom student guest readers and helpers, and the “Move This World” social emotional learning curriculum. The Board expressed their appreciation for the thorough presentation on the positive learning initiatives happening at Grove Elementary.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Katie Medina to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of November 14, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – December 5, 2022. Report given by Katie Medina.

Ms. Medina 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 late application for a Lincoln High School student to take three eligible courses which include Automation 1-Beginning PLC, Intro to Ethics: Theory and App, and Trig with Applications at Mid-State Technical College through the Start College Now Program in the spring semester of the 2022-23 school year.

- ES-2 Approval of the purchase of Edgenuity from Imagine Learning for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$26,250.00 to be paid from the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER III).
- ES-3 Approval of the revision to Board Policy 431-Rule, adding “cultural events” as a time when a student may be excused from school by the principal or designee for first reading.

Ms. Medina held out consent agenda item ES-2.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items ES-1 and ES-3. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to ES-2, Ms. Medina stated that the purchase of the Edgenuity program is actually for the 2022-23 school year, and requested that the Board take action to approve the following motion in lieu of ES-2:

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier approve of the purchase of Edgenuity from Imagine Learning for the 2022-23 school year at a cost of \$26,250.00 to be paid from Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER III). Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Medina provided updates and reports on:

- Jennifer Wilhorn, Principal of Central Oaks Academy and Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction, presented financial, operational, and academic goals for Central Oaks Academy Charter School for the 2022-23 school year. She explained that the Central Oaks Academy Governance Board and staff members are working collaboratively to develop a Parent Advisory Council. The new Parent Advisory Council met for the first time in recent weeks, and are planning to schedule additional upcoming activities to bring families together more and build support around social emotional connections. A few events have taken place already which include a back-to-school skate, a family math afternoon where families were invited to engage in math activities/games, an open house for parents to learn more about the online programs being used as well as all of the information they can access through the Clever program, and a family holiday event is being planned to occur in December. In terms of the school’s educational goals, the Central Oaks professional development plan is the guide being used to lead staff members in this area. One goal is to provide information to families to raise awareness of programming and educational options offered at Central Oaks. A second goal is to work together in order to provide academic and social-emotional support for all students. The addition of a pupil services team to support Central Oaks students will help in this regard.
- Ms. Wilhorn explained that the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) that is used in kindergarten through 2nd grade as the District’s Assessment of Reading Readiness will be ending at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. A committee made up of classroom teachers, elementary administration, and reading interventionists has been formed to review other screeners that meet Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) requirements. The committee will be making recommendations for screeners to pilot beginning in January of 2023 with a final decision being made by the end of the school year. Implementation will begin in the fall of 2023.
- Ms. Filtz provided an overview of 2021-22 School and District Report Cards results which were made public on November 15, 2022. The District overall score is 65.5 which falls into the “Meets Expectations” category, and six of seven elementary schools landed in the “Exceeds Expectations” category. Lincoln High School “Meets Expectations” and the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) “Meets Few Expectations.” The District has been taking steps to address the WRAMS results and is confident that future scores will show marked improvement. Ms. Filtz pointed out that Washington Elementary was only .4 points away from earning a “Significantly Exceeds Expectations” score, and Lincoln High School was .6 points away from an “Exceeds Expectations” score.

Ms. Filtz explained how the priority weighted areas of Achievement, Growth, Target Group Outcomes, and On-Track to Graduation impact overall scores. The higher the economically disadvantaged percentage is for a school, the more weight is put on individual growth. Schools with a lower percentage of economically disadvantaged pupils have achievement as the higher weighted priority area. Overall, English language arts and math scores have improved for Below Basic and Basic categories, and there is more work needing to be done to increase scores for Proficient and Advanced categories. Target group outcomes were explained and reviewed. A question was raised around how test opt-outs impact School Report Cards, and Ms. Filtz explained that while the opt-outs negatively impact state testing results, they do not negatively impact School Report Cards.

Ms. Filtz pointed out a correction needed for the Industry-Recognized Credentials and Work-Based Learning categories since there was a glitch in the District Skyward software system exchanging data. The WRPS Industry-Recognized Credential percentage is 4.98% with 74 students earning at least one industry-recognized credential; and the Work-Based Learning percentage should be 4.98% with 74 students participating in a work-based learning program. Both categories are still above the state average. This discrepancy does not negatively impact the District Report Card since these categories are not used in its overall calculation. For this reason, the DPI will not correct or update this portion of the report card.

Committee members reviewed longitudinal data for District Report Card scores as well as comparisons to surrounding districts in terms of overall scores, numbers of economically disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and English Learners. No Report Cards were issued in 2019-20 due to the pandemic. In terms of the economically disadvantaged trend data found on page 5 of the report, Ms. Filtz mentioned a correction needed for Grove as it should be 72.2 rather than 73.5 as listed. With the Universal Free Breakfast Program no longer in place, parents are having to complete free/reduced lunch applications to qualify; this could have an impact on the economically disadvantaged numbers trending upward as a result. Due to the increase in Washington Elementary's economically disadvantaged population, the school will be applying to be identified as a Schoolwide Title School in the coming year. They would join Grove, Howe, Mead, and River Cities as a Title I school in 2023-24. A question was raised about whether adding a Title school would increase Title funding for the District. Ms. Filtz explained that the same amount of dollars are allocated to the District; however, they would get disbursed among five schools rather than four.

Lastly, when comparing area high schools, Lincoln High School had the highest score at 69.4 when compared to Marshfield, Wausau East, Port Edwards, Wausau West, Assumption, Nekoosa, Merrill, Stevens Point, and DC Everest. Additionally, Nekoosa is the only other school with a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students which provides evidence that Lincoln High School is working to meet the needs and improve performance for all students attending. Assumption students participating in the Wisconsin Private School Choice Program are required to participate in state exams and reporting.

Mr. Broeren pointed out that while report card results can fluctuate from year to year, this year in particular is worth celebrating with six of seven elementary schools Exceeding Expectations given their economically disadvantaged status, and having Lincoln High School as the top scoring high school in the region. The scores provide evidence that WRPS is working hard to meet the needs of all students, even with the challenging demographics involved. He expressed pride in the work being done in awesome schools by outstanding staff, and he believes how educational stakeholders and the community talk about our school district is key in helping others understand the positive impact and progress that is being made here.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the December 5, 2022 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – December 5, 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 a second credit card with WoodTrust Bank for the Lincoln High School Athletic Director. This credit card would have a limit of \$5,000.00 and increase the total credit limit for Lincoln High School to \$20,000.00.

BS-2 Approval of recommended changes to the following Board policies for first reading:

- Policy 352 Field Trips
- Policy 352 Rule – Field Trip Planning Criteria
- Policy 352 Exhibit 1 – Parent/Guardian Permission and Field Trip Form
- Policy 352 Exhibit 2 – Student Travel Release (note – this is new)
- Policy 443.2 – Student Conduct on School Buses
- Policy 443.2 Rule – Bus Conduct
- Policy 723.1 Rule – Emergency School Closing Procedures
- Policy 751 Student Transportation
- Policy 751 Rule – Transportation Guidelines
- Policy 751.1 Bus Routing and Scheduling
- Policy 751.1 Rule – Bus Routing and Scheduling Guidelines
- Policy 751.2 Bus Safety Program

- Policy 751.2 Rule – Bus Safety Procedures
- Policy 751.21 Use of Electronic Surveillance Technology on School Bus
- Policy 751.3 Transportation to School-Related Events
- Policy 751.3 Rule – Guidelines for Transportation to School-Related Events
- Policy 751.5 Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students
- Policy 751.5 Rule – Guidelines for Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students
- Policy 752 Use of District Owned Vehicles
- Policy 752 Rule – Guidelines for Use of District-Owned Vehicles

BS-3 Approval of the purchase of 400 BenQ 24-inch computer monitors from CDWG at a total cost of \$47,828.00 to be funded from the 2022-23 Technology Referendum Budget.

Troy Bier requested to have consent agenda item BS-1 held out for a separate vote.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items BS 2-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to approve consent agenda item BS-1. On a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0 with one abstention. Troy Bier abstained.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices, bid specs, and purchases

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the December 5, 2022 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – December 5, 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 appointment of Anna Goldbach (Teacher – Lincoln).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Jennifer Krakow (Cashier – Mead/Lincoln), Maria McClellan (ELL Aide – Lincoln), Michelle Datka (Special Ed Aide - Grove), Lacey Worzella (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Linda Bidwell (Cashier – Howe), Keshia Hofer (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Kelly Deitz (Special Ed Aide – Washington), Jordyn Placzek (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Patricia Orheim (Special Ed Aide – Woodside), and Jason Behrend (Groundskeeper Assistant/Relief Custodian – District).
- PS-3 Approval of the non-represented support staff retirement of Leanne Rzentkowski (Payroll Specialist - District).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff resignation of Tami Drew-Huiras (Cashier – Lincoln/Howe).

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items PS 1-4. 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 December 5, 2022 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- The Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Shared School District Services met on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 to discuss a number of proposals relating to:
 - reducing the number of members on the school board of a consolidated school district;
 - school and school district accountability report for a consolidated school district;
 - grants for feasibility studies of school district consolidation or whole grade sharing and making an appropriation;
 - state aid for school district consolidation;
 - a shared services aid program for school districts, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation;

- reimbursements to school districts and cooperative educational service agencies for the cost of writing federal and state grant applications and making an appropriation;
 - aid to school districts that share services for costs associated with student information systems;
 - calculating a consolidated school district's revenue limit.
- Wisconsin's public school libraries will receive a record \$52 million from the state's Common School Fund for the 2022-23 school year, which is the largest-ever annual Library Aid distribution, representing a 27% increase from the 2021-22 distribution.
 - Thirty-one new members will take the oath of office for the first time in their new roles when the Wisconsin Legislature holds its Inauguration ceremony on January 3, 2023.
 - Mr. Benbow mentioned that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) just released its 2023 Resolutions which will be taken up at the upcoming State Education Convention in January. Board members will receive copies of the Resolutions in January in anticipation of this item being on the regular Board agenda.

Bills

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to note November, 2022 receipts in the amount of \$1,559,343.37 and approve November, 2022 disbursements in the amount of \$7,251,560.81. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

Annual School Violence Event Drill Reports

Superintendent Broeren explained that as required under Wisconsin Statute §118.07(4)(cp), each school has conducted a school violence event drill and subsequently submitted a written report which was compiled and provided to the Board for their review. The Board questioned how the current referendum construction and subsequent building upgrades impact school violence event drills. Mr. Broeren clarified that how the drills themselves are conducted is not impacted; however, there are slight changes to some protocols and/or building signage within the buildings that staff and families are becoming familiar with as the upgrades get completed. A main piece to the upgrades that will need to be factored in is the building maps changes as the District engages in the Critical Response Graphics mapping project which has been made possible through the Office of School Safety grant.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Julie Timm 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.

District Audit Report for 2021-22 Fiscal Year

Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services, reviewed the 2021-22 District Audit Report stating that it was a solid audit overall. Mr. Nelson pointed out the overall audited District Fund balance as of June 30, 2022 is \$14,679,803.00 which is roughly 20% of District revenues. The Fund balance increased by \$222,762.00 for the year, which indicates that revenues and expenditures were closely aligned to what was budgeted. Mr. Nelson reviewed various District Debt Service Funds, mentioning that the final \$2.8 million toward QZAB Bonds has been paid. Other Capital Projects Funds at the end of 2021-22 was at \$27,952,206.00 for District referendum projects, and it is currently down to around \$7.5 million as the projects continue to be completed. Mr. Nelson pointed out that Total Non-Major Governmental Funds, which includes Funds 21, 29, 50, 80, and 46, had a net balance of \$10,683,337.00 as of June 30, 2022. District long-term liabilities balances were reviewed.

In terms of findings, as with most districts and in prior audits, a notation concerning the fact that the District does not prepare its own financial statements was mentioned. This is common since very few school districts employ a Certified Public Accountant to prepare financial statements and instead rely upon the auditors to complete this task. Mr. Nelson mentioned the two significant risks identified which include: 1) management override of controls; and 2) improper revenue recognition. This is new language that is standard which the firm is newly incorporating into all of their clientele's documentation. While they state these potential risks exist, after having the opportunity to review all District financial controls and practices, the auditors raised no specific concerns needing to be addressed.

Lastly, the auditors requested clarification around what the District considered its original budget which is saved in the District's software versus the preliminary budget which gets adopted early in the process at the budget hearing scheduled in June. After some discussion with the auditors, it was decided that the budget the auditors will use as the original

budget will be the one approved and entered into the District’s financial software following the finalization of state aid and tax levy numbers in October. By this time, more is known by the District about grant support dollars and expenditure increases in areas such as the employee health insurance program which makes the amended budget a better one to use since it better reflects the actual budget. Board members had an opportunity ask questions concerning the audit.

Amendment to 2022-23 District Budget

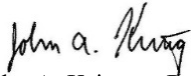
Mr. Nelson reviewed amendments being proposed for the 2022-23 District budget after the October certification of state aid took place and factors impacting the budget have become known. Key areas of change were reviewed. The overall net change from the adopted budget in June, 2022 to the current date is \$71,782,000 which is a little more than \$200,000 over the original amount. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the recommended budget amendments.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the recommended amendments to the 2022-23 District budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk