



**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

January 9, 2023

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, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Katie Medina, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Craig Broeren, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Brian Oswald, Jennifer Wilhorn

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None.

Student Representative Report

Sarah Panzer reported on:

- Areas of the new addition at Lincoln High School are expected to open up within the next few weeks, including the office and library spaces and students are enjoying the collaborative spaces that are already open
- Fire on Ice week is coming up on January 23-28 and many school spirit and sports activities will be occurring
- The Lincoln winter theatre performance of “Pandemonium” opens up on January 20 and runs through January 22
- Mid-terms are happening this week, and there is a Professional Development day with no school for students on Monday, January 16

School Showcase – Central Oaks Academy

Central Oaks Academy Principal Jen Wilhorn was accompanied by staff members Amanda Akkerman, Amy Korslin, and Crystal Walters to present on “Creating Connections at Central Oaks Academy.” While students from Central Oaks typically learn off-campus, they have in-person experiences twice per week when they attend school at the former East Jr. High building. Ms. Wilhorn presented various aspects of learning and increased pupil services support at Central Oaks which includes: online classes and tutoring, guidance, in-person classroom experiences such as art, music, physical education, library time, intervention time, and individualized learning plans. Family connections and friendships are strengthened through the on-going initiatives implemented at Central Oaks. A video presentation showcasing student perspectives was shared. The Board expressed their appreciation for the helpful presentation to showcase the great learning and connections being made at Central Oaks Academy.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Julie Timm to approve two sets of special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of November 9, 2022; special closed session meeting minutes of November 15, 2022; two sets of special closed session meeting minutes of November 22, 2022; one set of special closed session meeting minutes of December 8, 2022; regular Board of Education meeting minutes of December 12, 2022; special closed and open session meeting minutes of December 12, 2022; two special closed session meeting minutes of December 14, 2022; and special closed session meeting minutes of December 15, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – January 2, 2023. 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:

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided an overview of space limitation recommendations for regular education open enrollment students for the 2023-24 school year. The only limitation for regular education being recommended is for Central Oaks Academy to have an enrollment cap of 1 Lead Education Guide to 40 students. The Central Oaks Academy Governance Board has the ability through their charter contract to set enrollment caps, and took action to set the 1:40 ratio at their December, 2022 meeting.

Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, presented recommended special education open enrollment space limitations, referring to them in the background materials found under “Attachment A” as follows:

PROJECTED SPECIAL EDUCATION OPEN ENROLLMENT SPACES FOR 2023-24								
Program	Projected Sections 22-23	Max # of Students Per Section	Capacity	Projected 23-24 Enrollment Based on Factoring	10% Transfer	50% New Placements	Total	Projected Space Available 23-24
Early Childhood/4K	5	10	50	51.5	5	26	82	0
Elementary (K-5)								
Cross Categorical Levels 1-2	16.25	12	195	355.6	36	NA	391	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 1/2 Program	1	11	11	15.8	2	NA	17	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 3 Program	2	7	14	54.6	5	NA	60	0
Emotional Disabilities Level 1/2/3 Program	2	11	22	34.3	3	NA	38	0

PROJECTED SPECIAL EDUCATION OPEN ENROLLMENT SPACES FOR 2023-24 (continued)								
Program	Projected Sections 22-23	Max # of Students Per Section	Capacity	Projected 23-24 Enrollment Based on Factoring	10% Transfer	50% New Placements	Total	Projected Space Available 23-24
Middle (6-8)								
Cross Categorical Levels 1-2	9.75	14	136.5	216.8	22	NA	238	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 1/2 Program	2	10	20	43.1	4	NA	47	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 3 Program	1	8	8	16.5	2	NA	18	0
High School (RCHS & LHS 9-12)								
Cross Categorical Levels 1-2	11	15	165	322.3	32	NA	355	0
Intellectual Disabilities 1/2 Program	3	10	30	66.2	7	NA	73	0
Intellectual Disabilities 3 Program	1	8	8	35.1	4	NA	39	0
Emotional Disabilities Level 3 Program	1	10	10	28	3	NA	31	0
Speech & Language								
Early Childhood	1.5	20	30	43.1	4	22	69	0
Elementary	8	35	280	255.7	26	NA	281	0
Middle School	1	40	40	29.4	3	NA	32	8
High School	0.5	40	20	15.6	2	NA	17	3
Occupational Therapy								
All Grade Levels	3.5	15,30,30,45	120	213 (students)			0	0

ES-1 Approval to not designate any space limitations for regular education open enrollment students for the 2023-2024 school year with exception for Central Oaks Academy enrollment caps of a 1:40 ratio between Lead Education Guides and students; however, the Board of Education will designate space available in special education programming as indicated in the “Projected Space Available” column set out in Attachment A.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda item ES-1. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Medina provided updates and reports on:

- Lincoln High School World Language Teacher Elizabeth Mancheski presented a tour itinerary for a student trip being planned to occur from March 21-31, 2024 to Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein. The trip would enable students to authentically experience the culture and practice their

language speaking skills with the local population. Projected cost per student is \$3,469.00. Ms. Mancheski is working on fundraising efforts and other means to provide scholarships for students in need. Committee members questioned whether exploring a home stay option might help make the trip more affordable, and Ms. Mancheski stated that she is open to exploring options that would help to make the opportunity possible.

Ms. Filtz explained that Ginger Marten, Lincoln High School orchestra teacher, will be taking 10 students to the Dorian Orchestra Festival at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa from February 5-6, 2023. Students will attend rehearsals, sectionals, concerts and master classes over two days along with other orchestra students from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. The cost is approximately \$100 per student and LHS will be sharing a bus with Wausau East and West High Schools.

Ms. Filtz also mentioned a trip being planned for Lincoln High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) students to attend the World's Toughest Rodeo happening at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota on February 3, 2023. Students will leave at 8:00 a.m. and return by 11:00 p.m. They will learn about the equine field and have an opportunity to also tour UW River Falls during the trip. Megan Hand, Agriculture Teacher, is coordinating and supervising the trip.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the January 2, 2023 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – January 2, 2023. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow stated that there were no consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Business Services Committee, and instead provided the updates and reports on invoices, bid specs, and purchases made.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the January 2, 2023 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – January 2, 2023. 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 Joanna Carman (Teacher – Lincoln).

PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Karleen Rosenthal (Noon Duty Aide – Lincoln), Gerald Korslin (Noon Duty Aide – Grant), and Chani Pulchinski (Relief Custodian – District).

PS-3 Approval of the following Board policies for second reading:

- Board Policy 352 Field Trips
- Board Policy 352-Rule – Field Trip Planning Criteria
- Board Policy 352 Exhibit 1 – Parent/Guardian Permission & Field Trip Form
- Board Policy 352 Exhibit 2 – Student Travel Release
- Board Policy 443.2 – Student Conduct on School Buses
- Board Policy 443.2 Rule – Bus Conduct
- Board Policy 723.1 Rule – Emergency School Closing Procedures
- Board Policy 751 Student Transportation
- Board Policy 751-Rule – Transportation Guidelines
- Board Policy 751.1 Bus Routing and Scheduling
- Board Policy 751.1-Rule – Bus Routing and Scheduling Guidelines
- Board Policy 751.2 Bus Safety Program
- Board Policy 751.2-Rule – Bus Safety Procedures
- Board Policy 751.21 Use of Electronic Surveillance Technology on School Bus
- Board Policy 751.3 Transportation to School-Related Events
- Board Policy 751.3-Rule – Guidelines for Transportation to School-Related Events
- Board Policy 751.5 Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students
- Board Policy 751.5 Rule – Guidelines for Use of Private Vehicles to Transport Students
- Board Policy 752 Use of District-Owned Vehicles
- Board Policy 752-Rule – Guidelines for Use of District-Owned Vehicles

PS-4 Approval of Board Policy 431 Rule – Student Attendance Procedures for second reading.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items PS 1-4. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Medina provided updates and reports on:

- Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources, shared class size reports for elementary and secondary levels. Mr. Oswald pointed out that elementary class sizes were generally smaller than normal due to extra staff funded through ESSER money.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the regular January 2, 2023 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Mr. Benbow suggested the Board schedule an upcoming workshop to focus on legislative advocacy and potential position statements the Board may want to take in the coming months.

Ms. Hett requested information concerning the implementation of “E-Learning” days in the District when inclement weather causes a school closure, and how each school is handling student instruction on these days.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- New members in the Wisconsin Legislature include seven new members in the 33-member state Senate of which five are Republicans and two are Democrats; and 24 new members in the 99-member Assembly, of which 16 are Republicans and eight are Democrats.
- State Senator John Jagler has been announced as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, and State Representative Joel Kitchens has been announced as Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education. Senator Patrick Testin is a newly seated member on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC).
- Governor Evers has scheduled listening sessions throughout the state as he prepares his 2023-25 executive budget, and has scheduled a session at Main Elementary School in Wausau, WI on Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Those interested in participating must register in advance.
- Governor Evers plans to provide his 2023 State of the State Address on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.; and his 2023-25 Biennial Budget Message on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Bills

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Julie Timm to note December, 2022 receipts in the amount of \$11,138,407.38 and approve December, 2022 disbursements in the amount of \$5,955,035.39. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote. *Mr. Benbow made mention of the fine work that Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds and Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, have done to capture Focus on Energy rebates for energy projects completed and E-rate funds secured for District technology initiatives.*

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

2023 Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Resolutions

The Board reviewed proposed WASB resolutions to be taken up by the Delegate Assembly during the State Education Convention in January, 2023.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of having John Benbow use his own discretion and vote his conscience on behalf of the Board on proposed Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) resolutions when participating as the Board Delegate at the upcoming Delegate Assembly meeting in January, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on 2023-24 District Budget

Superintendent Broeren stated that no additional information has come from the State Capitol concerning the upcoming biennial budget since Legislative representatives are currently being seated. Since it will likely be some time before solid information is known about the State budget, the administration is forecasting the 2023-24 District budget using a \$200 per pupil increase of new spendable dollars. When factoring in the adjustments made in the recent employee health insurance plan renewal and future potential wage or inflationary increases and other adjustments, the budget is projected

to come in at a deficit of slightly more than \$1 million. Should no additional revenue come in from the State, the deficit will likely be twice that amount. Moving through the biennium, the administration is hopeful that budget reductions can be mitigated to some degree through employee attrition; however, the 2024-25 District budget is anticipated to have a \$4 million deficit if no new spendable dollars are provided from the State. Mr. Broeren shared that if the Board intends to become involved in any legislative advocacy around the budget topic, it would be best to schedule a meeting to occur within the next 30 days. With inflation on the rise and school district funding from the State frozen in the past few budget cycles, it will be difficult to maintain programming without additional State aid.

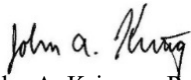
Mr. Broeren made mention of the significant Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding that has intentionally been directed toward increasing District staffing levels following the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal in having lower class sizes and more individual staff contact with students is to help mitigate the impact of learning loss that has occurred. Lagging pupil academic needs, behavioral needs, and the mental health and well-being of students has been a focus and a priority to catch students back up. ESSER funding sunsets in September, 2024 and will no longer be available. The administration has sequestered just over \$900,000 in ESSER dollars for the 2023-24 fiscal year to potentially be diverted toward a budget deficit, if necessary. While the intention of ESSER funding is to focus on and address student learning needs, it has been made clear by the State Legislature that they believe school districts should be using these funds to backfill budgets since there has been no additional State revenue provided to districts in recent years. This has forced many districts to turn to local referendums. While not desired, Mr. Broeren made mention that it is possible that the District's operational referendum levy override funding of \$2 million per year, which is earmarked for curriculum and technology upgrades, could potentially be diverted to other operational expenses if the District finds itself in a budgetary crisis.

Lastly, Mr. Broeren stated that the 2023-24 budget update topic will be added to each upcoming regular Board agenda so that information can be shared and decisions made as necessary moving forward.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk