



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

John A. Krings, President
John Benbow, Jr.
Troy Bier
Larry Davis
Katie Medina
Kathi Stebbins-Hintz
Julie Timm

June 12, 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, John Krings, Katie Medina, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Julie Timm

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None.

School Showcase – Mead Elementary

Mead Elementary Principal Amber Applebee was joined by Student Engagement Facilitator Kim Akey to present on initiatives at Mead to nurture growth of the whole child. Specific areas covered include staff professional development, attendance support, social-emotional learning, and academic success. The “You Belong Club” developed for students was explained, and video testimony from students engaged in the Club was shared. Additionally, statistics reflecting academic achievement by students in Kindergarten and grade 5 reading was reviewed along with survey data around positive student, family, and staff perceptions about Mead. Board members thanked Ms. Applebee and Ms. Akey for their presentation, and for the great effort by Mead staff to help students be successful.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of two sets of special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of May 2, 2023; regular Board of Education meeting minutes of May 8, 2023; and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of May 8, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – June 5, 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:

- ES-1 Approval of the adoption of the proposed 6-12 Health Curriculum Maps as presented beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.
- ES-2 Approval of the proposed K-12 Health Curriculum resources as presented beginning with the 2023-2024 school year; the total amount of \$73,209.43 will be funded through the District Curriculum Acquisition Referendum budget.
- ES-3 Approval of the proposed 9–12 Science Education Curriculum Maps as presented, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Committee Reports (continued)

- ES-4 Approval of the proposed 9-12 science curriculum resources as presented beginning with the 2023-2024 school year at a total amount of \$93,301.82 to be funded through the District Curriculum Referendum budget.
- ES-5 Approval of the proposed Professional Development Day Schedule for the 2023-24 school year.
- ES-6 Approval of the revised Supplemental Pay Plan as presented to begin with the 2023-2024 school year.
- ES-7 Approval of the application for the Carl Perkins Grant for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$52,942.00.
- ES-8 Approval of the Department of Workforce Development Grant Technical Incentive Grant funds for approximately \$80,173.00.
- ES-9 Approval of the contract with Renaissance Learning for the 2023-24 school year in the amount of \$54,631.83, to be paid for with the ESSER III Formula Grant.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items ES 1-9. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Medina provided updates and reports on:

- The Committee learned that The American Rescue Plan (ARP) of 2021 stipulates that states can allocate 1% of their total ARP funds towards evidence-based summer enrichment programs. These programs aim to address the academic, social, and emotional needs of students, particularly those with unfinished learning. As part of this initiative, school districts and community-based organizations can join forces with local education agencies (LEAs) to apply for the ESSER III Summer School Grant.

Jennifer Allen, Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area (BGCWRA), worked with Superintendent Craig Broeren and Ms. Filtz to successfully complete a grant application as part of a consortium between BGCWRA and WRPS. The application was approved, resulting in a two-year grant award totaling \$176,000.00. The overarching objective of this grant is to address summer learning loss and foster collaborative efforts to support all students. The BGCWRA has outlined three primary goals for their work: to demonstrate improvement in reading skills, enhance math skills, and cultivate a sense of belonging at the club. Ms. Filtz explained how WRPS intends to collaborate with this community-based organization to enhance the overall well-being of students.

- As part of the ESSER III Local Education Agency (LEA) Plan for WRPS, Student Engagement Facilitators (SEFs) were assigned to each District elementary building as well as Pitsch Early Learning Center, WRAMS, and LHS. The work of the SEFs has evolved as the year has progressed and the impact each has made on student achievement and their sense of belonging in the school family is immeasurable. Members of the SEF team were present to showcase the work they have done this past school year and share goals for the 2023-2024 school year. Details were shared concerning the results of a survey conducted with staff members around the utilization of SEFs within buildings during the 2022-23 school year. Areas covered by the SEFs include professional development, Educator Effectiveness, New Colleague support, behavior issues and on-call support, individual student or small group academic and enrichment support, and family engagement and communication. In a video message played during the presentation, building administrators expressed their support for the SEF positions and provided details around how these staff members have positively impacted the school environment and contributed to student success.
- Ms. Filtz updated the Committee about student travel which occurred on Saturday, May 20, 2023 when LHS Music Instructor Jeanne Olson took 52 LHS students to Chicago, Illinois to visit the Field Museum, Millennium Park, and the Cadillac Palace Theatre to see *Disney's Aladdin*. It was a great opportunity for students to see a live performance outside of Wisconsin Rapids.

After a successful State Leadership Conference (SLC) which was held in Green Bay on April 16-18, 2023, WRAMS FBLA has 13 competitors moving on to the National Leadership Conference (NLC) held on June 27 – July 2, 2023. The chapter also received 2nd place Outstanding Chapter in the State and Largest Chapter in the State. Only the top two place getters get to move on to the National Leadership

Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Christina Mitchell is the FBLA group advisor, and eleven students, one advisor, and one parent look forward to the upcoming conference being held in Atlanta, GA from June 27 through July 2, 2023.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the June 5, 2023 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – June 5, 2023. 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 an increase to the 4K contract for the 2023–24 school year by \$100.00 for a total of \$2,325.00 per student.
- BS-2 Approval of the purchase from Daktronics to replace the scorekeeper’s table at a cost of \$59,180.00 with \$40,000.00 of this amount being paid from 2023–24 LHS and LHS Athletic Budgets. The remaining \$19,180.00 will come from Athletic Department fundraising and WIAA activity accounts.
- BS-3 Approval of the purchase of 2 Juniper QFX5120 Switches, related software and licensing from Bytespeed at a cost of \$36,490.00 to be funded from the 2023–2024 Technology Referendum Budget.
- BS-4 Approval of entering into a 3–year contract with Seesaw to provide communications software and activities for all elementary schools at a total cost of \$40,125.00 to be paid annually.
- BS-5 Approval of the purchase of 17– 75” BenQ IFP’s for use in 5th grade classrooms and math classrooms at WRAMS from BG Innovations at a cost of \$50,150.00 to be funded from the 2023–2024 Technology Referendum Budget.
- BS-6 Approval of the purchase of 1,000 HP Chromebooks and management software from PDS at a cost of \$256,500.00 to be funded from the 2023–2024 Technology Referendum Budget.
- BS-7 Approval of the replacement 31 door sets throughout the district at the cost \$202,642.20 from Quality Door & Hardware to be funded from the 2023-2024 Fund 46 and Fund 80 budgets.
- BS-8 Approval of the replacement of the flooring in the LHS girl’s locker room for a total cost of \$62,460.00 from Macco Flooring to be funded from the 2023-2024 Buildings & Grounds budget.
- BS-9 Approval of accepting the supply bids from multiple vendors for a total cost of \$116,109.16 to be paid out of the 2023-2024 District Supply Budget in three equal amounts of \$13,375.00 each to be funded with a combination of the ESSER III budget the Technology and Curriculum Referendum Budgets.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to approve consent agenda items BS 1-9. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices, bid specs, and purchases made.
- A copy paper bid award
- Middle school athletics and co-curricular activities being funded via Fund 80
- Score clock towers donation to WR Area Middle School by Brian Back
- THINK Academy roof replacement delays
- President Krings made mention of the recent tour taken by the Board of the Lincoln Construction Trades Home, commending the efforts and quality work of the students and their instructor, Terry Bores

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the June 5, 2023 meeting, and special closed session Committee meeting minutes of May 21, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – June 5, 2023. Report given by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz 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 2023-24 school year of Morgan Graf (Teacher – District), Crystal Mocadlo (Teacher – District), Ryan Rodriguez (Teacher – Woodside), Elizabeth Behlen (Teacher – THINK), Taylor Knoeck (Teacher – Woodside), Hannah Gethers (Teacher – Woodside), Jacob Jorstad (Teacher – WRAMS), Rachel Ostrowski (Teacher – Woodside), Samantha Mellberg (Teacher – Grove), Annie Nolden (Teacher – Grove), Nicholas Thompson (Teacher – Lincoln), Alyssa Johnson (Teacher – Lincoln), and Joseph Krombos (Teacher – Lincoln/WRAMS).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Jayme Kuklinski (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside), Terry Erdmann (Special Ed Aide – Mead), and Savannah Smith (Special Ed Aide – Howe).
- PS-3 Approval of the summer professional staff appointments of Pete Larsen, Emily Randrup, Emmaline Friedenfels, Anna Goldbach, Jacob Hintz, Zach Pecha, Jeanne Olson, Ginger Martin, Julie Stoffel, Tony Biolo, Dan Witter, Justin Pyan, Faith Buzelli, Lori Harmsen, Elizabeth Rogus, Elizabeth Joosten, Kylee Krzykowski, Holly Spurlin, Shelley Moon, Sarah Gildenzoph, Chang Thao, Josh Dorshorst, Yia Xiong, Abby Kreisa, Cara Johnson, Greg Matthews, KaZoua Thao, Danielle Heuer, Miriam Doerrler, Jennifer Gause, Teresa Brawders, Janet Alekna, Angela Peters, Brooke Kuzynski, Leslie Benitz, Jerene Sillars, Kao Vue, Anna Radtke, Melissa Miller, Andrew Miller, Danica Reichardt, Randy Duxbury, Tom Nolan, Sarah Mohrbacher, Kevin Mlodik, Nicole Brezinski, Desiree Robinson, Kim Akey, Megan Onesti, Kalie Forcier, Kylie Barnes, Scott Sigourney, Rebecca Steckbauer, Martha Olivarez, Michelle Forcier, and Leslie Anderson.
- PS-4 Approval of the summer support staff appointments of Andrew Vold, Tanner Peters, Eric Huglen, Emma Mischnick, Haley Casper, August Bambenek, Ben Klingforth, Jacklyn Greening, Chase Jensen, Letty Schmick, Kim Ahles, Miranda Behr, Angela Wirth, Machel Anderson, Tracy Weiss, Marissa Ashenberg, David Wittenberg, Joanne Dachel, Miranda Borchardt, Michele Diebel, Zoe Wirtz, Holly McMiller, Lauren Derfus, Nicole Crowley, Kelly Dietz, Krissy Weidman, Keegan Crowley, Dixie Torke, Anissa Vold, Tia Thao, Shaely Thao, Macey Back, Sophie Hasenohrl, Olivia Oleson, Yanissa Quilantan, Emily Hartjes, Laynee Steinhafel, Jillian Alekna, America Arts, Colin Coates, Sarah Korte, Lily Kropidowski, Logan Maciejewski, Elliott Schultz, Kayelyn Schulze, Josh Niedbalski, Elyxa Peck, Jackson Steward, Kendall Coates, Fiona Gaugert, Laney Fuchs, Camerron Wetterau, and Taylor Palacios.
- PS-5 Approval of the professional staff resignations of Jacob Jensen (Teacher – Lincoln), Mara Peterson (Teacher – Grove), Nicole Gustaveson (Teacher – Woodside), Joanna Carman (Teacher – Lincoln), Garrett Hopkins (Teacher – WRAMS), Kendra Wierzba (Teacher – Grove), Ava Magee (Teacher – Lincoln), Miranda Moody (Teacher – Lincoln/Literacy Coordinator – District), Hannah Danczyk (Teacher – District), and Katelyn Belcher (Teacher – Howe).
- PS-6 Approval of the support staff resignations of Emily Smith (Special Ed – Mead), Michelle Datka (Special Ed – Grove), Karen Reed (Special Ed – Mead), Mary Gildenzoph (Secretary – Buildings & Grounds), Matthias Haschke (Noon Duty Aide – Grant), Rachel Renner (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), and Cindy Bell (Kitchen Helper – WRAMS).
- PS-7 Approval of Board Policy 164 – Board Member Compensation and Expenses for second reading.
- PS-8 Approval of the proposed language changes to the work schedule section of the Custodial and Maintenance Staff Employee Handbook.
- PS-9 Approval of changing the title of the Pitsch custodian to Pitsch Head Custodian effective July 1, 2023.
- PS-10 Approval of a one-year sabbatical request by Nathali Jones for the 2023-24 school year.
- PS-11 Approval of the addition of an Assistant Athletic Director effective July 1, 2023. In addition, changing the Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director position to a Group VI** for the 2023-24 school year.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz requested that item PS-11 be held out.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items PS 1-10. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to consent agenda item PS-11, Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that she held the item out for additional conversation and clarification. Superintendent Broeren explained that the proposal to add the position of “Assistant

Athletic Director” would have the Aquatics Director responsibilities added, and allow for better coverage of the additional duties and workload that has been generated as a result of adding the Rapids Area Sports Complex (RASC) to the Lincoln High School (LHS) campus. As intended, numerous outside events are being scheduled in this premier new space which has been beneficial for the teams involved and these events have brought increased economic activity to the community. With the current Aquatics Director taking sabbatical leave, timing is ideal to shift these responsibilities to the new position. The current Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director is paid approximately \$52,000 plus benefits. The Aquatics Director pay is \$6,500 and an LHS Noon Aide is paid \$6,600. The proposal is to create the Assistant Athletic Director position at a salary of \$60,000, cut an LHS Noon Aide position (*savings of \$6,600*) to have those duties absorbed into the Administrative Assistant to Athletic Director position, and cut one hour from the LHS Activities Clerk position (*savings of \$3,496*) to shift those funds toward the proposed athletic staffing changes.

The Administrative Assistant to Athletic Director Position would be posted as a 200-day clerical position, rather than the full-year position as it is currently. The overall increased cost for these changes is anticipated to be between \$16,619-\$38,775 depending upon the benefits taken by those filling the positions. The administration proposes funding the Assistant Athletic Director position through the Community Service Fund 80 to the degree possible, and anticipates the possibility for 20-30% of the salary to be funded in this way. There is potential for some of the clerical duty time to also be shifted to Fund 80 at some point in time; however, a feasibility analysis would need to be done over the course of the next year or more to make this determination.

Board members discussed the proposal and reviewed the current hourly staff wage schedule listing the proposed clerical position at a Group VI** which equates to an hourly rate of \$16.92 to start and moves to \$17.81 after 60 days. A suggestion was made to change the Administrative Assistant to Athletic Director position title to Administrative Assistant to the LHS Athletic Department. Concerns were raised around whether this individual would have time to get all assigned duties completed with adding the 2.45 hours per day Noon Aide responsibilities to the position. Mr. Broeren stated that this will be monitored to ensure the expectations are not unreasonable, and further mentioned that the overall adjustments being proposed can be reversed or changed as appropriate and/or if future budgetary constraints make it necessary.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Julie Timm to approve of the addition of a year-round Assistant Athletic Director position at Lincoln High School in accordance with the revised job description effective July 1, 2023 and at a salary of \$60,000.00 with benefits in accordance with the professional staff member handbook with vacation days to be determined, and funding of the position to the degree possible under Fund 80. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of changing the Secretary to the LHS Athletic Director position to Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Department under a 200-day schedule beginning with the 2023-24 school year, and paid at a starting hourly rate of \$16.92, and then \$17.81 after 60 days, which is a Group VI position under the Office and Clerical employee group. Motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the regular June 5, 2023 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- Governor Evers and GOP legislative leaders have reached a deal on K-12 education funding in conjunction with shared revenue to local governments. The compromise touts over \$1 billion in new spendable revenue to public schools and large increases to vouchers and charter school payments. Mr. Bier shared other budget details having an impact on public education.
- Attorney General Josh Kaul stated that the Joint Finance Committee’s budget will “gut” the Office of School Safety (OSS) as the Committee rejected funding earmarked to support OSS initiatives. With \$1.8 million in COVID-19 funds ending in December, current OSS staffing levels will need to be cut along with the 24/7 tip line and other school safety services that they developed.
- The Joint Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the State Capitol to vote on the Department of Public Instruction’s (DPI) budget and K-12 education funding. They will also be meeting to vote on the Shared Revenue Assembly Bill 245 and Senate Bill 330 which does three things: 1) raises low revenue ceiling for school districts from \$10,000 to \$11,000 effective in 2023-24; 2) increases per pupil payments in parental choice

(voucher) programs and the Special Needs Scholarship program as well as per pupil payments made to independent charter schools; and 3) changes the indexing mechanism for those pupil payments in a way that adjusts them to future increases in the low revenue ceiling.

- GOP lawmakers are proposing expansive reading and literacy legislation that would push early grade reading instruction in Wisconsin schools further in the direction of phonics and the “science of reading” approach of teaching reading. The legislation is tied to the \$50 million announced as part of the K-12 funding in the state budget which would fund some of the initiatives in the bill. DPI State Superintendent Jill Underly released a statement saying she does not support the bill, particularly noting that the 3rd grade retention requirement would be harmful to learners, families, and communities.

Bills

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to note May, 2023 receipts in the amount of \$2,095,718.93 and approve May, 2023 disbursements in the amount of \$9,058,997.83. 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 professional staff appointment recommendations effective with the 2023-24 school year:

Caitlyn Lautenschlager	Location:	Lincoln High School
	Position:	Teacher – Math (1.0 FTE)
	Education:	Bachelor’s – UW Stevens Point – December, 2021
	Major/Minor:	Math Education
	Salary:	\$45,000
Kylie MacDonald	Location:	WR Area Middle School
	Position:	Teacher – Science (1.0 FTE)
	Education:	Bachelor’s – UW Stevens Point – June, 2023
	Major/Minor:	Earth Science, Biology
	Salary:	\$43,000
Jamie Winch	Location:	Lincoln High School/WR Area Middle School
	Position:	Teacher – F/CS (1.0 FTE)
	Education:	Bachelor’s – UW Stevens Point – May, 2021
	Major/Minor:	Family and Consumer Sciences
	Salary:	\$47,000
Megan Gawlitta	Location:	Howe Elementary School
	Position:	Teacher – Cross Categorical (1.0 FTE)
	Education:	Bachelor’s – UW Eau Claire – May, 2023
	Major/Minor:	Neuroscience/Spanish for Health Professions
	Salary:	\$43,000

Mr. Oswald also presented the following professional staff resignation request:

Diane Gibbs	Location:	WRAMS
	Position:	Teacher – The Bridge (1.00 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 5, 2023
	Date of Hire:	August 25, 2020

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the professional staff appointments of Caitlyn Lautenschlager, Kylie MacDonald, Jamie Winch, and Megan Gawlitta as presented, and the professional staff resignation request of Diane Gibbs. Motion carried unanimously.

Safe-Way and Lamers Bus Contracts

Superintendent Broeren explained that the administration and Business Services Committee have been meeting with District transportation carriers Safe-Way and Lamers Bus to simplify contract language and come to agreement on future rates and terms. He reviewed the recommended language changes for the proposed 5-year contract that would run from July, 2023 through June, 2028. The carriers had strong interest in settling on a lengthy contract term of at least five

years. Items worth noting include the installation of cameras on all school buses by September 1, 2023 with costs picked up by the carriers, and a simplified rate schedule that should streamline billing and allow the District to better compare rates with other carriers in the future. As outlined in “Exhibit A” of the contract, the first year of the agreement (2023-24) would include a 1% rate increase while the second year (2024-25) would have rates increase by 2%. The Business Services Committee recommends approval of the 5-year transportation agreement as presented. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the 5-year transportation contract agreement reached with Safe-Way and Lamers bus companies, including an updated rate schedule as provided under “Exhibit A” of the contract. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Preliminary 2023-24 District Budget to be Published / ESSER Funding Update

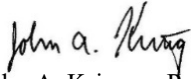
Superintendent Broeren presented the preliminary 2023-24 District budget proposed to be published. The anticipated overall impact in the tax levy from 2022-23 to 2023-24 is 0.52%. Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services, mentioned that expenditures in Fund 49 are decreasing significantly with the referendum projects concluding. The final year of ESSER III funding in 2023-24 has the majority of the remaining \$2,960,107.13 in available funds spoken for. The budget will be discussed in more detail and adopted at an upcoming meeting scheduled for June 28, 2023. Any final modifications that might be needed will be taken up once the September, 2023 pupil count is complete and the State certifies aid in October, 2023. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the preliminary 2023-24 District budget to be published. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk