



**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

October 25, 2021

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Services Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Aaron Nelson

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

Roll Call

Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services, provided an update on the 2021-22 District budget. Two items that will have an impact on the overall budget are employee health insurance renewal rates and anticipated revenues to be received from federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) grant funds. The Board will learn more details on these topics as they become available in the months ahead.

Mr. Nelson reviewed the District's 2021 equalized value tax apportionment provided by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Overall District valuation increased by \$129,856,270 or 5.2%, to a total of \$2,644,142,873.

The Department of Public Instruction provided final certified school district aid amounts on October 15, 2021. The final aid amount for the District increased by \$2,317,436 or 6.4%, to a total of \$38,716,585. The Revenue Limit Worksheet for 2021-22 was reviewed. This worksheet includes key pieces of data such as enrollment information, local property values, revenue limit per member, private school voucher and other information. The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) reduced state aid to the District by \$1,811,162 while the Special Needs Scholarship Program (SNSP) resulted in an aid deduction of \$368,023. The District third Friday pupil count membership report saw a significant drop in pupil enrollment for the 2021-22 school year which may be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, transiency of student residency, withdrawals to DPI homeschool, and loss of local jobs from the Verso mill closure which caused people to leave the community.

The Board approved an overall tax levy of \$24,097,740 at the June 30, 2021 budget hearing which covered allocations toward the following Funds:

Fund 10 - \$20,558,935 Fund 38 - \$ 2,504,275 Fund 39 - \$ 1,034,530

Mr. Nelson explained that since the budget meeting occurred, the State budget has been finalized and provides significantly more general aid to school districts while not increasing per pupil revenue limit amounts. As a result, the Fund 10 tax levy amount has decreased by \$2,290,746. At the same time, the District has received its actual first year Fund 39 debt payment amounts which were originally estimated to be \$1,034,530 but actually ended up being \$1,073,219. The Board has an opportunity to increase the Fund 39 amount by \$2,290,746 for a total of \$3,325,276 in order to pay down referendum debt early. The overall impact to the mill rate would be a \$.62 reduction from \$9.73 in 2020-21 to \$9.11 in 2021-22.

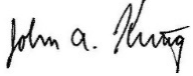
The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the recommended tax levy and revised Fund allocations.

Looking ahead to 2022-23, Mr. Nelson stated that since the State budget provides no increase in revenue for schools in the upcoming fiscal year, it is difficult to predict the potential negative impact to the District budget in light of

inflationary rate trends. The administration will begin to review 2022-23 budget information around January and apprise the Board as new developments and information becomes available.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the 2021-22 District Tax Levy in the amount of \$24,097,740 with the reallocations in Fund 10 and Fund 39 as stipulated. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk