



AGENDA

Wisconsin Rapids Public School District - Board of Education

510 Peach Street

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

(715) 424-6701

Business Services Committee

John Benbow, Jr., Chairman
Katherine Bielski-Medina, Member
Larry Davis, Member
John A Krings, President

January 7, 2019

LOCATION: Board of Education Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Business Services
 - A. Board Policy 443.2 Rule - Bus Conduct – First Reading
- IV. Updates and Reports
- V. Future Agenda Items

The Wisconsin open meetings law requires that the Board, or Board Committee, only take action on subject matter that is noticed on their respective agendas. Persons wishing to place items on the agenda should contact the District Office at [715-424-6701](tel:715-424-6701), at least seven working days prior to the meeting date for the item to be considered. The item may be referred to the appropriate committee or placed on the Board agenda as determined by the Superintendent and/or Board president.

With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities by providing a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aids, by calling [715-424-6701](tel:715-424-6701).

School Board members may attend the above Committee meeting(s) for information gathering purposes. If a quorum of Board members should appear at any of the Committee meetings, a regular School Board meeting may take place for purposes of gathering information on an item listed on one of the Committee agendas. If such a meeting should occur, the date, time, and location of the Board meeting will be that of the particular Committee as listed on the Committee agenda.



BACKGROUND

Business Services Committee

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Larry Davis, Member
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TIME: 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment

III. Business Services

A. Board Policy 443.2 Rule - Bus Conduct – First Reading

Attached is a PDF version of Board Policy 443.2 Rule - Bus Conduct which adds a sentence on page 2 stating that food may not be eaten by students while on the bus. This revision is being requested by the bus companies based upon recent events which have prompted safety concerns relative to potential choking by students who engage in eating while riding the bus. It coincides with Policy 751.3 Rule which addresses field trips or transportation to school-related events - that policy states that "Food may not be eaten on school buses."

Additional bus related policies will be coming through for review and first reading approval in February 2019.

The Administration recommends that the proposed modification to Board Policy 443.2 Rule - Bus Conduct for first reading to prohibit eating on the bus for safety reasons be recommended for approval to the Board of Education.

IV. Updates and Reports

V. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items of the Business Services Committee were identified.

443.2 RULE BUS CONDUCT

The following guidelines have been developed for all school-sponsored activities and for the protection and safety of all involved.

Parent Responsibilities

1. Students will ride on assigned buses. Parents must request, in writing, an exception from this rule. Requests shall be made to the designated staff person in charge of the transportation.
2. Students will board and disembark from their assigned bus as designated unless written permission from the designated staff person at the school is granted to be let off at other than the regular stop. The bus driver must be presented with a school issued bus pass in order to accommodate a request. Parents will assume the responsibility of the child when such a request is made and granted.
3. Parents are encouraged to contact the respective school official regarding any problems with school bus transportation. It is imperative that parents, school officials, and bus drivers work cooperatively together to solve any problems, thus providing a safe ride for all.

Student Responsibilities

1. Before loading –

- a. Be on time at the designated school bus stops. Help keep the bus on schedule.
- b. Stay off the road while waiting for the bus. Bus riders should conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting.
- c. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to board the bus. Line up in an orderly, single-file manner. Do not rush to get on the bus.
- d. Be courteous. Don't take advantage of younger children in order to get a seat.
- e. If there is no sidewalk or path, walk on the side of the road facing traffic to get to the bus stop.
- f. Use the handrail and watch your step when boarding the bus.

While on the bus –

- a. Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times. **Food may not be eaten on the bus.**
- b. Remember, loud talking and laughing or **other behavior that creates** unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and may result in a serious accident.
- c. Treat bus equipment as valuable furniture in your home. Damage to seats, etc., must be paid for by the offender or person assigned to that seat.
- d. A musical instrument will be allowed on the bus if the case can be held on the student's lap or between that student's legs. They MAY NOT be in the aisle.
- e. No pets allowed on the bus at any time.

- f. Never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.
- g. Leave no books, lunches or other articles on the bus.
- h. Keep books, packages, coats and all other objects out of the aisles.
- i. Remain in the bus in case of road emergency, unless directed to do otherwise by the bus driver.
- j. Do not throw anything out of the bus window. Windows are not to be opened unless authorized by the bus driver.
- k. Smoking and/or the use, possession, or transfer of a nicotine product, including smokeless tobacco or electronic cigarette (or e-cigarette) or other electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) products is prohibited.
- l. Possession of a controlled substance is prohibited.
- m. Always remain in your seats while the bus is in motion. No standing up or changing seats.
- n. Always be courteous to fellow pupils, the bus driver, and to passers-by.
- o. Keep quiet when approaching a railroad crossing stop.
- p. The driver will not discharge a rider at places other than the regular bus stops unless the student presents the driver with a bus pass obtained from a school official.
- q. Only regular riders are allowed to ride the bus; no other students will be permitted on the bus unless a bus pass is obtained from a school official and presented to the bus driver.
- r. In the event of inclement weather, announcements will be made through the District webpage and notification alert systems such as Nixle and/or Skylert, as well as via news media outlets.
- s. Obey all rules listed by your school bus driver.
- t. Dangerous articles such as lighters, matches, weapons including but not limited to firearms, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and dangerous weapons as defined in state statute are prohibited.

After leaving the bus –

- a. Students should wait for a signal from the driver prior to crossing the road, and then cross the road at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- b. Never walk behind the rear of the bus.
- c. If you can touch the bus after unloading, you are too close and are in potential danger.
- d. Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.

Student Control on Buses

Students must obey all rules that apply to bus riding for their own safety and protection as well as others aboard the school bus. Students and parents alike should be informed that misbehavior will not be tolerated. Students who misbehave on the school bus can be suspended from riding their school bus. The following procedures will be followed by the bus company and school officials when appropriate. It is of course possible that a student may have to be removed immediately for the safety of all involved. If and when this should happen, the bus driver shall contact the bus company who will contact law enforcement to pick the student up and release them to the parent or legal guardian.

Steps in General Concerning Student Control on School Buses

1. The driver will first attempt to talk with the student individually whenever possible to resolve ~~the~~ a problems. A description of the problem may be written up at this time, provided to the bus company, and forwarded to the ~~District's Transportation Department~~ *building principal*.
2. If talking with the student should prove ineffective, the student may be assigned to a specific seat by the driver for a period of time. The ~~Transportation Department~~ *building principal* will be notified of assigned seats and inform the appropriate school official.
3. If #1 and #2 have been tried unsuccessfully and the problem continues, the parent and/or school shall be contacted for further disciplinary action.
4. For serious infractions, steps #1, #2, and #3 can be eliminated.

Steps and Action in Revoking a Student's Riding Privilege

1. The following behaviors may merit suspensions from riding the school bus. Such suspensions will be determined by the respective school officials.
 - a. Insubordination: Defined to mean a direct refusal to follow the instructions of the bus driver or others in charge.
 - b. Violations of policies on smoking, drugs, and alcohol: Defined to mean any act leading to or participating in these activities.
 - c. Fighting: Defined to mean any act leading to aggression or harm, or physical assault upon a person or persons, regardless of whether or not promoted by the action of others.
 - d. Profane Language: Defined to mean abusive or derogatory remarks intended to be uncomplimentary or unacceptable.
 - e. Destruction of the Bus: Defined to mean any act relating to the marring, cutting, tearing, or general destruction of the bus facilities.
 - f. Repeated Offenders: Defined to mean students who have been referred for minor infractions of bus safety not less than once nor more than three times inclusively.
 - g. Bringing Dangerous Articles on to the Bus: Defined to mean items such as lighters, matches, weapons including but not limited to firearms, knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and dangerous weapons as defined in state statute.

2. The following suspension guidelines may be followed for students who have their bus riding privilege revoked. The parents will be contacted by the school principal ~~via the District's Transportation Department~~ whenever a bus riding suspension is involved.

Recommended Steps:

- 1st offense: warning/parent contact
- 2nd offense: final warning/parent contact
- 3rd offense: 3 to 5 day suspension
- 4th offense: 5 day suspension
- 5th offense: expulsion from riding the bus

In extreme cases, a decision will be made to terminate bus transportation immediately. This decision will be made after discussions have been held between school district officials and the bus company. Parent contact will be made in these situations.

Bus Company Guidelines

1. The bus driver is responsible for discipline on the bus.
2. The bus company may, in extreme cases of a serious nature, notify law enforcement and have a student removed from the bus.
3. The bus company may (in cases not as serious as ~~#3~~ 2) contact school district officials to have a student removed from the bus.
4. Drivers shall not refuse a student transportation home after school unless ~~#3~~ 2 or ~~#4~~ 3 above are in effect.
5. The bus company is encouraged to talk to students and parents, if necessary, to try to resolve a problem.
6. The bus company is encouraged to meet with the school officials, parents, and the student in cases of misbehavior.
7. The bus company may assign students to seats on the bus.
8. Drivers may write misconduct reports on students and turn those reports into the bus company who will forward the reports to the ~~District's Transportation Department~~ building principal for action.

RULE APPROVED: September 11, 1978
REVISED: August 12, 1996
 August 13, 2001
 June 11, 2007
 March 14, 2016
 TBD