



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee
510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

Anne Lee, Chairperson
John Benbow, Jr.
Katie Bielski-Medina
Larry Davis
Sandra Hett
Mary Rayome
John Krings, President

November 5, 2018

LOCATION: Board of Education, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids WI
Conference Room A/B

TIME: Immediately following the Business Services Committee and Personnel Services
Committee meetings, but not before 6:15 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Katie Bielski-Medina, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett,
John Krings, Anne Lee and Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Curriculum Proposals: New Courses and Curriculum Modifications

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed the new course and curriculum modification proposals that were presented to the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) Committee. She shared voting tallies, comments, positives and concerns.

With regard to the request concerning the prerequisite for the American Dream course, Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that American Dream is a three trimester course in which students can enroll as long as they have either received a grade in the English II course of "A" or "B," or if they have received a "C" and have obtained instructor consent. The recommended proposal for this course would eliminate the option for students who have a "C" grade and instructor consent.

A lively discussion among Committee members and the administration ensued with a number of thoughts and concerns expressed, including:

- Narrowing opportunities for students with a "C" grade in English
- Potential bias and liability in allowing instructor consent
- Uncertainty of how many "C" students this would affect, and the track record of success in this course for these students
- English Language Arts (ELA) has a prerequisite requirement while social studies does not
- If instructor consent stays, some type of rubric providing evaluative criteria and established guidelines should be developed for consistency and equity
- Prerequisites are currently in place for particular courses, but not all – perhaps this should change or at least be reviewed
- Disadvantages to students failing in this three trimester, two-credit course
- Dropping just the "with teacher consent" portion of the prerequisite, leaving the prerequisite of obtaining an "A," "B," or "C" intact and having guidance counselor recommendations and input so that students can make well-informed decisions
- Drop the prerequisite altogether and have school counselors work with students to inform them that if they did not receive an "A" or "B" in English II that they may struggle more in the American Dream course
- Eliminate the "C" with instructor consent option and instead take the average of a student's social studies and ELA scores to determine eligibility into American Dream based upon the grade "A" or "B" prerequisite requirement
- Having District elementary schools moving toward the workshop model to teach writing may increase student ability for success in courses such as American Dream
- Showing deference to the ELA group's opinions on the matter as well as the CII vote of 17-3-5 was also taken into consideration

After the failure of a motion to approve of the changes (refer to Consent Agenda Item ES-4), the Committee agreed that the CII should reconsider the proposed recommendation in light of the concerns raised. Additional information would be helpful to the Committee in terms of the number of students potentially affected by the recommendation as well as historical information about student success based upon the prerequisite currently in place. Rather than be too reactionary, additional conversation and understanding is needed to make a decision that would be in the best interest of students while protecting staff members from potential liability as a result of perceived bias decisions being made.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz will take the item back to the CII Committee for additional discussion and consideration, and bring back any recommendations that may result from this additional conversation.

ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to recommend that Acting and Production be added as a course in the English Language Arts Department, available for students in grades ten through twelve for one-half English credit at Lincoln High School (LHS) beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-2 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by John Krings, to recommend making British Literature and Composition available to eleventh and twelfth grade students for one English credit at LHS beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-3 Motion by Larry Davis, second by John Benbow, to recommend making Speech available to eleventh and twelfth grade students for one English credit at LHS beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-4 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to recommend allowing only students that receive an "A" or "B" grade in English II into the American Dream course beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion failed on a roll call vote of 2-5. John Krings, Mary Rayome, Sandra Hett, Anne Lee, and Katie Medina voted no.

ES-5 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to recommend the addition of Accelerated Geometry as a course for high school students for one math credit at LHS beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-6 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by John Krings, to recommend the addition of Accelerated Algebra II as a course for high school students for one math credit at LHS beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-7 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to recommend the addition of Accelerated Pre-Calculus as a course for high school students for one math credit at LHS beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-8 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by Larry Davis, to approve of making the Assistant Child Care Teacher course available to tenth through twelfth grade students for one-half elective credit at LHS beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-9 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to approve the addition of AP Microeconomics as a one-half credit social studies course available to juniors and seniors to be offered every other year in rotation with AP Macroeconomics at LHS beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Start College Now (SCN) Applications

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz presented a recommendation to approve of 22 students who applied to take 24 courses through the Start College Now (SCN) program at Mid-State Technical College in the spring of the 2018-2019 school year.

ES-10 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by Larry Davis, to approve of 22 student applications to participate in the five requested courses at Mid-State Technical College through the Start College Now (SCN) program in the spring of the 2018-19 school year.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Calendar Revision: 2019-20

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that the 2019-20 school calendar has the first Professional Development Day of the year scheduled on Monday, September 30, 2019. Since this will be the first day of Homecoming Week, it would be advantageous to move the Professional Development Day from Monday, September 30 to Monday, October 7, 2019.

ES-11 Motion by John Krings, second by Sandra Hett, to approve of revising the 2019-20 WRPS school calendar by changing the Professional Development Day scheduled on September 30, 2019 to October 7, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously.

I. Updates

A. School and District Report Cards

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz shared that School and District Report Cards have been released by the Department of Public Instruction for initial review by school districts; however, they are embargoed from release to the public until Monday, November 26, 2018. A report on WRPS School and District Report Cards will be provided to the Educational Services Committee in December, 2018.

B. Policy 411.5 - Bullying

Superintendent Broeren explained that in light of public commentary made at the October 8, 2018 Board meeting, Board Policy 411.5 pertaining to bullying is currently under review by the administration. Identifying bullying is not always easy to do since one time incidences of such things as name calling, getting tripped, and/or getting punched is not necessarily bullying. Bullying occurs when acts are repetitive in nature or involve a power differential.

Mr. Broeren wants to proceed carefully so as not to be too restrictive or constrictive with policy language that would inhibit an administrator's ability to be a rational decision maker based upon circumstances. Intervention, education, and having the latitude to apply appropriate consequences for students for various behavioral incidents given circumstances involved are all important pieces in the efforts to correct student misbehavior. Having conversation over time about bullying, mental health, and suicide will be important as will be clarifying what is meant by the term "zero tolerance." Building principals will be incorporating the entire contents of the bullying policy into student handbooks beginning with the 2019-20 school year.

Mr. Broeren invited Committee members to review the policy as well and provide him with any feedback and/or suggested revisions, and he will bring potential policy change requests forward at a future meeting. Committee members expressed support for his approach, and Ms. Hett suggested that area law enforcement officials be contacted for possible input and feedback as well.

C. School Based Mental Health Services Grant

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that in May of 2018, the Board of Education supported the application for DPI's School Based Mental Health Services Grant in the amount of \$75,000. WRPS received the grant and has begun implementing it in collaboration with community partners, including mental health service providers. The requirement for professional development and parent outreach has been ongoing, and will continue. One component of the grant includes the District providing a physical location within our schools for community providers to meet with students in need of mental health services. The District has been allowing this to some degree already in school buildings, and the grant will help to expand and pay for expenses such as equipment or supplies that providers might need while occupying these spaces to service students.

As part of the grant, the District is also required to offer support groups such as one for grief counseling for students. Lastly, the grant has forged a strong partnership with Riverview Aspirus locally, and they have developed a mental health clinic on the fourth floor of the local hospital to support these initiatives. A mental health navigator has been hired by Aspirus, which the grant pays for. The District is able to call on this individual for assistance in certain difficult student cases where additional services beyond what the District can provide might be needed.

When questioned about what will happen in year two after grant dollars are exhausted, Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that she is hopeful that Aspirus will be fully engaged after evaluating the need for these services within our community and as a result continue to fund the navigator position. The District is only 1 of 24 throughout the state to receive the grant, and Ms. Stebbins-Hintz believes there may be a possibility for additional grant dollars to be requested if the District implements it well. Aspirus is taking the initiative one step further by writing a Foundation grant to try to get more time for a social worker who performs clinical work directly with students in the District.

II. Consent Agenda Items

Committee members will be asked to decide which items should be placed on the consent agenda for the regular Board of Education meeting.

- ES-1 Addition of Acting and Production Course at Lincoln High School in 2019-20**
- ES-2 British Literature and Composition Course Made Available to 11th and 12th Grade Students at Lincoln High School in 2019-20**
- ES-3 Proposal to Make Speech Course Available to 11th and 12th Grade Students at Lincoln High School Beginning in 2019-20**
- ES-4 American Dream Course Prerequisite Proposal**
- ES-5 Addition of Accelerated Geometry Course at Lincoln High School in 2019-20**
- ES-6 Addition of Accelerated Algebra II Course at Lincoln High School in 2019-20**
- ES-7 Addition of Accelerated Pre-Calculus Course at Lincoln High School in 2019-20**
- ES-8 Proposal to Make Assistant Child Care Teacher Course Available to 10th Grade Students at Lincoln High School Beginning in 2019-20**
- ES-9 Addition of AP Microeconomics Course at Lincoln High School as Proposed Beginning in 2019-20**
- ES-10 Approval of 22 Start College Now Applications for Spring, 2019**
- ES-11 Approval to Revise 2019-20 School Calendar**

III. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

Agenda items are determined by the Committee Chair after consultation with appropriate administration depending upon other agenda items, presentation information, and agenda availability.

Future agenda items/information requests include, but are not limited to:

- Mead Elementary Charter School Report (December)
- Teacher Supply Purchases (December)
- Board Policy 423-Open Enrollment (December)
- Board Policy 423 Rule-Procedures for Open Enrollment (December)
- Board Policy 425-Part-time Open Enrollment (NEW) (December)
- WRPS School and District Report Cards (December)
- Class Size Limits (January)
- AGR Updates (January)
- Strategic Plan (February)
- Marketing, Business, Health Science Curricula (March)
- Elementary Social Studies Curriculum (March)
- District Professional Development Plan (April)
- ECCP/SCN Applications (April)
- F/CE, Agriculture, Technology & Engineering Curricula (May)

- Elementary Social Studies Acquisition (May)
- Agenda Planners (May)
- CTE Acquisition (May)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.