



*MINUTES*

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

December 3, 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, Sandra Hett, John Krings,  
Anne Lee and Mary Rayome

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Larry Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Guadalupe Ancel, Penny Antell, Craig Broeren, Heather Grys-  
Luecht, Amy Heitzman, Karen Madden, Denise Martell, Melissa Miller, Ronald  
Rasmussen, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Reading Recovery Consortium 66.03.01 Cooperative Agreement

John Benbow, Educational Services Committee member asked that the number of the agreement be corrected to 66.03.01.

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed the background of Reading Recovery in Wisconsin Rapids as well as Consortium Agreements the District has had previously with other area districts. When Jackie Heinz, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader retired at the end of the 2014-15 school year, Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) made the decision to no longer have a consortium. Jackie Heinz has continued as the WRPS Reading Recovery Teacher Leader on a part-time basis.

Recently Black River Falls School District approached WRPS about entering into a 66.03.01 Cooperative Agreement. A contract has been drawn up to work with two of their teachers. Renewing the consortium would be beneficial both financially and programmatically.

**ES-1 Motion by John Krings, second by Mary Rayome, to recommend approval of the 66.03.01 Cooperative Agreement between Black River Falls and Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools for participation in the Central Wisconsin Reading Recovery Consortium.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Grants

1. DPI Mini-Grant: Cool to be Kind

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz presented a recommendation to approve a Department of Public Instruction \$1,000 mini-grant that was authored and written by Mary Schultz, Counselor at Lincoln High School, and the LHS Random Acts of Kindness Group. Funds will be used by students to give anti-bullying presentations at all schools, provide recognition to staff and students, and support the Rise to Remember Event on May 19, 2019.

**ES-2 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by John Krings, to approve the DPI mini-grant entitled Cool to Be Kind for Lincoln High School in the amount of \$1,000.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2. ACT Now! Staff Training Grant

Penny Antell, Principal of Mead Elementary Charter School, explained how she and Michelle Waldvogel, Counselor at Mead Elementary, wrote and received this \$1,500 grant for Mead Elementary Charter School. By accepting the grant, Mead staff will attend four 30-minute sessions of training. The theme for this grant will be "Choosing Kindness." Plans for activities throughout the school year include students pledging to choose kindness with their painted handprint and adding it to a wall in the school, Kindness Rocks, and possibly a mid-winter "Ikidarod" outdoor obstacle course.

**ES-3 Motion by John Benbow, second by Mary Rayome, to approve of the ACT Now! Staff Training Grant for Mead Elementary Charter School in the amount of \$1,500.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Updates

A. Mead Elementary Charter School Report

Ms. Antell introduced members of the Governing Council that were in attendance: Guadalupe Ancel, Denise Martell, and Heather Grys-Luecht. Amy Heitzman, a teacher from Mead was also in attendance.

This is the tenth year Mead has been a charter school. Ms. Antell conducted a teacher poll about whether to continue as a charter school, as well as pluses and negatives of doing so. Ms. Ancel stated that the Council will be meeting in December to discuss results of the teacher poll, and will then have a recommendation whether to continue with Mead as a charter school.

Ms. Antell shared a hand out of the 2018-19 goals for Mead as well as accomplishments from the 2017-18 school year. She noted that Mead had 15 new staff members this year resulting in a 20 percent staffing change.

B. Mead Elementary Charter School Outdoor Classroom Report

Melissa Miller, Reading and Math Interventionist at THINK Elementary School and coordinator of the Mead Elementary Charter School Outdoor classroom, updated the committee on the status of this project. She stated that a decision had been made to name this the Community Outdoor Learning Center to promote more community involvement. Last week a meeting took place with Ed Allison, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and the architect. To date \$40,000 of the \$100,000 goal has been met, including the \$10,000 matching grant from Incourage. There are several fundraisers planned, and bricks can still be purchased for part of the walkway. Plans are to reach out to businesses for assistance, as well as more grant writing. Because of other updates to the school in June, breaking ground has been pushed back to July, 2019.

C. Update and Discussion on District Athletic Facilities

Craig Broeren, Superintendent, introduced Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of Lincoln High School. Both updated the Committee on the proposed athletic facilities at Lincoln High School, sharing a drawing as well as aerial view. Plans to upgrade the LHS facility started about six years ago with conversation around changes needed for the pool. With the pool concerns handled through recent construction projects due to grade level restructuring, we have an opportunity to now turn our attention to other facility needs, including the condition of the track which has been an on-going area of concern. Just recently area softball and baseball groups approached WRPS regarding collaboration on a possible baseball and softball quadplex on the LHS grounds. This led to the eventual proposal submitted to the Legacy Foundation, including the potential renovation of specifically baseball and softball facilities which then gave rise to an expanded conversation around nearly all LHS exterior athletic facilities.

Since the conversation has only recently turned to the potential of renovating a number of athletic facilities at LHS, very little of this plan has been discussed publicly up to this point. However, Mr. Broeren asked the Committee for permission to bring the possibility of the project to the community via local stakeholders including youth sports

organizations, adult sports organizations, etc., and solicit input about where this might lead. Mr. Krings asked if the Chamber of Commerce had been contacted, and Mrs. Hett asked if Fund 10 would finance any of this. Mr. Broeren stated that the District would certainly involve the Chamber of Commerce. He also clarified that significant District funds from sources such as Fund 10 or others are not part of the plan; however, since this is located on District property, there may be maintenance and upkeep necessary in the future or other miscellaneous expenses generated that the District would be responsible for.

D. School and District Report Cards: 2017-18

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz reviewed results of the 2017-18 School and District Report Cards. She noted that the District Meets Expectations, and several of the schools Exceeded Expectations. Overall the District lags behind the state in growth, but this is an area the District is working on. She also noted that the District did better this year on closing gaps. Next year's Report Card will include results from the ACT Aspire test. The District will also receive a Federal Report Card, to be released soon.

E. Home Stays: Lincoln High School French Program

Mr. Rasmussen explained that LHS hired a new French teacher this year, Justine Horvath. Ms. Horvath is working to develop a three week home stay program with students from France. She previously worked at two other districts in Wisconsin and implemented this program in those districts. Board members agreed this was a wonderful opportunity, and encouraged implementation of the program.

V. 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 Reading Recovery Consortium 66.03.01 Cooperative Agreement**

**ES-2 Grant – DPI Mini-Grant: Cool to be Kind, LHS**

**ES-3 Grant – ACT Now! Staff Training Grant , Mead**

VI. 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:

- Class Size Limits (January)
- Board Policy 423-Open Enrollment (January)
- Board Policy 423 Rule-Procedures for Open Enrollment (January)
- Board Policy 425-Part-time open Enrollment (NEW) (January)
- Teacher Supply Purchases (January)

- AGR Update (January)
- Discussion of a Possible Resolution Supporting the Increase in Special Education Funding (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 7:29 p.m.