



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education  
**Educational Services Committee**

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

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

March 1, 2021

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Katie Bielski-Medina, Troy Bier, Larry Davis,  
Sandra Hett, John Krings,

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Jacob Bertagnoli, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Sara  
Kolo, Elizabeth Messerli, Aaron Nelson, Gretchen Niedbalski, Ronald Rasmussen,  
Dani Scott, Jennifer Wilhorn

I. Call to Order

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

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. District Counselor Curriculum Maps and Health Curriculum Crosswalk

Dr. Dani Scott, Director of Pupil Services, and Gretchen Niedbalski, K-12 District School Counselor Curriculum Chairperson, presented the proposed curriculum maps for the District Counselor Curriculum. They indicated that this is the first time the counselors have been through this process and noted it was interesting and valuable, especially since they were able to clearly define how counselors service students. Three areas of focus are academic, personal/social and career development. The group is now looking for sustainable resources to build a professional library. The curriculum maps are available on the district website for staff and parents.

The District Counselor Curriculum Committee worked with the Health Curriculum Committee to crosswalk the standards and determine where each standard is addressed. These standards may be addressed in the regular classroom at the elementary level, in health classes at the secondary level, or with some direct instruction coming from school counselors.

**ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Brier, to recommend adoption of the proposed K-12 School Counseling Curriculum beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Grade 3 Social Studies Curriculum Maps

Jacob Bertagnoli, District Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, explained that the Social Studies Curriculum was approved by the Board in spring of 2019. Grade 3 teachers found discrepancies with standards released by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in 2018 and the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) curriculum. It was determined that the grade 3 curriculum should be reviewed and condensed. Over the summer a group of grade 3 teachers revised the maps to better address state standards. The maps were presented to grade 3 teachers in the fall. This winter the maps were presented to the full social studies curriculum committee as well as the District Council for Instructional Improvement (CII). The CII unanimously approved the grade 3 maps.

**ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to recommend adoption of the proposed third grade social studies curriculum map beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Central Oaks Academy Charter School Draft Contract

Jennifer Wilhorn, Central Oaks Academy Principal, reviewed the virtual charter school contract between WRPS and Central Oaks Academy. The DPI has made additional changes to the contract since background was shared with the Educational Services Committee, and Ms. Wilhorn reviewed those changes. She indicated that another draft reflecting these changes would be shared with the full Board for approval at the March 8 meeting.

**ES-3 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Bielski-Medina to recommend approval of the proposed draft of the Central Oaks Academy Charter School contract beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, with the understanding that a new contract proposal will be brought forward if the Department of Public Instruction makes any significant changes during the review process.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Updates

A. Transition to Four Days a Week in Person Learning

Craig Broeren, Superintendent, indicated that surveillance testing had started last week to establish COVID positive base lines before the transition to four days a week learning at the secondary level. Because there were positive cases in students that previously had COVID, and after discussion with Dr. Olson and Dr. Falk, it was determined that testing should not include those that have previously had COVID, avoiding any possible false positive results. Plans are progressing and the anticipated start date is March 15, Tuesday through Friday.

B. Disproportionality Report

Dr. Scott presented an update on the work being done to address the District's disproportionality identification by DPI. Dr. Scott stated that the district is addressing the disproportionality for African-American students in special education as a whole and for Hispanic students in the specific disability category of learning disabilities. She indicated that when students with IEPs transfer in from other districts, a thorough review of their IEP is conducted and if it is felt there are concerns, a new IEP evaluation is conducted so that students needs can be better met. The district continues to strive toward eliminating our significant disproportionality identification through the work of our special education department and the district's equity work.

C. Equity Work

Ms. Sara Kolo, WRPS Equity Coordinator, gave a presentation regarding the newly formed definition of educational equity. She is working with teachers and administrators to determine biases, especially those of color and LGBTQ+. There are several professional development opportunities available.

D. Failure Rates at Lincoln High School Pre- and Post-Pandemic

Ronald Rasmussen, Lincoln High School Principal, reviewed and explained the attachments shared in the background regarding failure rates. Data reflects grading for Term 1 of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. He noted there is a slight increase of approximately five percent between the two years, but also pointed out that of the 90 Fs in 20-21, 35-40 of those students are truant.

E. Virtual/Off Campus Enrollment Numbers

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, updated the Committee on virtual enrollment numbers. She noted that enrollment is down a bit, and the district will see even lower numbers at the trimester. Virtual parents are being notified that where their student is attending as of March 26 is where the student will finish the school year, so it is expected that numbers will drop further as students transition back to the buildings.

F. Reading Recovery – 2021-2022

Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction, indicated that this school year will be the last school year WRPS will be using Reading Recovery as a reading intervention for first grade students. It has been difficult to staff Reading Recovery as it is a huge time commitment for staff. It was further noted that Jackie Heinz, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, retired a few years ago but has agreed to continue assisting the District in that role; however, it is unknown for how long. Ms. Wilhorn noted that removing Reading Recovery will not affect intervention staffing, and since its inception there have been many other types of interventions added to assist staff with students of concern.

V. Consent Agenda Items

**ES-1 K-12 School Counseling Curriculum**

**ES-2 Third Grade Social Studies Curriculum Map**

**ES-3 Draft of Central Oaks Academy Charter School Contract**

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:

- Early College Credit Program/Start College Now (April)
- Code of Conduct Updates (April)
- Agenda Planners (May)
- Elementary Social Studies Acquisition (May)
- Elementary Math Acquisition (May)

Mr. Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.