



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

April 5, 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, Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Jacob Bertagnoli, Phil Bickelhaupt, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz,  
Dani Scott, Steven Thayer, Jennifer Wilhorn

I. Call to Order

Mary Rayome called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Edgenuity Purchase

Steven Thayer, Lincoln High School Associate Principal, reviewed steps taken to address the needs of Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) summer school students at the secondary level. Lincoln virtual staff decided on three areas to address needs with an online curriculum: rigor, multiple platforms, and COVID effect. Several programs were looked at with the group deciding on Edgenuity. Support with Edgenuity is abundant in all three areas, and it also offers Hmong and Spanish language support. In addition, this program offers all NCAA approved courses.

**ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to recommend approval of the purchase of Edgenuity for the 2021-2022 school year, with the total cost of \$26,250 to be paid from Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Funds (ESSER II).**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Elementary Social Studies Acquisition

Jacob Bertagnoli, District Social Studies Department Chairperson, explained the process the Elementary Social Studies Committee followed to determine what curriculum resources to purchase as part of their acquisition this year. The committee reviewed materials from 12 separate vendors and decided on trade books, Social Studies Weekly five year subscriptions, and grade five social studies textbooks and online resources for six years. There may be some additional grade five trade book purchases that are needed once the new resources are being used. The future purchase is reflected in the proposed final cost below. Finally, the District Equity Coordinator helped provide a rubric to assess the equitability of the materials.

**ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to approve of the proposed K-5 social studies acquisition not to exceed \$98,000.00, to be purchased with WRPS ESSER II funds.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP) Applications

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, explained that there are three students applying to take 11 courses through SCN at Mid-State Technical College and one student applying to take one course through ECCP, all in the fall of 2021.

**ES-3 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis, to recommend approval of the three applications to participate in the 11 requested courses at Mid-State Technical College through the Start College Now (SCN) program in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ES-4 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Katie Bielski-Medina, to recommend approval of the one application to participate in the one requested course at UW-Independent Learning through the early College Credit Program (ECCP) in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

D. Mystery Science

Ms. Filtz explained that Mystery Science is a supplement to the current elementary science curriculum. Several teachers used Mystery Science this school year and found the materials to be excellent and that they accurately align with the district science standards. A three-year program purchase provides a substantial savings in cost of 48 percent.

**ES-5 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to recommend approval of a three-year program purchase of Mystery Science for a total cost of \$22,729.00, to be paid from the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER II).**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

E. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools and Wood County Head Start Agreement

Ms. Filtz indicated that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving Title I funds to develop agreements with Head Start and other early childhood providers to increase coordination. The shared agreement represents the Memorandum of Understanding developed between WRPS and Wood County Head Start. It was noted that this is not a financial agreement.

**ES-6 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to recommend approval of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between WRPS and Wood County Head Start as presented in Attachment D.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

F. Additional Staff Positions to Address Learning Loss

Ms. Filtz explained that there is evidence of learning loss for our students in varying degrees, at all levels this school year. An increase in staffing in order to address some of the learning loss is proposed for the 2021-2022 school year, with funds coming from ESSER II. Some current positions are being repurposed to assist students and staff, some are extended contracts to be reviewed and assessed annually, and two full-time teaching positions are new.

**ES-7 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis, to recommend approval of the proposed increase in staffing to address learning loss.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Updates

A. Benchmark Books Data from Second Trimester

Ms. Filtz shared progress of students at the end of trimester two as measured by Benchmark Books. Because of the unprecedented time for teaching and learning, this information is being shared to give a more accurate picture of where our students are performing in reading. Overall, the District percentages of students who are meeting the reading benchmarks are improving. She feels the district is slowly closing the learning gap.

B. Use of ESSER II and American Rescue Plan Act Dollars

Ms. Filtz shared an outline of the District's plan for using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) dollars, as well as a view of how the district intends to spend the most recent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. The dollars will be used for school safety and health, mental, social and emotional well-being, and addressing learning losses sustained during the pandemic. The Board will receive ongoing frequent reports that detail how the Federal Relief Funds are being utilized.

C. Virtual Student Enrollment Updates

Ms. Filtz provided an enrollment update of the off-campus/virtual programs. Virtual enrollments are down as more students are returning to the buildings.

#### D. Student Travel

Ms. Filtz explained that the Nashville Orchestra trip has been rescheduled for July 8 to July 11. The cost will stay at \$892 with no additional cost to families. One night at the hotel has been removed in order to cut down the cost that went up after the group size went down. The group is now at 40.

#### E. Four Day a Week Transition

Craig Broeren, Superintendent, indicated that the move to four days a week at the secondary level has been good. Over 800 staff and students have been surveillance tested, with very low numbers of positive cases. Since students returned March 26, there have been only four additional cases. Mr. Broeren continues to communicate with families and hopes to go to five days a week in the near future.

#### 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 Edgenuity**

**ES-2 Elementary Social Studies Acquisition**

**ES-3 Start College Now Applications**

**ES-4 Early College Credit Program**

**ES-5 Mystery Science**

**ES-6 WRPS and Wood County Head Start Agreement**

**ES-7 Additional Staff Positions to Address Learning Loss**

#### 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:

- Code of Conduct Updates (May)
- Agenda Planners (May)
- Elementary Math Acquisition (May)
- Peer Review and Mentor Grant (May)
- New Colleague/Mentor Handbook (May)
- 2021-22 District Professional Development Plan (May)
- Gaggle Therapy (May)

Ms. Rayome adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.