



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 7, 2022

LOCATION: East Junior High Cafeteria
311 Lincoln Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Jennifer Wilhorn

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment - none

IV. Actionable Items

A. Girls' Hockey Cooperative Team Contract Renewal

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, explained that the girls' hockey cooperative team encompasses the school districts of Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS), Marshfield, Stevens Point, Assumption, Pacelli, Athens, Spencer, Waupaca, Iola-Scandinavia and Amherst. The co-op agreement expires at the end of the 2021-22 school year and a new one will need to be approved by each school district's Board for the program to continue.

ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to approve of the request to remain in the Girls' Hockey Cooperative agreement with Marshfield, Stevens Point, Assumption, Pacelli, Athens, Spencer, Waupaca, Iola-Scandinavia and Amherst for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Summer School Course Proposals

1. Lab Methods in Physics and Chemistry and Lab Methods in Biology and Geoscience

Ms. Filtz explained that due to changes made in the high school science department curriculum, adjustments in summer offerings were necessary in order for students to take remedial coursework and earn required science credits toward graduation. Two new courses have been developed, "Lab Methods in Physics and Chemistry" and "Lab Methods in Biology and Geoscience," which will offer an opportunity for students to make up required credits during the summer and stay on course to graduate.

ES-2 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Larry Davis, to approve the Lab Methods in Physics and Chemistry and Lab Methods in Biology and Geoscience summer school courses as presented.

2. Orchestra and Band Jump Start/Kick Start Program

New course offerings have been developed for the middle school level in the areas of orchestra and band. The "Jump Start" program is designed to help 6th grade students gain essential fundamental skills using an instrument they have selected. The "Kick Start" program is designed to help mitigate learning loss which can occur over summer break. In the Kick Start program, students will hone their skills and prepare for the upcoming school year. Both programs will occur in August and offer small group instruction of students in homogeneous groups.

ES-3 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier, to approve the Orchestra Jump Start/Kick Start Program and Band Jump Start/Kick Start Program summer school courses beginning in August, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. AGR Mid-Year Report

Ms. Filtz and Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided an overview of the District Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) report. With the report focused on mid-year data, the information in the report is from the end of the first trimester only and doesn't reflect second trimester progress since the second trimester just ended on March 3, 2022. During the 2021-22 school year students have benefited from in-person learning; however, multiple quarantines ranging from 5-10 days has interrupted instruction for some. The inconsistencies caused by the pandemic during the 2020-21 year coupled with disruptive learning in 2021-22 has contributed to lower screener scores. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic for students and staff, learning continues to flourish and all resources are being utilized to address lost learning opportunities. Second trimester data is being gathered and an update can be provided to Committee members once it becomes available. The administration expressed confidence that final mid-year and end-of-year data will reflect continued student success and growth.

B. Mid-Year Reading and Math Screener Reports

Ms. Filtz reviewed District mid-year Reading and math screener reports. With regard to Reading, the percentage of elementary students scoring in the 40th percentile and above using nationally normed screeners is trending upward. The percentage of students scoring below the 10th percentile is decreasing, which is a positive trend. Ms. Filtz reviewed how Tier 1, 2, and 3 intervention levels are being impacted by the

progress students are making, with the percentage of students needing urgent interventions decreasing.

In mathematics, Ms. Filtz noted that benchmarks get progressively more difficult for grades KG-1 each trimester, and average cut scores more accurately show linear growth. The cut scores are trending upward in a positive direction. In grades 2-5, screeners indicate significant gains in math across the district. Ms. Filtz explained that the change in elementary math curriculum hasn't had a significant impact on student scores as a result of it being new, and the downward trend of urgent math interventions being needed is a promising sign of student growth. Instructional gaps at the 5th grade level are a bit more obvious with the change in curriculum; however, students continue to make positive progress in mastering the content. Teachers are working collaboratively in Professional Learning groups to help one another learn and implement the new curriculum, which shows early indicators of being a positive change.

Middle school students have experienced growth across all levels in the English Language Arts (ELA) content area. Currently 56% of 6th grade, 68% of 7th grade, and 71% of 8th grade scored at the Proficient or Advanced level when taking the nationally normed screener. In math, 66% of 6th grade, 61% of 7th grade, and 65% of 8th grade are at the Proficient or Advanced level. The results overall are promising considering that students are adjusting back to normal instruction after the cohort delivery model that occurred during the majority of the 2020-21 pandemic year.

At the high school level, scores for students taking the winter Reading Inventory screener are in the Proficient or Advanced categories as follows: 61% of 9th grade, 71% of 10th grade, 80% of 11th grade, and 74% of 12th grade. Not every student takes the screener every term due to the trimester schedule, and if a student scores in the Proficient category, they do not need to take the screener again during the year.

With regard to math, scores for students who took the winter STAR math screener scored at or above benchmark as follows: 58% of 9th grade, 64% of 10th grade, 49% of 11th grade, and 42% of 12 grade. Ms. Filtz noted that it is difficult to determine specific growth based on this screener due to the lack of all students testing and the trimester schedule involved.

Lastly, Ms. Filtz commended the hard work and dedication of classroom teachers and District interventionists to implement the District curriculum and help each student gain grade-level mastery in math and reading content areas.

C. Industry Recognized Credentials Reported on District Report Card

The 2020-21 WRPS District Report Card has a section to report grades 9-12 student participation in postsecondary categories, including a category titled "Industry-Recognized Credentials." Unfortunately, this data was not collected from LHS and reported as it should have been, resulting in 0.0% of students who actually earned an industry-recognized credential not being reflected in the report. Since this information has no bearing on the District Report Card score, it will not be updated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The District has received a letter of confirmation dated July 23, 2021 from the DPI confirming that 4.5% (68 students) earned the credential, which compares to an overall 1.4% State level percentage. Ms. Filtz will ensure that future Report Cards contain this data for the District.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

ES-1 Girls' Hockey Cooperative Agreement

ES-2 Lab Methods in Physics and Chemistry and Lab Methods in Biology and Geoscience Summer School courses

ES-3 Orchestra Jump Start/Kick Start Program and Band Jump Start/Kick Start Program Summer School Courses

VII. 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)
- Agenda Planners (May)
- K-5 Physical Education Curriculum Maps/Acquisition Update (May)
- Professional Development Plan (May)

Mary Rayome adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.