



## MINUTES

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

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Chairperson  
 John Benbow, Jr.  
 Troy Bier  
 Christopher Inda  
 John Krings, President  
 Elizabeth St. Myers  
 Julie Timm

January 6, 2025

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Christopher Inda, Troy Bier, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Elizabeth St. Myers, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Brian Oswald, Ronald Rasmussen

- I. Call to Order
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment – none.
- IV. Actionable Items
  - A. Open Enrollment Space Determination Limits for the 2025-26 School Year

Ms. Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, presented recommendations for designating regular and special education spaces to be available for the 2025-26 school year. After considering criteria as outlined in Board Policy 423, a recommendation is being made to not designate any space limitations in regular education programming and to designate specific space availability in special education programming. Projected special education spaces were reviewed as follows:

PROJECTED SPECIAL EDUCATION OPEN ENROLLMENT SPACES FOR 2025-26								
Program	Projected Sections	Max # Students a Section	Capacity	Projected Enrollment per Factoring	10% Transfer	50% New Placements	Total Projected Enrollment	Projected Space Available 2025-26
<b>Early Childhood/4K</b>	4	10	40	32.7	3	16	52	0
<b>Elementary (K-5)</b>								
Cross Categorical Levels 1-2	19.5	12	234	455.7	46	NA	501	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 3 Program	1	7	7	35.7	4	NA	39	0
Emotional Disabilities Level 1/2/3 Program	1	11	11	11.5	1	NA	13	0
<b>Middle (6-8)</b>								
Cross Categorical Levels 1-2	9.5	14	133	262.2	26	NA	288	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 1/2 Program	1.5	10	15	28.3	3	NA	31	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 3 Program	1.5	8	12	36.3	4	NA	40	0

PROJECTED SPECIAL EDUCATION OPEN ENROLLMENT SPACES FOR 2025-26 (continued)								
Program	Projected Sections	Max # Students a Section	Capacity	Projected Enrollment per Factoring	10% Transfer	50% New Placements	Total Projected Enrollment	Projected Space Available 2025-26
<b>High School (RCHS and LHS 9-12)</b>								
Cross Categorical Levels 1-2	14	15	210	345	35	NA	380	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 1/2 Program	2	10	20	50.9	5	NA	56	0
Intellectual Disabilities Level 3 Program	1	8	8	39.2	4	NA	43	0
<b>Speech and Language</b>								
Early Childhood	1.5	20	30	33.1	3	17	53	0
Elementary	7	35	245	391.3	39	NA	430	0
Secondary	1.5	40	60	47.4	6	NA	53	7
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>								
All Grade Levels	4 OT 2 COTA	30, 30, 45, 45	150	203*	20	16**	239	0

\* Not based on factoring but by student count

\*\* 50% based on Early Childhood 4K new placements

Mr. Hepp provided an explanation concerning the calculations and fielded questions from Committee members.

**ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm, to recommend approval to not designate any space limitations for regular education open enrollment students for the 2025-26 school year, and designate space available in special education programming as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

## V. Updates

### A. Gifted and Talented Education Program Grants

Ms. Filtz introduced Kelly Bluell, District Gifted and Talented Education (GATES) Program Coordinator, to provide an update on a variety of grants that have been awarded toward the program. Ms. Bluell presented an overview of the grants secured which total \$30,898.00. The grant amounts vary from \$870.00 to \$20,000.00 and cover items such as Inventor's Projects, Worldly Wise 3000, Jacob's Ladder books, and Dash Challenge Mats which helps to expand the use of Dash robots, which has become very popular throughout District schools. Ms. Bluell expressed appreciation to Math Interventionist Missy Henneman and Student Engagement Facilitator/Math Interventionist Joni Feidt for their assistance in not only grant writing, but also their involvement in helping to establish the District's first ever worldwide competition Dash robot teams. Committee members expressed appreciation to Ms. Bluell and all involved in securing grants and enhancing the GATES program.

### B. Central Oaks Academy (COA) Charter School

Brian Oswald, Principal of Central Oaks Academy (COA) Charter School, provided an update on 2024-25 financial, operational, and academic goals for the school. Enrollment in Central Oaks is currently at 103 students with some fluidity at the middle school level. In addition to their participation in online coursework, approximately 50-60 students regularly attend school in person for encore instruction and community building activities on Fridays. On other days of the week, anywhere from 8-15 students attend for open lab sessions or other academic support in areas such as writing/language arts.

COA goals continue to build on those set last year, including seeking ways to increase involvement in the Parental Advisory Council and expand on a sense of community and connection within the school through planned activities and field trips. A review of the Charter agreement will begin in the coming year in anticipation of the June, 2026 expiration date. It is likely that a renewal recommendation will be brought forward for Board consideration around 6-8 months prior to the date of expiration. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions regarding Central Oaks programming.

C. Language and Friendship Exchange Students from France

Ms. Filtz explained that Justine Horvath, Lincoln High School French teacher, is planning to welcome French students to the area for a short term language-immersion family stay from February 8-27, 2025. Ms. Horvath intends to place one or two of the visiting students for Winter Hosting with a Lincoln High School French student's family. Placement of visiting students with local families is completely voluntary and occurs once rigorous background checks and interviews have been successfully completed. The visiting student will attend classes with the host student to shadow a typical day, and have full immersion into American language and culture during the visit.

D. Student Travel

Ms. Filtz provided the following student travel updates:

1. Seven high school choir students will be traveling to the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Dorian Vocal Festival at Luther College in Iowa from January 12-13, 2025.
2. The LHS Orchestras will travel to see the musical "Mean Girls" in St. Paul, Minnesota on April 12, 2025. Around 40 students and six chaperones will then visit the Mall of America to round out the trip.
3. Jeanne Olson, LHS Band Director, updated the Committee concerning a trip planned for band students to travel to Hawaii in December, 2025 to participate in Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremonies. The group will receive a large donation from the Jaspersen Foundation to mitigate costs and be involved in many fundraising initiatives to cover the remainder. The Port Edwards High School band group will also be traveling with the LHS group, and each school will have an opportunity to participate in Pearl Harbor Day commemorative events and the Pearl Harbor Day Parade.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

**ES-1 Open Enrollment Space Determination Limits for the 2025-26 School Year**

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- AGR Mid-Year Report (February)
- District Strategic Plan (February)
- Start College Now (SCN) and Early College Credit Program (ECCP) Applications (April)

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.