



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

March 3, 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., Troy Bier, Christopher Inda, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Elizabeth St. Myers, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Julie Kolarik, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen

- I. Call to Order
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment – none.
- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. Summer Academy Course Proposals for Grades 6-8

Ms. Amanda VanDeHey, K-8 Summer Academy Principal, presented information on a number of new Summer Academy enrichment courses that would be offered to current 6th - 8th graders. Classes are held at Lincoln High School either at 8:00 -10:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Proposed courses were reviewed, and feedback from the District Council for Instructional Improvement. Course proposals and feedback are included as Attachment A and A-1.

New Course Proposals

- a. Music Composition and Creation – Students will use music writing software, learn how to create their own music, and create a song.
- b. Pop Choir – Students will learn and perform pop songs and will perform in the Performing Arts Center at the end of the session.
- c. Spanish Adventures: Language & Culture – Students will learn Spanish through songs, games, and hands-on projects. They will explore countries and their customs where Spanish is spoken.
- d. Summer Sports & Games: Play, Compete, Have Fun – Students will participate in team sports, games, and outdoor adventures in an engaging environment.
- e. Neuroscience: Exploring the Power of the Mind – Through experiments, activities, and discussions, students will explore how the brain works.
- f. Inside Out: Understanding Feelings, Friends, and Community – Students will learn about emotions, choices, and interests to identify opportunities to make the world a better place.

Ms. VanDeHey explained that Eric Brittnacher will be responsible for technology needs. She indicated that the curriculum includes content similar to school-year courses, serving as a valuable refresher for this age group and that courses will be offered dependent on enrollment numbers. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm, to approve of the six proposed Summer Academy classes, Music Composition and Creation, Pop Choir, Spanish Adventures: Language and Culture, Summer Sports and Games: Play, Compete, Have Fun! Neuroscience: Exploring the Power of the Mind! and Inside Out: Understanding Feelings, Friends and Community, to be offered to current year 6th - 8th grade students beginning with the summer of 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. Reframing Behaviors

Ms. Julie Kolarik, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, provided an update on the school-wide professional development training program, *Reframing Behaviors*. This program is designed to support staff in understanding students' social, emotional, and learning behaviors. Training is available to both professional and support staff and focuses on four key components: Reframe Your Perspective, Reframe Your Awareness, Reframe Your Actions, and Reframe Your Relationships.

The core focus of this program is to shift the way staff perceive students' behaviors. Administrators have provided positive feedback, noting that discussions have helped staff develop greater empathy for students and respond in ways that reduce potential triggers. Director of Pupil Services, Steve Hepp, explained that the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) developed this program as ongoing training aimed at preventing student seclusion and restraint. Each school has a designated facilitator responsible for establishing the training timeline within their building.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

ES-1 Summer Academy Course Proposals for Grades 6-8

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Start College Now and Early College Credit Program Applications (April)
- K-12 Music Curriculum Map Updates and Materials Acquisition Proposal (May)
- 2025-2026 District Professional Development Plan (May)
- 2025-2026 Professional Development Calendar (May)
- Late Start Mondays Update
- 6-12 English Language Arts Curriculum Map Updates and Material Acquisition Proposal (June)

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.