



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
Jaime Sparkes
Elizabeth St.Myers

June 1, 2026

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Roxanne Filtz, Tracy Ginter, Melanie Hanneman, Steve Hepp,
Julie Kolarik, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen, Jennifer Wilhorn

- I. Call to Order
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment – none.
- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. 6-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Curriculum Maps

Eric Siler, District CTE Coordinator, shared CTE curriculum maps (Attachment A) and explained the process the committee used to revise the curriculum maps. The revisions were discussed at the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) committee. The committee recommended approval of the proposed maps with a vote of 27 yes, 0 no, and 1 unsure.

ES-1 Motion by John Krings to approve of the adoption of the proposed 6-12 Career and Technical Education Curriculum Maps as presented, beginning with the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. 6-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Curriculum Acquisition

Mr. Siler stated that the CTE Curriculum Subcommittee has reviewed potential materials to support the revised curriculum maps and has obtained quotes for a variety of vendors (Attachment B). Scott Benitz and Adam Klonowski, Lincoln High School (LHS) Tech Ed teachers, demonstrated the Haas CNC Mill machine that is used by students in the classroom. Using this machine and many other experiences in the department has provided opportunities for student scholarships, jobs, and post high school education. One student made keychains for the Board members and set up the presentation for the Board meeting. CII discussed the acquisition proposal and voted 27 yes, 0 no, and 1 unsure to recommend approval of the proposed purchases.

ES-2 Motion by John Benbow to approve the proposed 6-12 Career and Technical Education acquisition as presented in an amount not to exceed \$100,800.00 to be

funded through the 2026-27 WRPS Referendum Curriculum budget. Motion carried unanimously.

C. K-5 Social/Emotional Learning Curriculum Resource (Character Strong) Curriculum Acquisition

Julie Kolarik, Assistant Pupil Services Director, along with Alison Hepp, Jennifer Leach, Lynn Mrozek, and Kaitlyn Schooley presented information about social emotional learning resources. The group considered several programs that include Move This World, 7 Mindsets, Zones, Second Step, and Character Strong. The programs were piloted and evaluated. It was determined that Character Strong provided the most benefits and is user friendly. CII discussed the proposal and voted 24 yes, 0 no, and 4 unsure to recommend approval of the proposed purchase.

ES-3 Motion by John Benbow to approve of the proposed three year purchase of the K-5 Social and Emotional Learning resource Character Strong as presented in an amount not to exceed \$113,575.70 to be funded through the 2026-27 WRPS Referendum Curriculum budget. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Mindsets Renewal

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Teaching and Learning, explained that LHS and Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) implemented the 7 Mindsets curriculum during the 2023-24 school year. She explained that the program has been successful and is proposing to renew the contract for three years.

ES-4 Motion by John Benbow to approve of the proposed renewal of 7 Mindsets for the 26-27, 27-28, and 28-29 school years at a total cost of \$90,000.00 to be paid up front from the Mental Health Grant budget and the WRPS Referendum Curriculum budget. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Policy 9215 – School Support Organizations (Renumbered/Replacement)

Ronald Rasmussen, Superintendent, explained that due to changes in federal guidelines, policy 9215 – District-Support Organizations was updated. Support organizations must have their own tax-exempt status and cannot rely on the District. Groups will need to decide how they want to be managed for the future. Administration and the Athletic Director will meet with organizations to ensure the policy is implemented.

ES-5 Motion by Christopher Inda to approve of Policy 9215 – School Support Organizations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

F. 2026-2027 Student Handbooks, Co-Curricular Handbook and Planner Insert

Ashley Tessmer, LHS Associate Principal, presented modifications to the 2026-27 LHS handbook. She noted changes in RPT times, cellphone/smartwatch policies, and study halls.

ES-6 Motion by Troy Bier to approve of the proposed modifications to the Lincoln High School Student Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Hepp, River Cities High School (RCHS) principal, presented the 2026-27 RCHS handbook. He noted that student cellphones will be kept in a pocket holder in the classroom as there are not student lockers. Students will have access to their cellphones during breaks and lunch.

ES-7 Motion by John Benbow to approve of the proposed modifications to the River Cities High School Student Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Tracy Ginter, WRAMS Principal, presented the 2026-27 WRAMS handbook. She stated there were minor changes and that student cellphones and smartwatches will be kept in student lockers and are not allowed at lunch. Parents will be able to communicate during the school day with their student through StudentSquare.

ES-8 Motion by Christopher Inda to approve of the proposed modifications to the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Student Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Filtz presented the Elementary handbooks and noted there are a few changes. The elementary schools use the same handbook, with school-specific information included for each building.

ES-9 Motion by Jaime Sparkes to approve of the proposed modifications to the elementary school handbooks for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Filtz indicated that the elementary planner insert was updated with the 2026-27 calendar and provides important information for parents and students.

ES-10 Motion by John Krings to approve of the proposed modifications to the elementary school agenda planner insert for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Tessmer presented the 2026-27 LHS Co-Curricular handbook with minimal changes. She noted that infractions will be enforced with out of school suspensions of three or more days.

ES-11 Motion by Elizabeth St.Myers to approve of the proposed modifications to the LHS Co-Curricular Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Tessmer presented the 2026-27 Lincoln Virtual handbook with changes to state assessments that are required of students.

ES-12 Motion by Troy Bier to approve of the proposed modifications to the Lincoln Virtual School Handbook for the 2026-27 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. Achievement Gap Reduction Report

Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, presented the end of the year Achievement Gap Reduction Report (AGR) for Kindergarten through third grade. AimswebPlus Literacy Screener is used for Reading testing. District testing is used for Kindergarten and first grade, while STAR Math is used for second and third grade for Math testing.

B. Early Reading Project

Ms. Wilhorn indicated this is the second year working with the Early Reading Project through the DPI. Four elementary schools, Grove, Mead, THINK, and Woodside have participated in the project. DPI has provided supportive training for coaches. The coaches provide the training within the building. She mentioned that the focus has been on student engagement.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 6-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Curriculum Maps**
- ES-2 6-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Curriculum Acquisition**
- ES-3 K-5 Social/Emotional Learning Curriculum Resource (Character Strong) Curriculum Acquisition**
- ES-4 Mindsets Renewal**
- ES-5 Policy 9215 – School Support Organizations (Renumbered/Replacement)**
- ES-6 Modifications to LHS Student Handbook**
- ES-7 Modifications to RCHS Student Handbook**
- ES-8 Modifications to WRAMS Student Handbook**
- ES-9 Modifications to Elementary Handbooks**
- ES-10 Modifications to Elementary Agenda Planner Insert**
- ES-11 Modifications to LHS Co-Curricular Handbook**
- ES-12 Modifications to Lincoln Virtual Handbook**

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Pupil Academic Standards (July/August)
- Seclusion and Restraint Report (August)

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.