



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

July 6, 2026

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: John Krings

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen

- I. Call to Order
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment – none.
- IV. Actionable Items

A. Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Formula Grant

Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, explained that the Title VI Indian Education Formula Grant supports school districts in meeting the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students through developed plans and collaboration with families and tribes. The preliminary awarded amount is \$20,696.00. The objectives is to increase academic achievement, increase knowledge of cultural identity and awareness, and increase parent participation.

ES-1 Motion by John Benbow to accept the 2026-27 Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Formula Grant, with the preliminary awarded amount reported as \$20,696.00. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 2026-27 Pupil Academic Standards

Ronald Rasmussen, Superintendent, stated according to state statutes, districts are required to provide notification surrounding pupil academic standards. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) utilizes a committee process to identify standards and develop curriculum. After curriculum is developed, it is presented to the WRPS Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) and Board of Education for approval. The "Notice of Student Academic Standards in Effect for 2026-2027 School Year", will be posted on the WRPS website.

ES-2 Motion by Elizabeth St.Myers to approve of the 2026-2027 Pupil Academic Standards as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Act 89 Policy Updates

Mr. Rasmussen indicated the 2025 Wisconsin Act 89, Wis. Stat. 118.07(7), enacted in March 2026, requires all public and private schools to adopt formal policies by September 1, 2026, governing appropriate communication between school employees and students both during and outside school hours. The law mandates annual staff training for personnel to identify, prevent, and report "grooming" behaviors and professional boundary violations. Training will be provided to staff during the back-to-school inservice requirements. In addition, all coaches will be provided a WRPS email so that messages to athletes can be sent through ParentSquare and StudentSquare.

ES-3 Motion by Christopher Inda to approve of the revisions to Bylaw 0144.5 – Board Member Behavior, Communications, and Code of Conduct, Policy 1213/3213/4213 – Student Supervision and Welfare, Policy 7530.02 – Staff and School Officials Use of Personal Communication Devices, Policy 7540.03 – Student Technology and Acceptable Use and Safety, Policy 7544 – Use of Social Media, Policy 8120 Volunteers, and Policy 8462 – Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect and Sexual Misconduct as presented. Motion Carried Unanimously.

D. Remote Work Policy

Mr. Rasmussen presented the proposed Remote Work Policy, explaining that it establishes clear expectations and guidelines for temporary, limited remote work arrangements when appropriate. He noted that the policy is intended to support district continuity, maximize employee effectiveness, and provide administrative flexibility. Remote work is intended to be the exception rather than the standard practice and may only be approved in accordance with the policy. If adopted, the policy and accompanying administrative guideline will be incorporated into the Board's policies.

ES-4 Motion by Jaime Sparkes to approve the proposed Remote Work Policy as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Memorandum of Understanding Between Boys and Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area and Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools: Morning Jumpstart Program

Mr. Rasmussen presented the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Boys and Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area and WRPS, noting that the previous agreement expired in June 2026. He explained that the MOU remains unchanged, with the exception of removing the agreement's termination date. Should either party wish to terminate the MOU, they will notify the other party and discuss the termination process.

ES-5 Motion by Troy Bier to approve of the Morning Jumpstart Program Memorandum of Understanding between the Boys and Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area and Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote of 5-0. Elizabeth St.Myers abstained.

V. Updates

A. Wisconsin Rapids School District's Section 504 Procedures

Mr. Hepp provided an overview of the District's Section 504 procedures. He reported that the number of WRPS students with Section 504 Plans has increased from 38 in 2020 to 248 currently. He explained that a student must have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities and requires accommodations or supports to access school programs and activities.

Mr. Hepp explained that Section 504 Plans are developed in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to ensure eligible students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations and equal access to educational opportunities. He also noted that WRPS does not receive dedicated funding to provide Section 504 services.

Mr. Hepp stated that a Section 504 team meets regularly to develop and review student plans. The team may include parents, teachers, counselors, the school nurse, the school psychologist, and other staff members with knowledge of the student's needs. Parents receive notice of decisions and are provided with procedural safeguards.

Mr. Rasmussen noted that Mr. Hepp and the Pupil Services team developed the "Pupil Services: A Parent Guide for Families," a resource designed to answer many of the questions families commonly have regarding pupil services. Once finalized, the guide will be distributed to families and schools.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Formula Grant**
- ES-2 2026-27 Pupil Academic Standards**
- ES-3 Act 89 Policy Updates**
- ES-4 Remote Work Policy**
- ES-5 Memorandum of Understanding Between Boys and Girls Club of the Wisconsin Rapids Area and Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools: Morning Jumpstart Program**

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Seclusion and Restraint Report (August)
- Student Travel (August)
- Parent Representative – Council for Instructional Improvement (September)
- Peer Review Mentor Grant (September)
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (September)

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.