



AGENDA

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

August 3, 2020

LOCATION: East Junior High Cafeteria, 311 Lincoln Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI
(Enter off of 6th Street)

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

Note that the public may view the meeting in a livestream broadcast on the WRPS YouTube channel – you can access the link by going to the WRPS website at www.wrps.org and on the top left panel under “Quick Links,” click on the YouTube channel link. The livestreaming will begin at 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment

Persons who wish to address the Board Committee may make a statement pertaining to a specific agenda item, and may be recognized by the Committee Chairperson to speak regarding issues which are not on the agenda; however, the Committee will not take action on items not listed on the agenda. The Committee Chairperson may establish limits for speakers due to time constraints. Persons wishing to address the Committee should sign up to do so with the Board Secretary before the meeting begins. You can sign up when you arrive at the meeting, or in advance of the meeting by emailing Maurine Hodgson at maurine.hodgson@wrps.net (emails must be received by noon on the day of the meeting) – call Maurine at 715-424-6701 if you have any questions. Comments made by the public shall be civil in content and tone. Speakers bear the personal risk if comments made are defamatory, slanderous, or otherwise harmful to another individual. Please keep in mind that this is a meeting of the Board Committee open to the public, and not a public hearing.

- III. Actionable Items
 - A. District Reopening Plan for 2020-21
 - B. Renaissance Learning Contract
 - C. Happy Numbers Contract
- IV. Updates
 - A. Pitsch Early Learning Center
 - B. Seclusion and Restraint Annual Report
 - C. 1:1 Initiative at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School
- V. Consent Agenda Items
- VI. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Wisconsin open meetings law requires that the Board, or Board Committee, only take action on subject matter that is noticed on their respective agendas. Persons wishing to place items on the agenda should contact the District Office at 715-424-6701, at least seven working days prior to the meeting date for the item to be considered. The item may be referred to the appropriate committee or placed on the Board agenda as determined by the Superintendent and/or Board president.

With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities by providing a sign language interpreter or other auxiliary aids, by calling 715-424-6701.

School Board members may attend the above Committee meeting(s) for information gathering purposes. If a quorum of Board members should appear at any of the Committee meetings, a regular School Board meeting may take place for purposes of gathering information on an item listed on one of the Committee agendas. If such a meeting should occur, the date, time, and location of the Board meeting will be that of the particular Committee as listed on the Committee agenda.



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BACKGROUND

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- III. Actionable Items
 - A. District Reopening Plan for 2020-21

The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools administrative team, in addition to a comprehensive Reopening Committee with representation from Buildings and Grounds, Food Service, Technology, Pupil Services, Human Resources, Curriculum, Business Services, professional and support staff, community partners, Wood County Public Health, and local physicians, have been working to develop a safe and effective Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 school year (Attachment A) which includes the confirmed receipt of a face mask grant provided by the Legacy Foundation. Craig Broeren, Superintendent, will share the recommended plan for reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year, knowing that changes may occur based on recommendations from the Wood County Health Department, local government agencies, and/or simply an inability to appropriately staff a school or schools. As a brief preview, the recommendation will be to start our elementary schools (preK-5) and River Cities High School with 5-day per week, in-person instruction, employing various safety and precautionary measures. Additionally, the recommendation includes starting Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School and Lincoln High School utilizing the 2-day per week cohort approach. This recommendation and the approaches indicated

will be described in great detail. There is also a recommendation from our medical advisors, public health, and members of our administrative team that the District require face coverings of staff, students, and visitors to schools; this is reflected in the plan documentation set out in Attachment A. Mr. Broeren will explain recent developments around a State Order mandating face coverings which goes into effect on August 1, 2020. This will be discussed as well.

The administration recommends approval of the 2020-2021 Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Reopening Plan including the Legacy Foundation grant award as presented, the requirement for students and staff to wear face masks during the school year, instituting a waiver of Lincoln High School student parking fees for the 2020-21 school year, and authorization for Superintendent Broeren to move between instructional models as necessary.

B. Renaissance Learning Contract for 2020-2021

Attachment B sets out a contract with Renaissance Learning to purchase Renaissance products for the 2020-21 school year. The products utilized by WRPS include STAR Math, STAR Reading, and Freckle Math.

STAR Math is used to screen students three times per year to determine student progress in mathematics. STAR Math is taken by students in grades two through high school geometry. The screening is especially useful in deciding whether or not a student needs intervention or acceleration in mathematics. In addition, student results on the STAR math assessment are used for reporting math achievement as required by the State for participation in the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) program. Students in other grades are screened in mathematics using different products. Students in kindergarten and grade one are screened using an assessment created by district math teachers. Students in math courses beyond geometry are screened using the Early Math Placement Tool (EMPT), which is an assessment that is designed to allow high school students to see how ready they are to pursue math courses at the post-secondary level.

STAR Reading is used to screen students three times per year in grades two through five to determine student progress. The screening is especially useful in deciding whether or not a student needs intervention or acceleration in reading. In addition, student results on the STAR Reading assessment are used for reporting reading achievement as required by the State for participation in the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) program. Students in other grades are screened in reading using other products. Students in kindergarten through grade two are screened using the PALs screener. Students in grades six through twelve are screened using the Reading Inventory (RI).

Freckle Math by Renaissance helps K-12 teachers differentiate instruction to reach every student at their own level. The District will use Freckle Math to provide differentiated instruction in Grades 6–8.

Classroom teachers piloted Freckle Math last year and found that the resource paired nicely with their core curriculum materials, and the level of student engagement was high. This resource will allow teachers to assign targeted activities to students that will help fill learning gaps from previous grades as well as support current skills and concepts.

The administration recommends approval of the contract with Renaissance Learning for the 2020-21 school year in the amount of \$38,356.60, to be paid for from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) as these programs will allow for continuity of instruction and learning for both on site and off-campus instruction.

C. Happy Numbers Contract for 2020-2021

Happy Numbers is an adaptive, online math program that will be used in grades K-5 across the district. This program includes a thoughtfully-designed progression of skills, concepts, connections, and tools that students acquire to ensure a firm foundation for middle school and beyond. Last school year, Happy Numbers was used in K-5 classrooms throughout our district with great success. Students were engaged and showed greater understanding of mathematical concepts as they worked through the program at their own learning level.

The administration recommends approval of the contract, presented as Attachment C, with Happy Numbers.com for the 2020-21 school year in the amount of \$10,590.00, to be paid for from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) as this program will allow for continuity of instruction and learning for both on site and off-campus instruction.

IV. Updates

A. Pitsch Early Childhood Learning Center

Boys and Girls Club has completely moved out of the Pitsch Elementary School building. Central Office Administration has explored the possibility of converting the Pitsch site into an Early Childhood Learning Center which would house both early childhood and some 4K sites. Dr. Dani Scott, Director of Pupil Services, will be present to provide the plans for moving this Center forward for the 2021-2022 school year. The update is provided as Attachment D.

B. Seclusion and Restraint Annual Report

Wisconsin Statute 118.305(4)(c) requires that an annual report be made to the School Board which includes the number of incidents of seclusion and of physical restraint that took place in the schools during the previous school year, the total number of pupils who were involved in the incidents and the number of children with disabilities who were involved in the incidents. Attachment E provides this annual report. Ms. Scott will be present to explain the report to the Committee.

C. 1:1 Initiative at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School

As a result of our response to COVID-19 Instructional Models, the district technology department has accelerated its move from a 1:1 classroom model for technology devices to a 1:1 student take home model for technology devices for Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School.

Phillip Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, will be present to provide additional background and details on this initiative.

V. 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:

- Parent CII Representatives (September)
- ESSER Update (September)
- ESSA Update (September)
- Phonics Units of Study Update (September)
- ACP Update (October)
- New Course/Curriculum Proposals – Discussion (October)
- COVID District Report for DPI (October)
- ECCP/SCN (November)
- Elementary Social Studies Acquisition and 3rd Grade Curriculum (November)
- New Course/Curriculum Proposals – Decision (November)