



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education  
**Educational Services Committee**

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

Anne Lee, Chairman  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Katie Bielski-Medina  
Larry Davis  
Sandra Hett  
Mary Rayome  
John Krings, President

February 6, 2017

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

TIME: Immediately following the Business Services Committee and Personnel Services  
Committee meetings, but not before 6:15 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Katie Bielski-Medina, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett,  
John Krings, Anne Lee and Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Colleen Dickmann, Margie Dorshorst, Melissa Miller, Kathi  
Stebbins-Hintz, Shawn Oleson, Ronald Rasmussen, Jim Scott

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Mead Outdoor Learning Center

Melissa Miller, Reading and Math Interventionist at THINK and Vesper Academies, and Margie Dorshorst, Principal of Mead Elementary Charter School, were present to update the Committee on progress in developing the outdoor learning center. Next steps include soil borings, fundraising, pursuing donations and developing a plan for maintenance of the classroom. John Krings mentioned that Home Depot was very generous with donations for the Washington school project. Larry Davis, who is involved with Habitat for Humanity, suggested they might be of assistance. It was also brought up that parent groups are a huge asset, and the LHS volunteer center or Eagle Scouts might be interested in assisting.

**ES-1 Motion by John Krings, second by Larry Davis, to approve beginning fundraising and development of an Outdoor Learning Center at Mead Elementary Charter School.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## B. Drivers Education

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, indicated that because of the retirement of the Drivers Education instructor at the end of the 2016-17 school year, and a shortage of licensed Drivers Education teachers in the state, a decision needs to be made whether or not to continue to offer the program. Discussion took place regarding this decision.

- There is a concern that students don't always have transportation to the private businesses that offer drivers education.
- The lease is up on the vehicle used for Drivers Education.
- It was noted that enrollment in the class has gone down.
- Obtaining a drivers license offers students opportunities to successfully enter into the labor force.
- The State no longer funds Drivers Education.
- A driver's license offers a photo credential that can be used for voting, etc.
- There are 150 districts in Wisconsin that offer Drivers Education, including Marshfield and Stevens Point.
- Eliminating Drivers Education would make two additional classrooms available at Lincoln High School.
- Eliminating this program will require students to take different electives or a study hall in place of Drivers Education. The District may incur costs if additional sections of other courses are added to accommodate the 147 students going into different classes since Drivers Education classes are partially subsidized by student fees.

Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of Lincoln High school, stated that he would have 2017-18 enrollment registration numbers available soon.

It was decided that further information was needed before a decision could be made.

## C. Japanese

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz indicated that because of the retirement of the Japanese instructor at the end of the 2016-17 school year, a decision needs to be made whether or not to continue to offer the program. Discussion took place regarding this decision.

- It would be very difficult to find a certified Japanese teacher.
- Scheduling Japanese has been difficult due to low enrollment. Two or three levels need to be combined into one class, or a class needs to run with low numbers.
- Virtual options are being explored.
- This course provides a rich and diverse World Language experience for students.

It was requested that administration explore the availability of certified instructors. Mr. Rasmussen again stated he would have 2017-18 registration numbers to share soon.

**ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, second by John Krings, to table a decision on eliminating Drivers Education and Japanese I-V from the WRPS curriculum beginning with the 2017-18 school year, until the Board of Education meeting next week.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Updates

A. Student Travel Updates

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz reviewed information on upcoming student travel.

B. AGR (SAGE) End-of-Semester Board Report

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz shared the Achievement Gap Reduction report with mid-year information.

V. Consent Agenda Items

**ES-1 Outdoor Learning Center at Mead Elementary Charter School**

**ES-2 Driver Education and Japanese I-V**

VI. 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.

- Social Studies Scope and Sequence (March)
- 2017-18 Strategic Plan (March)
- Art Curriculum (March)
- Elementary Language Arts Curriculum and Acquisition Approval (March)
- Course and Youth Options (March)
- 2017-18 District Professional Development Plan (April)
- 2017-18 Agenda Planners (May)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.