



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee

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

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

December 4, 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, Larry Davis, Katie Bielski-Medina, Sandra Hett, John
Krings, Anne Lee, Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Craig Broeren, Heather Lisitza, Ronald Rasmussen, Karen
Scarseth, Steve Smith, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

- A. Policy 164 – Board Member Compensation and Expenses, Board Policy 163 –
Opportunities for Development, and Board Policy 162 – New Board Member Orientation
– First Reading

During the November, 2017 meeting, the Educational Services Committee was updated by Superintendent Broeren on changes concerning Board compensation in relation to the passage of Wisconsin Act 9 in June, 2017. After gathering feedback from the Committee, Mr. Broeren incorporated potential revisions to Policy 164 – Board Member Compensation and Expenses, Policy 163 – Opportunities for Development, and Policy 162 – New Board Member Orientation for the Committee's consideration for first reading.

Mr. Broeren reviewed historical data relative to Board compensation for the past three years. Annual compensation by individual Board members in 2016-17 ranged from \$2,040 to \$3,540 depending upon the number of meetings attended. Mr. Broeren also

shared Board salary comparison information for districts of similar size, noting that by and large, annual salary stipends are utilized by most boards as opposed to per meeting stipends. A recommended annual salary of \$2,700 to be paid on a monthly incremental basis has been incorporated into Policy 164 – Board Member Compensation and Expenses. If the Board has an interest, language could also be incorporated into policy that sets an expectation for meeting attendance, and could include a penalty if a certain percentage of meetings is missed each year by Board members. This is not typically included in policy, and the Board could instead choose to consider and/or address such concerns on an individual basis should they arise.

Committee members discussed the recommended changes and the fact that while it is a sign of good boardmanship, attendance is not mandatory at every meeting held. The Committee concluded that absence from meetings is not a concern at this time since Board members have rarely missed attending meetings during their tenure on the Board. Committee members expressed support for the recommended changes, with the understanding that annual compensation and related policy will be reviewed in either July or August each year. Should a Board member become elected and take office toward the end of April or any other time during the year, the annual salary for any outgoing and incoming Board members will be pro-rated as appropriate.

ES-1 Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 164 – Board Member Compensation and Expenses as set out in “Attachment A” for first reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-2 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 163 – Opportunities for Development, as set out in “Attachment B” for first reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

ES-3 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 162 – New Board Member Orientation as set out in “Attachment C” for first reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Updates

A. Title IV, Part A

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided information concerning a newly enacted grant within the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which provides funding to support three areas which include:

- Access to a well-rounded education
- Improving school conditions for learning to ensure safe and healthy students
- Improving the use of technology to improve academic achievement and digital literacy

Funding for Title IV is based on the Title I Funding formula. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools received a total allocation of \$11,325.00. Parochial schools will receive \$1,288.38 of this total. The WRPS portion will be used on a new student transition program developed by the Boomerang Project to assist fifth grade students in their transition to sixth grade at the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School beginning in 2018-19, as well as eighth grade students in their transition to ninth grade at the high school. Middle school students will participate in "WEB," which stands for "Where Everybody Belongs," and freshman will be involved in "Link Crew." Both programs employ strategic and intentional actions so students get the necessary support and feel welcome and safe in their new school. Reviews of the program are phenomenal, and teachers from the middle school and high school will be attending training sessions to properly implement the program. The annual "Courage Retreat" is a day set aside to encourage students to use moral courage and make responsible decisions, and normally involves eighth grade students, but will involve seventh graders instead in future years.

B. Homeless Education Services

Heather Lisitza, Homeless Coordinator for WRPS, provided an update to the Committee on the impact of homelessness on students, statutory requirements that districts must follow on this topic, and the services that WRPS provides. Ms. Lisitza provided an explanation of the federal McKinney-Vento Act and its impact and obligations for school districts to undertake steps to implement policies and practices for youth which reduce barriers to enrollment, attendance, or success in school.

Several of the specific requirements of districts include: 1) designation of a local homeless liaison; 2) identification of students who are experiencing homelessness or are unaccompanied youth; 3) provision for the immediate enrollment of students who are homeless; 4) making school placement decisions which are based upon the child's "best interest"; 5) removing transportation barriers for homeless students; and 6) helping students obtain basic needs for student success such as free lunches, waiver of book/class fees, obtaining school supplies or clothing/hygiene items, and connecting students/families to community resources and social services as necessary. Statistical data for a six year period was shared concerning the number of students qualifying for services. During the 2016-17 school year, 238 youth qualified for McKinney Vento services, and 102 students have qualified to date in the current year.

Committee members expressed appreciation to Ms. Lisitza for her presentation.

C. Trimester Schedule at Lincoln High School

Ronald Rasmussen, Principal at Lincoln High School, provided information concerning the trimester schedule which was implemented at Lincoln at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. Results from a student survey conducted aimed at obtaining feedback regarding the trimester schedule were shared. Results from the survey overwhelmingly indicate that students are in favor of the change to a trimester schedule. With respect to Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Mr. Rasmussen explained that courses run either Tri-1 and Tri-2, or Tri-2 and Tri-3, depending upon the building schedule and instructor preference. Data from AP testing indicates that overall, students who score a three or better have fallen below the national average in the last few years. At the same time, many more students are now taking the exams, and there are more types of exams being taken. In 2014-15, 150 students took an AP test and in 2015-16 and 2016-17, 222 students took an AP test. The only time gap that exists between the content being taught and the test being taken is for students who are scheduled for Tri-1 and Tri-2, and then need to wait through March and April before taking the test in May; previously, some students had a gap between January and May when the two semester schedule was in place. Teachers offer multiple review sessions for students during I/E time and after school. Also regarding math, "AP Calculus BC" is a two-semester college course that gets scheduled for an entire academic year, or three trimesters.

Other courses reviewed by Mr. Rasmussen include World Languages and Pre-Calculus. After speaking with teachers involved and performing a grade analysis on the Pre-Calculus course, the administration has concluded that there are no concerns for gaps in instruction time if the courses are not scheduled in back-to-back trimesters. A suggestion was made to perhaps review similar data for Geometry or Algebra 2.

The Committee thanked Mr. Rasmussen for his presentation on trimester scheduling.

D. 2016-17 School and District Report Cards

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz updated the Committee on the WRPS School and District Report Card results from 2016-17. The overall score for WRPS is 72.3, or "Meets Expectations." Individual School Report Cards were reviewed, and ranged anywhere from "Meets Expectations" to "Significantly Exceeds Expectations." Mr. Broeren clarified that Woodside's score changed by one-tenth of a point since the embargoed results were released, moving from a 73.0 to 72.9 – this slight change puts their rating at "Meets Expectations" rather than "Exceeds Expectations." Ms. Stebbins-Hintz then reviewed Valley Conference School and Wood County School results. The District is very close to an overall score of "Exceeds Expectations," and will continue to strive for continued improvement without overemphasizing test scores.

In addition to the State Report Card, the District will also receive a national level report card from the federal government at some point in time this year. More information will be shared on this topic when it is available.

Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Policy 164 – Board Member Compensation and Expenses**
- ES-2 Policy 163 – Opportunities for Development**
- ES-3 Policy 162 – New Board Member Orientation**

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.

- Class Size Limits (January)
- Strategic Plan (February)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.