



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

April 2, 2018

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, Matt Green, Nathali Jones, Ronald Rasmussen,  
Elizabeth Severson, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Calendars: 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22

Ms. Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed proposed school calendars for the upcoming 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 academic years. In developing the calendars, input was solicited from various stakeholders with particular attention given to the number of instructional days and minutes needed, how and where the best time for breaks and professional development/recordkeeping days could be incorporated while balancing out the number of days in each trimester schedule, and consideration of large District-hosted events such as the state cross country meet and gymnastics competitions.

A few dates in particular were noted, such as the half-day professional development days slated to take place on November 27, 2019 and April 10, 2020; the professional

development/recordkeeping day scheduled for a full day on November 25, 2020; and the three teacher in-service dates scheduled in the 2021-22 calendar which has teachers returning for one required day of their choice between August 24-26, 2021, and then coming back for two required days on August 30-31, 2021.

The Committee questioned whether or not the 2019-20 calendar was intended to have the professional development half-day on November 27, 2019 and then the full professional development/recordkeeping day scheduled right after the Thanksgiving break on Monday, December 2, 2019. Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that she believes the calendar is correct, but would need to double check the calculation of days to be certain there are no errors. The administration will review the calendar for accuracy and if necessary, move the second trimester start date from December 3, 2019 to December 2, 2019.

**ES-1 Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Benbow, to approve of the proposed calendars for the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 school years, with an adjustment to professional development dates in the 2019-20 calendar as necessary. Motion carried unanimously.**

The administration had an opportunity to review the calendar in question during the meeting, and determined that the 2019-20 calendar, as proposed, has the correct number of days included and intentionally had both the half- and full-day of professional development/recordkeeping scheduled around Thanksgiving break. Given this information, Mr. Davis requested a friendly amendment to his motion to strike the reference to any adjustment in the 2019-20 calendar so that the motion now reads:

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Benbow, to approve of the proposed calendars for the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 school years.** Mr. Benbow accepted the friendly amendment. **Motion carried unanimously.**

#### IV. Updates

##### A. Lincoln High School Schedule Changes: 2018-19

Principal Ronald Rasmussen of Lincoln High School provided an explanation of changes that will be made to the student schedule at Lincoln beginning with the 2018-19 school year. When the high school moved to trimester scheduling, a 25-30 minute block of time on Wednesdays was built into the schedule through early release of students for the purpose of developing staff Professional Learning Community (PLC) time. This PLC time has been a great benefit for staff. However, having the schedule vary from day to day has caused some issues with traveling teachers. In order to better facilitate schedules of traveling teachers, the administration would like the Lincoln and Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) schedules to be more similar starting next school year. Additionally, the administration believes that moving the Intervention/Enhancement (I/E) time for students from the end of the day to earlier in the day (after first hour) will help reduce some disciplinary concerns that have manifested as a result of the current

schedule. Students have at times skipped out at the end of the day instead of reporting to their required I/E period. Scheduling the I/E time toward the end of the day was helpful for athletes needing to leave the building early for contests; however, the benefits of adjusting the schedule outweigh any advantages of maintaining the status quo with it. The administration plans to assign students to the same I/E teacher beginning with their freshman year and continuing through their senior year, which should help build and strengthen relationships and provide continuity for students - particularly in the area of Academic and Career Planning.

Mr. Rasmussen explained that East Jr. High has been very successful in using some of their Eagle Time enrichment to allow school clubs to meet. Lincoln plans to schedule similar opportunities for students on a rotating basis during certain I/E days to provide more equitable opportunity for students to be involved in co-curricular activities.

Students involved in the P.R.I.D.E. program in good standing will still have privileges, but not be allowed to leave the building. The GPA and credit requirements affiliated with this program are also being increased.

PLC time will continue to be built into the schedule; however, rather than have it be on Wednesday afternoons, it will take place in the morning and students will report to their first hour class at 8:05 a.m. rather than 7:34 a.m. – buses will run as normal and supervision will be provided for students arriving at the usual time. Wednesday was chosen as the weekday for PLC time because there are often Tuesday athletic competitions that students return from late in the evening; this will allow them additional time on Wednesday mornings to arrive. Also, should more than three snow days occur in a school year, it will be possible to make up any statutorily required minutes by having students attend classes beginning at 7:34 a.m. The Committee had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the schedule changes being implemented for 2018-19.

#### B. Lincoln High School Pool Update

Mr. Rasmussen and Nathali Jones, Physical Education Teacher and Aquatics Director at Lincoln, provided an update on changes planned for programming at the Lincoln pool (which will be referred to as the “natatorium” in the future) once renovations have been completed. The purpose of the WRPS Community Swim Program is “To provide all community members access to a high quality, safe, affordable, and family friendly aquatic experience.” To that end, aquatic programming and fees have undergone review. After conducting a community survey, some new program suggestions surfaced, including:

- ✧ Spring Swim Lessons
- ✧ Family Water Exercises
- ✧ “Vigorous” Water Exercises
- ✧ Pre-Teen/Teen Swim Lessons
- ✧ Middle School Boys Swim Team
- ✧ Rentals to private individuals or organizations
- ✧ Weekend and School Break Open Swim
- ✧ Pre-K Swim Lessons
- ✧ Masters Swim Program
- ✧ Adult Swim Lessons
- ✧ Water Exercise for “Gen X”

Ms. Jones explained that any increase in swim activities would be dependent upon availability of certified staff. Program feasibility and a potential Sunday through Saturday schedule were shared, along with a comparison of what other school districts are offering for aquatic programming. Current and potential program membership fee structures were reviewed, and would include options for a yearly membership, monthly membership, or as a drop-in or per class fee. The Committee asked how participants would be tracked based upon their level of membership or program purchased. Ms. Jones stated that participants would have an ID card to be scanned which would indicate this. Having the new community entrance area to the pool will offer a streamlined, efficient process where guests can check in and staff can easily monitor.

#### C. AP and ACT Graduate Report

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz shared AP and ACT test results from the 2016-17 school year. Five year trends for ACT graduates show a prevailing tendency for results to be slightly above the State in English and Reading; slightly below the State in Math (which continues to generate internal analysis and discussion among staff); and an even trend in Science and composite scores. A comparison of ACT scores to neighboring districts was reviewed.

The subgroup reporting information indicates that an achievement gap exists in the following category areas: race, ELL, homelessness, disability, and/or economically disadvantaged status. Equity discussions continue among leadership and building teams in order to address the achievement gap.

AP results for 2016-17 show a steady trend of students taking AP exams. Like the ACT test results, AP results indicate an achievement gap exists in subgroup areas such as race and economically disadvantaged. The percentage of students scoring at a "3" or above on the AP was slightly higher than 2015-16; however, when analyzing the trend from 2011-12 through 2016-17, the data shows a higher percentage of students above "3" from 2011 through 2014. Mr. Rasmussen shared that 184 students are scheduled to take AP exams in 2017-18.

A comparison of AP exam results and participation rates for WRPS, the State, and other districts was shared. Ms. Stebbins-Hintz noted that D.C. Everest and Marshfield have significantly higher participation rates when compared to other districts, which may warrant some exploration. Mr. Rasmussen explained that there is a great deal of interest by students to take College English 101 and 102 through concurrent enrollment, which also affects the number of students enrolled in AP coursework. Mr. Rasmussen shared that next year a number of freshman are scheduled to take an AP Geography course for the first time that it is being offered. This may help build student confidence levels in completing this rigorous coursework and compel them to sign up for additional AP classes in their sophomore, junior, and senior years. Committee members expressed an interest in learning more about what the AP offerings and approach are at D.C. Everest and Marshfield.

#### V. Consent Agenda Items

**ES-1 Calendars: 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22**

- VI. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests
- Social Studies Curriculum and Acquisition (May)
  - Music Acquisition (May)
  - District Professional Development Plan (May)
  - Agenda Planners (May)
  - Global Education Achievement Certificate (GEAC) (May)
  - Elementary Classroom Libraries (May)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.