



# Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

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

## MINUTES

John A. Krings, President  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Larry Davis  
Sandra K. Hett  
Anne Lee  
Katie Medina  
Mary E. Rayome

May 9, 2016

### REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494  
Conf. Rm. A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Krings, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome, John Benbow, Anne Lee, Larry Davis, Katie Medina

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Glenn Haupt, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ed Allison

MEDIA PRESENT: Jesse Austin – River Cities Community Access

President John Krings called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

#### Student Representative's Report

Drake Blossfield reported on the following:

- Lincoln students recently received academic awards: Jacob Elliott and Taylor Hauke (Kohl Excellence Scholars), and Kaisa Crawford-Taylor (National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium Scholarship);
- The Mary Poppins musical performance was a success;
- The Lincoln String Choir placed first at Solo and Ensemble recently;
- Students are in their second week of AP testing;
- A student art show is occurring at the McMillan Library during the month of May;
- The week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> was Teacher Appreciation Week and teachers were recognized with cards of appreciation written by students;
- Lincoln's Prom was a fun and secure event this year;
- Grace Hartman was nominated as a Central Wisconsin Athlete of the Week;
- Lincoln's graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 5, 2016;
- A band concert is occurring on May 9, 2016;
- Student Council held officer elections, and Drake Blossfield will serve as President in 2016-17, and will also be the Board Student Representative for another year.

In light of "Teacher Appreciation Week" activities which took place in the prior week, President Krings expressed great appreciation and special thanks to WRPS teaching and support staff for all that they do for students.

#### Special Report – Lincoln High School Student Trip to Ecuador

A special report on a recent trip by students to Ecuador was provided by World Language Teachers Jake Wendtland and Lisa Torres. They were joined by students Christian Smith and Drake Blossfield who also participated in the trip. The 10 day trip immersed students in a number of cultural experiences. Highlights were shared concerning the language, experiences with the country's elevation, education, community service, cuisine, geography, and economics. Students expanded their language skills and became more fluent in the language by the time the trip concluded. All expressed appreciation for Board support of the trip. The Board thanked them for their presentation.

Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of April 11, 2016; special Board Organizational meeting minutes of April 25, 2016; and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of April 25, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.**

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

- A. Business Services Committee – May 2, 2016. Report given by John Benbow.  
Mr. Benbow reviewed the following consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Business Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held.

- BS-1 Approval of a proposal to increase the price of all student visitor meals by \$0.50 for the 2016-17 school year in order to cover all food costs.
- BS-2 Approval of a proposal to renew the maintenance and software support from AE Business Solutions for the Juniper switches located at Lincoln High School, East Junior High School, and Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School for the 2016-17 school year at a total cost of \$10,940.07 to be funded from a combination of Technology Referendum budget and Federal E-rate funding.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items BS-1-2. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- The Committee reviewed purchases for police liaison services from the City of Wisconsin Rapids, AE Business Solutions for technology switch gear, and Discovery Education for library media.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular May 2, 2016 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

President Krings mentioned that members of the Board toured the Lincoln Building Trades House prior to the regular Business Services Committee meeting on May 2, 2016 and they continue to be amazed by the skills and talent of the students involved in the course.

- B. Personnel Services Committee – May 2, 2016. Report given by Sandra Hett.  
Ms. Hett reviewed the following consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Personnel Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held.

- PS-1 Approval of the 2016 Summer School Program support staff clerical/aide appointments of Jim Alft, Machele Anderson, Janet Babcock, Nicole Crowley, Crystal Fraundorf, Terri Huebner, Cheryl Koch, Sara Matthews, Holly McMiller, Katheryn Melville, Jean Merriman, Karey Netz, Cheryl Panter, Jennifer Schudy, Leeann Tack, Tamara Twait; and the food service support staff appointment of Terry Wunrow.
- PS-2 Approval of the summer technology support staff appointments of Markus Hutnik, Sam Milkey, and Andy Thao.
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff appointments of Jodi Matthews (Registrar – East Jr. High) and Robyn Vicker (Noon Aide – Grove).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff early retirement request of Karen Oleson (Custodian – Grove).
- PS-5 Approval of the professional staff resignation requests of Troy Wirtz (Cross-Categorical – WRAMS), Jill Jipson-Fasching (School Psychologist – Mead), and Kathleen McConnell (Music – Lincoln/WRAMS/Woodside/Grove).
- PS-6 Approval of the support staff resignation requests of Xee Khang (Instructional Aide – Washington) and Mary Armitage (Instructional Aide – East Jr. High).

- PS-7 Approval of the students requesting to attend the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools under the Open Enrollment law, pending a review of discipline records and special services needs.
- PS-8 Approval of the students requesting to attend non-resident school districts under the Open Enrollment law, pending a review of discipline records and special services needs.
- PS-9 Approval of a wage increase of 1.62% retroactive to July 1, 2015 for employees discussed, which include: Computer Technicians, Instructional Software Support Specialist, Network Manager, Systems Manager, and PAC Director.
- PS-10 Approval to the Employee Benefit documents as presented in Committee for employees discussed, which include: Computer Technicians, Instructional Software Support Specialist, Network Manager, Systems Manager, and PAC Director, with an effective date of July 1, 2016.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 1-10. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of May 2, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.**

- C. Educational Services Committee – May 2, 2016. Report given by Anne Lee.  
Ms. Lee reviewed the following consent agenda item brought before the Board through the Educational Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held:

- ES-1 Approval of the elementary English/Language Arts Curriculum Maps set out in Attachment A and on the WRPS curriculum website, with clarifications of the columns that say N/A.
- ES-2 Approval of the purchase of the *Writing Units of Study* as set out in Attachment B, for no more than \$34,736.82, with shipping to be negotiated.
- ES-3 Approval of the proposed 2016-17 Professional Development Plan as set out in Attachment D.
- ES-4 Approval of the Professional Development Day proposal set out in Attachment E.
- ES-5 Approval of one additional professional development day for the eight WRPS elementary schools on December 2, 2016, as set out in Attachment F.
- ES-6 Approval of the proposed 2017-18 and 2018-19 calendars as set out in Attachment G.
- ES-7 Approval of the proposed modifications to the Lincoln High School Agenda Planner for 2016-17 as set out in Attachment H.
- ES-8 Approval of the proposed modifications to the East Junior High School Agenda Planner for 2016-17 as set out in Attachment I.
- ES-9 Approval of the proposed modifications to the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Agenda Planner for 2016-17 as set out in Attachment J.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda items ES 1-9. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the regular May 2, 2016 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared legislative information on:

- Assembly Bill 545 relating to providing lifesaving skills instruction to pupils in grades 7-12.
- Department of Public Instruction (DPI) meetings are being scheduled in the 12 state CESA regions to discuss teacher shortage survey results and other workforce data to offer suggestions and discuss how to address the teacher shortage.
- Voucher funding for all three voucher programs – Milwaukee, Racine, and Statewide. Payments to voucher schools will be identical in 2016-17, with a state payment equal to \$7,323 for grades K-8 voucher students, and \$7,969 for grades 9-12 voucher students. Differences in state payments amounts depending upon the program were reviewed.

Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note April, 2016 receipts in the amount of \$1,845,998.04; and approve April, 2016 disbursements in the amount of \$3,046,899.18. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

Boys & Girls Club Lease Agreement

Supt. Dickmann explained that she has worked with legal counsel to incorporate an amendment to the Boys & Girls Club Pitsch facility lease agreement which would extend the “decision to purchase” date deadline from June to October, 2016. Dr. Dickmann reviewed the changes outlined in an “Amendment No. 1” document which only impacts the decision to purchase section of the lease agreement. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed Amendment.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of an extension to the “decision to purchase” date in the Boys & Girls Club lease agreement to October 31, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.**

Amendment to 2015-16 District Budget

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, explained that the primary change in the 2015-16 District budgeted revenue is the recording of receipts from roof insurance claims. The General Fund account code 900 “Other Revenue” line item will be amended from \$93,360.00 to \$689,800.00, a difference of \$596,440.00. The overall total revenue amount being recommended for amendment will change from \$58,465,363.35 to \$59,148,425.00, or a difference of \$683,061.65.

Most of the changes under expenditures have to do with grant funds. There was carry-over funding, and an increase in grant amounts and a transfer to the special education and debt service funds. The District will place \$999,000.00 into Fund balance under the proposed amended budget. A total of \$25,050.00 would be transferred into the Capital Projects Sinking Fund 46. The budget allows for \$1,000,000.00 to be transferred from Fund 10 to Referendum Funds. A \$1,955,000.00 debt defeasement plan will be brought to the Board for consideration and possible approval in June. Mr. Weigand reviewed recommended changes to Food Service funds, and explained a decreased amount is being made to the Employee Benefit Trust Fund account as a number of retired employees are reaching age 65 and leaving the plan, while newly retired employees have a lower, fixed amount paid on their behalf. With regard to the Community Service Fund, Mr. Weigand explained that the District is not allowed to spend dollars in areas where they have been spent in the past, so a reduction to this Fund is being recommended. Expenditures for the PAC must be split between student/community usage.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the proposed amendments to the 2015-16 District budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Update on 2016-17 District Budget

Dr. Dickmann explained that the administration has been working to cover an approximate \$2 million budget deficit expected for the 2016-17 fiscal year. This is a conservative estimate, knowing that the health insurance renewal rate

is at 14.4% from July 1-December 31, 2016. What is not known is the health insurance renewal rate for January 1 – June 30, 2017. Plan options and/or changes are currently being explored, which will likely affect the renewal rate. The District has experienced a loss in revenue limit which negatively impacts the budget, and the budget takes into account the .12% CPI salary increase and potential credits that may be taken by professional staff members. It is possible that the District will experience an increase in state pupil categorical aid.

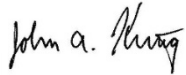
With the projected \$2 million deficit, a review of staffing in all employee areas is taking place to determine potential areas of savings. Staff members who have retired or resigned may not be replaced. Class size increases are likely to occur with the shift of the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) to the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) program since strategies for schools no longer require an 18:1 class size ratio. One snow day in the 2015-16 school year nets some savings, and there will likely be savings in the areas of OPEB and the HRA program.

The budget will continue to be developed in the weeks ahead, with a recommendation for the Board anticipated to come in June at either the regular Board of Education meeting, or at the Budget Hearing scheduled in June.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk