



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

September 11, 2017

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: Craig Broeren, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Matt Green, Ed Allison, Elizabeth Severson

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

Desiree Alu reported on the following:

- Homecoming week is scheduled for October 2nd, culminating with the dance on October 7th.
- Fall sports are underway, and the soccer team has a 4-0 record; the volleyball team participated in a weekend tournament recently and the team is doing well so far this season.
- Construction of the kitchen and cafeteria area at Lincoln is finished, and students are getting used to the new servery area and menu options; some construction areas in the building continue to be worked on, which provides some inconvenience to students which they are adjusting to, knowing that it is temporary.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of August 14, 2017, and special closed session meeting minutes of August 14, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

- Business Services Committee – September 5, 2017. Report given by Larry Davis. Mr. Davis 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 66.03.01 cooperative agreements for students attending the Virtual program from the Adams-Friendship, Eau Claire, Necedah, and Stevens Point School Districts as listed, plus one additional student from the Adams-Friendship School District.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda item BS-1. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Davis provided updates and reports on:

- Snow removal expenditures and utility usage costs for the past fiscal year.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular September 5, 2017 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – September 5, 2017. 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 professional staff appointments of Miriam Doerrler (Teacher – Mead), Christina Dahlman (Teacher – East), Brett Weinfurter (Teacher – Lincoln), Megan Onesti (Teacher – Mead), and Cali Schneller (Counselor – Lincoln).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Cynthia Krush (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Deborah Drollinger (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Tara Koch (Special Ed Aide – Grove), Laura Reichert (Special Ed Aide – WRAMS), Rachel Teeselink (Special Ed Aide – Washington), Holly Richardson (Special Ed Aide – East), Savannah Smith (Special Ed Aide – Woodside), Connie Schmutzer (Noon Aide – Mead), Rochelle Oelke (Noon Aide – Grant), Casey Saeger (Noon Aide – Grant), Barbara Enright (Noon Aide – Mead), Marlene Holtz (Noon Aide – Howe), Shelly Anderson (Study Hall Aide – Lincoln), Peggy Sullivan (Faculty Clerk/In House Aide – East), Kameo Fehrenbach (Native American Liaison – District), Linda Weinfurter (Office Aide/Health Aide – Grove), Paula Stolarczyk (Health Aide – Lincoln), Janette Dotter (Cashier – Lincoln), Brenda Pascoe (ELL Aide – Grove), Lillian Murphy (ELL Aide – Lincoln/East), Baonyia Vang (ELL Aide – Howe), Sandra Ashbeck (Instructional Aide – THINK), Mide Aliu (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln).
- PS-3 Approval of the non-represented staff appointment of Tim Kremer (Information Technology Support Specialist – District).
- PS-4 Approval of the professional staff resignations of Jenna Peterson (Counselor – Lincoln), Diane Pichelmann-Sutherland (Teacher – Lincoln).
- PS-5 Approval of the support staff resignations of Hannah Larkin (Faculty Clerk/In House Aide – East), Brooke Porter (Noon Aide – Mead), Matthew Peeters (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Katherine Martin (Special Ed Aide – Grove), Casey Mitchell (Noon Aide – Vesper), Laurie Price (Office/Health Aide – Woodside), Jennifer Wilkins (Noon Aide – THINK).
- PS-6 Approval of the support staff retirements of Valerie Friday (Second Cook – Howe) and Mark Krzykowski (Custodian – Lincoln).
- PS-7 Approval of the request for voluntary reduction from 1.0 FTE to .50 FTE by Kelly Saeger (Grade 3 – Mead).
- PS-8 Approval of Board Policy 840 – Public Gifts to the Schools, second reading.
- PS-9 Approval of Board Policy 460 – Student Awards and Scholarships, first reading.
- PS-10 Approval of a reduction in the number of days substitute teachers need to work on Mondays and Fridays from 20 down to 15 in order to be eligible for the one-time, year-end bonus payment of \$15 per day, effective with the start of the 2017-18 school year.

Ms. Hett requested that consent agenda items PS-1 and PS-4 be held out.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to consent agenda items PS-1 and PS-4, Ms. Hett stated in PS-1, a candidate (Cali Schneller) declined the position offered to her, and as a result should not be included in the consent agenda items. A separate motion will be made for the remaining four professional staff appointments. With regard to PS-4, Ms. Hett would like this item to be voted on separately.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of consent agenda item PS-4. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. Sandra Hett voted no.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve of the professional staff appointments of Miriam Doerrler, Christina Dahlman, Brett Weinfurter, and Megan Onesti. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- Board Policy 851 – Advertising in the Schools was discussed and tabled.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of September 5, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – September 5, 2017. Report given by Anne Lee.

Ms. Lee reviewed the following consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Educational Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held:

ES-1 Approval of Chrissy Walczak and Emily Stieve to serve as the CII parent representatives during the 2017-18, 2018-19, and 2019-20 school years.

ES-2 Approval of the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt professional development system proposal as set out in Attachment A for Grove Elementary School in the amount of \$13,850.00, to be paid for by a combination of Title II and District curriculum funds; to then be followed up by similar services provided in the other seven elementary buildings by district instructional coaches, interventionists, and the Math Coordinator.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-2. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Margie Dorshorst, Principal at Mead Elementary Charter School, Denise Martell, Yvonne Simmet and Patti Rasmussen, Governance Committee members, updated the Committee on the school's goals for 2017-18 and accomplishments for 2016-17.
- Ms. Stebbins-Hintz reviewed the ESSA funds and how dollars will be spent by the District in 2017-18.
- Professional development highlights from the 2016-17 school year were shared by Ms. Stebbins-Hintz, as well as plans for the 2017-18 school year.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the September 5, 2017, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- The U.S. Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee unanimously approved a bipartisan fiscal year 2018 funding bill for the federal departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies. The budget is \$3 billion above the fiscal year 2017 level and \$27.5 billion above the President's budget request. The subcommittee also rejected President Trump's proposed cuts to teacher training and after school program funding. Potential Title grant funding was reviewed by Mr. Benbow.

- The Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee (JFC) voted to expand the Special Needs Scholarship Program as part of the state budget bill. Participation could increase by 250 pupils in 2018-19 and result in an over \$3 million aid reduction to public school districts.
- The JFC also voted to expand eligibility for the statewide voucher program in several ways, including raising the family income eligibility limits for the program from 185 percent of the federal poverty level to 220 percent beginning in the 2018-19 school year. It is estimated that this change will allow an additional 550 students to participate in the statewide voucher program, and will reduce state aid to the public school districts in which those pupils reside by \$4.4 million.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note August, 2017 receipts in the amount of \$4,370,595.68 and approve August, 2017 disbursements from 2016-17 books in the amount of \$1,246.50, and August, 2017 disbursements from 2017-18 books in the amount of \$2,712,647.06. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointment, Resignation, and Retirement Requests

None.

Implementation of Total Base Wage Increase for AFSCME Local 1075

Dr. Christianson explained that negotiations with the AFSCME Local 1075 bargaining unit concluded in July, 2017. While the parties agreed to and settled on a 1.26% total base wage increase, there was disagreement in the method of distribution to be used for the total increase. The Board Personnel Services Committee proposed a model of distribution as follows:

Position	Proposed Increase	% Increase
Custodians & Relief Delivery	\$0.28	1.07%
Head Custodians – Elementary	\$0.27	1.23%
Head Custodian – East Jr. High		
Head Custodian – WR Middle		
Day Custodian – East Jr. High		
Day Custodian – WR Middle		
Day Custodian – Lincoln		
Head – LHS, Maintenance	\$0.28	1.23%
Grounds	\$0.46	2.04%
Storeroom Manager	\$0.29	1.27%
Heating Tech	\$1.23	5.06%
Head Maintenance	\$0.28	1.11%

Representatives from AFSCME Local 1075 were in favor of an equal distribution amount. The parties could not come to agreement on the method of distribution, acknowledging that they came to impasse. As a result, the Personnel Services Committee indicated their intent to bring the Committee’s proposed increase and distribution method forward to the Board for consideration and approval. President Krings commended the AFSCME group for the good conversations had during negotiations, and explained that the District has an interest in raising the rate of pay on certain trades positions in order to remain competitive in the labor market.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the implementation of a 2017-18 total base wage increase of 1.26% for the AFSCME Local 1075 Custodial and Maintenance bargaining unit retroactive to July 1, 2017, with the recommended distribution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Rescind Board Motion of June 26, 2017

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, explained that at a meeting held on June 26, 2017, the Board took action to approve exceeding the revenue limit for one year on a non-recurring basis in order to fund energy efficiency and operational efficiency projects tied to the Lincoln Phase 1 construction project. In light of circumstances surrounding the proposed State budget, the Board had an interest in preserving its authority to utilize the energy exemption funding mechanism. Additionally, a similar motion was made to exceed the revenue limit for up to ten years on a non-recurring basis to pay debt service for funds borrowed for energy efficiency and operational efficiency projects. Since the time that these motions were approved, energy efficiency projects have

been approved above and beyond the Phase 1 construction project under the ten year non-recurring Resolution. As a result, the motion concerning exceeding the revenue limit for one year on a non-recurring basis should be rescinded.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Benbow to approve of rescinding a Board motion made on June 26, 2017 to exceed the revenue limit for one year on a non-recurring basis to fund energy efficiency and operational efficiency projects. Motion carried unanimously.

Rescind Board Motion of July 10, 2017

Mr. Weigand stated that at a meeting held on July 10, 2017, the Board approved a Resolution authorizing a loan from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands for a State Trust Fund loan in the amount of \$11,500,000 for the purpose of financing energy efficiency and capital improvement projects. Since that time, the administration was able to secure a private loan at a lower rate which will save the District approximately \$750,000 in interest costs over the life of the loan. The Board approved of the private loan from ZB N.A., at its August 14, 2017 meeting, and the District closed on this loan in the past week. As a result, the motion made by the Board on July 10, 2017 should be rescinded since the District will not be securing a State Trust Fund loan.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of rescinding a Board motion made on July 10, 2017 to approve a Resolution authorizing a State Trust Fund loan from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands in the amount of \$11,500,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing

Mr. Weigand explained that the amount the District has had to short-term borrow has been declining during the last four years, with \$2,900,000 being borrowed during the past fiscal year. The District likely will not need to borrow the entire \$10,000,000 as proposed in the Resolution presented; however, in conversations held with the District's financial consultant, it may benefit the District to issue some long-term debt at a later date for just the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Phase 2 project in order to decrease the need for short-term borrowing and subsequently place the District in a better financial position with the cash balance. Superintendent Broeren clarified that the short-term borrowing being proposed is similar to what has been done previously for cash flow purposes to meet payroll and accounts payable expenses when there is a lag in State aid receipts.

Mr. Weigand stated that there are two potential borrowing pools that the District could issue the borrowing through, being it participates in the PMA Levy and Anticipation Notes Program – one in September or the other in October, depending upon timing.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of a Resolution authorizing temporary borrowing in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000; issuance of tax and revenue anticipation promissory notes; and participation in the PMA Levy and Anticipation Notes Program. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Board Policy 851 – Advertising in the Schools

At its meeting held on September 5, 2017, the Personnel Services Committee tabled a recommendation to approve of proposed revisions to Board Policy 851 – Advertising in the Schools for second reading. Superintendent Broeren explained that he is interested in gathering feedback from the Board and answer any questions Board members may have concerning the proposed revisions. Mr. Broeren stated that with regard to advertising in educational spaces which involve smaller donation amounts (e.g., potential fundraisers like selling pavers or wall plaques), he would like to know if the Board has concerns with the administration going ahead to approve such requests or if the Board desires to have input in the process.

The Board indicated that they have no concerns with the administration approving these types of advertising fundraisers or donation campaigns. Instead, they would prefer to be involved in more significant decisions which may include naming or renaming of facilities or fields, or entering into major corporate sponsorship agreements. Mr. Broeren suggested that additional language could be incorporated into the policy which would provide a step requiring Board approval in cases of sponsorship naming rights. This step would follow the administrative process which ultimately ends with a recommendation for the Board to consider. Sponsorship naming rights are intended to be approved for a finite period of time, for a significant donation. Commemorative naming rights would typically be approved for the duration that a building or space exists, and would involve an ad-hoc committee of the Board to develop any final recommendations for Board consideration.

Mr. Broeren mentioned that with the recommended language in Policy 851 being new, there is always the option in the future to bring the policy back for additional revision should the administration and/or Board deem it

necessary. The Board discussed the policy, and indicated they are comfortable with the policy being brought through for second reading in November with the suggested revisions.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk