



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

October 8, 2018

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, Brian Oswald, 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

Desiree Alu reported on the following:

- Over 957 students attended recent homecoming activities, an increase over the approximate 600 attendees last year; Desiree noted the positive student behavior displayed during the activities. Seniors won the “spirit stick.”
- A recent “Kicking the Stigma” event involving the LHS soccer team raised just under \$7,000 to heighten awareness about mental health issues.
- Multiple activities are occurring in DECA, including an upcoming Emerging Leadership lab, a pumpkin painting party, and the annual “Trick-or-Can” event on October 31.
- The Theatre Department is featuring “Fall Showcase 2018 – A Night of Comedy” October 12-14, with two of the skits having been written by LHS students.
- The Miss Wisconsin Rapids Area Pageant is coming up on October 27, which includes students from LHS.
- HOSA is sponsoring a blood drive on October 10.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of September 10, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

Meghan Williams, parent of a Mead Elementary School student, addressed the Board on the issue of bullying happening across the school district. She reviewed 9 school handbooks and made note that 2 had nothing in them about bullying – those that have information are simply excerpts of Board policy. While the information she read states there is “zero tolerance,” she stated that there have been incidences where parents are told “If it happens again, then we’ll take care of it.” To her, zero tolerance means zero tolerance. She herself and other mothers have had their children bullied at Mead. Her son came forward about bullying last year, yet it continues. Since things are not being addressed, she implored the

Board to find a way to implement the zero tolerance policy rather than just having the students come to the teacher. While the Principal at Mead is new this year, Ms. Williams is already hearing the statement, “If it happens again.” She questioned how many more times something will occur before anything is done. She fears for the future possibility of students who are bullied committing suicide, and doesn’t want her child, or anyone’s child becoming a statistic in this category. She would like to see more education and further consequences concerning bullying in the district.

Tracy Brown, parent of a Mead Elementary School student, echoed the sentiments shared by Meghan Williams. She has a daughter attending third grade, and she stated there is both verbal and physical bullying occurring. Each day her daughter comes home from school, Ms. Brown questions her about how her day went and whether anything happened that made her uncomfortable – most days something comes up, yet her daughter doesn’t report it because nothing gets done about it. Ms. Brown doesn’t want her child to feel that she needs to be quiet or keep these concerns to herself without reporting them. She believes more conversation with teachers about how to handle these situations as well as discussion within the schools about the repercussions to students who report their concerns. She has been considering a school change for her daughter, but is hopeful that her and the other mothers coming forward to speak on the topic will help change things for the better.

Sarah Morgan, parent of a Mead Elementary School student, stated that a few weeks ago her daughter was handcuffed to a bench during recess at school and had her glasses taken from her face and smashed. When she was contacted by the Principal, Ms. Morgan asked what happened and was told not to worry as the perpetrator’s parents had been called. She believes that just making a phone call to the other student’s parents does not seem like an acceptable consequence, and her daughter should not have to be back in school the next day after this happened in a fearful state because the perpetrator is also back in school. While the [hand]book states there is no tolerance, she feels nothing gets done. The Principal told Ms. Morgan that if it happens again they would look at something a little more serious. Ms. Morgan does not understand why something needs to keep happening before something gets done about it. Nothing in the book lays out what the consequences will be in these instances, and she would like to see this more set in stone, with less leeway. She requested that the Board look at the policy and fix it since it is broken and not getting any better.

Superintendent Broeren explained that he became aware of the issue when he was contacted by Ms. Williams just recently. He affirmed the protocol of informing a teacher about bullying incidents, then the Principal if not satisfied, and then the Superintendent if the perception is that issues are not being addressed. After all of those channels have been utilized and if there are still on-going issues, then he would expect parents to be coming to the Board with their concerns as expressed. As a parent himself, he understands the concerns of parents whose children experience bullying. Eliminating these issues across the board is a difficult thing to do. However, Mr. Broeren does believe these matters can be addressed in a more proactive fashion and consequences can be stepped up for students who exhibit an inability to stop such behavior. He understands the position students are in when they are apprehensive to speak up about bullying incidents. If parents hear of these incidences occurring and they’ve taken it up with the Principal to be addressed and nothing happens, Mr. Broeren needs to hear about it. Mr. Broeren would like to tell parents that these things won’t happen in any of the District’s schools, but that would not be reality. However, this can be a goal to work toward and if parents have concerns, he encourages them to contact him about their perceptions because he doesn’t want to see any child fearful of coming to school.

President Krings encouraged the parents who spoke to send any ideas they may have to address the problem to Superintendent Broeren. Board members also acknowledged the responsibility of the District to educate all students, including students who bring numerous issues from home to school which, while not excusable, may be connected to bullying behaviors.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – October 1, 2018. 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 proposed 66.03.01 cooperative agreements for students attending the Virtual program from the Stevens Point and Tri-County Area School Districts.
- BS-2 Approval of the purchase of 108 Chromebooks from our preferred vendor, PDS, at a cost of \$23,760.00, to be funded from the current Lincoln High School Technology budget, Common School Fund budget, and the District Career and Technical Education (CTE) budget.
- BS-3 Approval of the proposed purchase of 96 Chromebooks and 2 Chromebook carts from our preferred vendor, PDS, at a cost of \$22,918.00, to be funded from the current Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Technology, District Technology, District Technology Referendum, and Special Education 2018-19 budgets.

- BS-4 Approval of the proposed changes to the Guidelines for Expense-Reimbursement as discussed, including elimination of the set \$70.00 “state rate,” increase of the In-State rate from \$150.00 to \$180.00, and increase of the Out-of-State rate from \$235.00 to \$265.00.
- BS-5 Approval of the proposed revisions to Board Policy 731.2 - Use of Electronic Surveillance Technology in Public Areas of School Buildings and Property for first reading.
- BS-6 Approval of the proposed revisions to Board 347 - Rule - Guidelines for the Control and Maintenance of Student Records for first reading.
- BS-7 Approval of the proposed revisions to Letter of Agreement - Between School District of Wisconsin Rapids and Wisconsin Rapids Police Department.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items BS 1-7. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Review of invoices for police liaison services, sod purchases for soccer fields, copy paper, and Odysseyware student software for the Virtual Program.
- Attestation report from Hawkins Ash CPAs verifying information used by the state for the calculation of general school aid.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular October 1, 2018 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – October 1, 2018. 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 support staff appointments of Vicki Schwalbach (Instructional Aide – Washington), Michelle Zimmerman (Instructional Aide – Washington), Kimberly Robison (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside), Connie Schmutzer (Club Mead Teaching Assistant – Mead), Jessica McMillan (Native American Liaison – District), Hannah Osborne (Special Ed Aide – Grove), Ashley Peplinski (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Melissa Hafeman (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside), and Robyn Vicker (Special Ed Aide – Washington).
- PS-2 Approval of the professional staff resignation request of Meghan McCabe (Teacher – Central Oaks Academy).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff resignation requests of Patricia Wellnitz (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside), Rhonda Zink (Study Hall Aide – Lincoln), Stephanie Bailey (Custodian – Lincoln), and Kim Schenk (Activity Secretary – Lincoln).
- PS-4 Approval of Board Policy 760 Rule – Food Services Management Guidelines, second reading.
- PS-5 Approval of Board Policy 522.3 Employee Misconduct Reporting and Board Policy 522.3-Rule Employee Misconduct Reporting Procedures, first reading.

Mr. Benbow requested that consent agenda item PS-3 be held out to be voted on separately due to the additional fourth name that was added to the requested list of resignations.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1, 2, 4 and 5. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda item PS-3. Motion carried on a voice vote of 6-1. John Benbow voted no.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of October 1, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – October 1, 2018. 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 the deletion of Policy 343.4 – Course Options Program, for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of the deletion of Policy 343.4 Rule – Procedures for Handling Course Applications Through Course Options Program, for first reading.
- ES-3 Approval of the deletion of Policy 342.8 – Youth Options Program, for first reading.
- ES-4 Approval of Policy 343.45 – Technical College Course Program (“Start College Now”), for first reading.
- ES-5 Approval of Policy 343.45 Rule – Technical College Course Program (“Start College Now”) Procedures, for first reading.
- ES-6 Approval of Policy 343.46 – Early College Credit Program, for first reading.
- ES-7 Approval of Policy 343.46 Rule – Early College Credit Program Procedures, for first reading.
- ES-8 Approval of Policy 424 – Participation of Non-Public School Students in District Programs and Activities, for first reading.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-8. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed course and curriculum modification proposals requested for implementation in the 2018-19 school year. These proposals will be reviewed by relevant CII Sub-Committees, building leadership committees, and the District CII Committee. Results will be shared at the November Educational Services Committee and the Committee will vote on these proposals at that time.
- A detailed analysis of the assessment results for the 2017-18 school year was shared with the Committee. Information from the Forward Exam, ACT Aspire, and the ACT were shared and discussed.
- Ms. Stebbins-Hintz reviewed grant requirements for Titles I, II, III and IV. Funds for Title I, II and III were reduced for this year; however, Title IV had an increase that helped compensate for the loss of funds in the other Title programs. Parochial and private schools receive a percentage of the funds. A PowerPoint was also shared which outlined allocations and how the District plans to use these dollars.
- Craig Broeren, Superintendent, opened a discussion about how to proactively engage our legislature via our local representatives. He suggested actively engaging them as the bi-annual budget is on the legislative agenda. He also stated we should contact not only our local representatives, but representatives involved on specific committees related to WRPS concerns.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the October 1, 2018, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- The November 6, 2018 ballot will include 82 referenda questions in 61 school districts. Over half (44) of these ballot requests will ask voters to approve the issuance of debt. If all are approved, those requests would provide \$1.25 billion for improvements to school facilities. The remaining 38 referenda on the ballot are for operating purposes. Middleton-Cross Plains has the largest request on the ballot for \$138.9 million.

- The Legislative Council Study Committee on the Investment and Use of the School Trust Funds is scheduled to hold its third public meeting on Thursday, October 11, 2018.
- The Legislative Fiscal Bureau (LFB) has prepared a memo that finds that the property tax bill estimate for taxes levied in 2017 and payable in 2018 for the statewide median-valued home is \$27 higher than earlier estimated.
- Governor Walker has ordered a special Extraordinary Session of the Legislature to occur on November 12, 2018 to allow the Senate to take up Assembly Bill 963, a \$100 million tax incentives bill concerning Kimberly-Clark. Speaker Vos indicated he is open to taking up additional legislation beyond the Kimberly-Clark tax incentive package during the session.
- Draft bill LRB-0339 is circulating which would create the “Wisconsin Public Schools Religious Liberties Act” which would address religious liberties in schools and expressly prohibit a school board from discriminating against a student, a parent of a student, or a school board employee based on his or her religious viewpoint or belief.
- Superintendent Broeren is seeking drafts of a Resolution some districts have adopted in support of increasing the reimbursement for special education from its current level of roughly 26% to 90% over time. More information will be shared as it becomes available.
- Voters are encouraged to become informed and get out to vote in the upcoming November election.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note September, 2018 receipts in the amount of \$4,862,233.99 and approve September, 2018 disbursements in the amount of \$3,185,650.47. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointment, Resignation, and Retirement Requests

Brian Oswall, Director of Human Resources, presented the following employee support staff appointment requests:

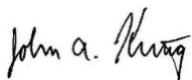
Debra Bauman	Location:	Woodside Elementary School
	Position:	Noon Duty Aide (1.75 hrs/day)
	Effective Date:	October 8, 2018
	Hourly Rate:	\$12.28 (starting rate) / \$12.93 (after 60 days)
Betsy Borski	Location:	Lincoln High School
	Position:	Study Hall Aide (7.0 hrs/day)
	Effective Date:	October 22, 2018
	Hourly Rate:	\$13.91 (starting rate) / \$14.64 (after 60 days)

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the support staff appointment requests as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk