



Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

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

MINUTES

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

December 9, 2019

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 Benbow, Troy Bier, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Katie Medina, Mary Rayome

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Daniel Weigand, Brian Oswald, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Danielle Scott, Ed Allison

MEDIA PRESENT: Kevin Bargender – River Cities Community Access

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Cool To Be Kind Presentation

Mary Schultz, Counselor at Lincoln, and Melanie Kozlowski, Language Arts Teacher and Instructional Coach at Lincoln, co-advise the Lincoln student co-curricular group named “Cool To Be Kind.” They were joined by a number of students at the meeting to present information about the history of the group, its mission, and projects they have been involved in to promote a positive educational environment. The group helps students make connections when they are new to the school, they discuss issues of mental health and its effects on students and staff, recognize efforts of students and staff in the building, educate others on the topic of bullying and how to take a stand against it, and they schedule activities that encourage others to be kind and accepting. Specific groups of students and/or activities involved include the *New Student Group*, *Random Acts of Kindness*, *Recognition Committee*, *Hello Week*, *United Way Day of Caring*, *Suicide Prevention Week*, *Bully Prevention Week*, *Sexual Assault Awareness Week*, and *Mental Health Awareness Week*. Cool To Be Kind involves itself in service-learning fundraisers and provides bullying presentations in 4th, 8th, and 10th grade WRPS classrooms throughout the school year. A “Rise to Remember” event is typically hosted in May to bring community awareness to the issues of mental health in teens and support those who have lost someone to suicide or know of someone who has made suicide threats or attempts. A goal of the event is to also connect individuals with local resources to help them. This year’s event will occur on May 16, 2020. New initiatives for the group are spearheaded by students who brainstorm ideas based upon perceived needs around them. They hope to inspire groups to be developed in the elementary schools, such as a “You Are Not Alone Club” currently being considered for Mead Elementary. The Board thanked the group for their informative presentation, and the work they are doing to promote a positive culture in District schools.

Student Representative’s Report

Jacqueline Sii provided an update on Lincoln High School activities as follows:

- ◆ Gymnastics, wrestling, boys swimming and boys and girls basketball have all begun
- ◆ Two hockey games played recently against Waupaca and Oshkosh were won by the team
- ◆ A holiday concert involving band, orchestra, and choir is scheduled for December 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ In an awareness campaign, the FACT group is planning to create Christmas cards containing facts about the harms caused by tobacco and/or cigarettes which will be placed on student lockers before winter break

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of November 11, 2019 and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of November 25, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – December 2, 2019. Report given by Sandra Hett.

Ms. Hett 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 Board Policy 330 – Curriculum Development for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of Board Policy 331 – Curriculum Maps for first reading.
- ES-3 Approval of Board Policy 334 – Curriculum Evaluation for first reading.
- ES-4 Approval of Board Policy 442.1 – Student Board Representatives for first reading.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-4. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction, updated the Committee on handwriting instruction at WRPS. Ms. Wilhorn shared samples of handwriting books that are currently being used in grades K-5. Students learn manuscript from kindergarten to mid-year of grade 2. They are then introduced to cursive and continue cursive instruction through grade 5. Ms. Wilhorn noted that cursive handwriting has always been taught in the District.
- Background information was shared regarding two different student groups: one of which is traveling to Nashville, TN for girls softball, and the other which is traveling to Decorah, Iowa to attend the Dorian Orchestra Festival.
- Ms. Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed results of the 2018-19 School and District Report Cards.
- Superintendent Broeren shared information about two new programs that have been implemented in the 2019-20 school year including the Innovation Education Grant opportunity for staff members, and a substitute raffle for employees that was developed in which winners are able to take a personal day off while an administrator fills in to cover their scheduled assignment for the day. Staff members have expressed positive feedback concerning these programs.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the December 2, 2019 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – December 2, 2019. 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 for the implementation of the AkitaBox Inc. software and services for cataloging and developing a maintenance schedule for District equipment at a one-time fee of \$25,000.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Purchases of band uniforms from DeMoulin for Lincoln High School, and a dishwasher from Streich Equipment for Woodside Elementary;
- A review by the Committee of the Honeywell Outcome Based Service (OBS) contract;
- Student eligibility counts by building for free and reduced meals through November, 2019.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the December 2, 2019 Business Services Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – December 2, 2019. 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 Vicky Belke (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Cynthia Krush (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), and Sandra Southworth (Club Mead Aide – Mead).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff resignation of Denise Provost (Special Ed Aide – Washington).
- PS-3 Approval of Board Policy 453.4 – Administering Medications to Students for second reading.
- PS-4 Approval of Board Policy 453.4 Rule – Medication Administration Procedures for second reading.
- PS-5 Approval of Board Policy 537 – Professional Staff Growth and Development for second reading.
- PS-6 Approval of Board Policy 537.1 – Attendance at Workshops and Conferences for second reading.
- PS-7 Approval of Board Policy 537.2 – New Colleague Orientation for second reading.
- PS-8 Approval of a \$1.00 above base increase for the LHS registrar position effective December 13, 2019, to be in alignment with other District year-round clerical positions.
- PS-9 Approval of the option for hourly support staff to make up lost hours due to emergency school closures as presented by administration and proposed language changes to the Food Service and Office/Clerical and Aide Support Staff Handbooks as presented in attachments.
- PS-10 Approval of an increase to the elementary keyboarding position by a .18 FTE when second grade keyboarding begins in the spring of 2020.

Sandra Hett requested that consent agenda item PS-9 be held out.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items PS 1-8 and 10. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to PS-9, Ms. Hett expressed concerns about the request for staff to make up lost hours due to school closure days, and believes the school closure days occurring in 2018-19 was highly unusual and not likely to be a reoccurring event. The administration expressed support for the make-up opportunity for staff as they could use the time to attend training that would be developed and tailored to their needs, depending upon their position. The Board discussed the request.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda item PS 9. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. Sandra Hett voted no.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the December 2, 2019 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

- Mr. Benbow mentioned that upcoming WASB resolutions should be on the January Board agenda for discussion and possible action.
- Ms. Hett requested additional information about what the District pays in bus camera charges for the entire year. Mr. Broeren will obtain the requested information for the Board. He provided a brief update on the

process of soliciting bids for bus cameras; more information will be shared for Board consideration once it has been gathered.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- Neither legislative chamber is scheduled to be in session for the month of December.
- Governor Evers signed four K-12 education related bills into law on November 21:
 - Assembly Bill 51 modifies the eligibility criteria for the minority teacher loan program and expands the definition of a minority student;
 - Assembly Bill 54 allows a public school to provide warning to students before a fire, tornado, or school safety incident drill;
 - Assembly Bill 194 creates an alternative pathway to initial licensure as a special education teacher;
 - Assembly Bill 195 converts teaching licenses based on reciprocity into Tier II licenses, and allows such licenses to become Tier III lifetime licenses after the completion of 6 semesters of teaching experience; and allows a teacher to receive a license based on reciprocity if they have successfully taught for 2 semesters under a DPI-issued license or permit.
- Senator Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) and Rep. Sondy Pope (D-Mt. Horeb) are circulating a bill draft for legislative support authorizing school districts to rehire retired teachers without those teachers having to give up their pensions. A similar proposal was introduced by Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) which is not limited to retired teachers, but all Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) retirees; however, that proposal caps a retiree's return to 3 years and also includes an increase in the minimum retirement age for all WRS participants who fall into the general employee classification, including state employees.
- Something to be watching is a proposed constitutional amendment authored by state Senator Dave Craig (R-Big Bend) would prohibit the governor from using his veto authority to increase spending. A proposed constitutional amendment must be approved by the state Legislature in two consecutive sessions and then be approved by voters in a statewide referendum.

Mr. Bier stated that some interesting discussions were held by a panel of legislators during the Legislative Advocacy Conference that he and other Board members attended on November 2, 2019. Materials from the conference will be posted on WASB's website for those interested. The upcoming State Education Convention is scheduled for January 22-24, 2020, and will provide additional learning and networking opportunities for Board members.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note November, 2019 receipts in the amount of \$1,750,058.62 and approve November, 2019 disbursements in the amount of \$4,004,698.43. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointment and Resignation Requests

Brian Oswall, Director of Human Resources, presented the following employment recommendations for approval:

Support Staff Appointment

Cindy Bates	Location:	Washington Elementary School
	Position:	Special Education Aide (7.0 hours/day)
	Effective Date:	December 3, 2019
	Hourly Rate:	\$14.99 (starting rate) / \$15.77 (after 60 days)

Support Staff Resignation

Sandra Southworth	Location:	Mead Elementary School
	Position:	Noon Duty Aide (1.50 hrs/day) / Club Mead Aide (4.5 hrs/day)
	Effective Date:	December 6, 2019
	Date of Hire:	November 11, 2019 / November 18, 2019

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the support staff appointment of Cindy Bates as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Benbow to approve of the support staff resignation of Sandra Southworth as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Request from Rapids Area Soccer Soccer, Inc. (RASI) to Construct a Shelter at Washington Elementary Fields

Mr. Broeren introduced Ahmad Musallum, President of RASI, to explain their request to construct a shelter south of the existing concession building at the Washington Elementary soccer fields. Mr. Musallum provided a construction drawing of the proposed shelter which, if approved, they hope to have completed during the summer of 2020. The shelter would be utilized by all groups for protection from the elements, as a meeting area, coaching and refereeing training area, and to complement the physical activities occurring on the fields. The entire project would be funded by RASI through grants and selling commemorative engraved tiles which will be installed on the columns of the shelter, resulting in no cost to the District. Mr. Musallum provided an overview of the various projects involving RASI and the District over the years and expressed his gratitude for the excellent working relationship that has been established. The Board indicated they realize the positive programming and economic impact that the soccer complex has had on the surrounding community with the events and activities that get scheduled there, and complimented the RASI group for their efforts in continuing to upgrade the fields and partner with the District over the years.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the request from Rapids Area Soccer, Inc. for them to fully fund and construct a shelter south of the existing concession building located at the Washington Elementary soccer fields. Motion carried unanimously.

Annual School Violence Drill Review and Approval

Mr. Broeren explained that in accordance with Wisconsin Act 143, each school has conducted their annual school violence drill. The Board was provided a copy of the narrative developed by each building principal for the drills they conducted. Once approved, the drills will be uploaded to the State's repository prior to the deadline of January 1, 2020. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the information.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the written school violence event drill evaluations submitted by each building principal under Wis. Stat. 118.07(4)(cp). Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 731.2 – Use of Electronic Surveillance Technology in Public Areas of School Buildings and Property

Mr. Broeren stated that he has been working closely with law enforcement concerning the sharing of surveillance data in emergency circumstances. As a result of those discussions, revisions are being recommended for Board Policy 731.2 – Use of Electronic Surveillance Technology in Public Areas of School Buildings and Property which address police-worn body cameras and each party's responsibility with regard to pupil records versus law enforcement records. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the suggested revisions to Board Policy 731.2 – Use of Electronic Surveillance Technology in Public Areas of School Buildings and Property for first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding with Law Enforcement Partners

Mr. Broeren reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was developed to outline the District's relationship with local law enforcement and their ability to access school surveillance footage in District schools under emergency circumstances. Similar MOUs from other districts have been reviewed, and local law enforcement agencies, along with their corporate counsel, have provided feedback on the draft being presented. The Board recommended one slight revision on page two of the MOU to remove specific names of employees.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with law enforcement for emergency situation access to District security cameras with noted changes included in the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

2018-19 Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report

Mr. Broeren reviewed the 2018-19 Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report on Communication with Those Charged with Governance and Management Advisory Comments documentation provided by the District's auditing firm. The Board was pleased to learn that the overall audit went well, and the auditing firm was complimentary of the Business Services Department staff for their efforts on behalf of the District.

2019-20 Amendment of District Budget

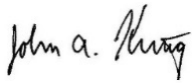
Mr. Broeren explained that the administration is recommending that a budget amendment be made to the 2019-20 District budget that was approved by the Board in June, 2019. The approved tax levy will remain unchanged by the recommendation. Primary reasons for the changes relate to the actual numbers for state funding becoming available after the pupil count and property value calculations were finalized; staffing expenses being determined based upon needs and approved increases; health insurance benefit increases; Fund 38 debt defeasance taking place; additional grant spending; and to align the budget with specific required DPI account coding. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of amending the 2019-20 District budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk