



# 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

February 10, 2020

### 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, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett, John Krings, Katie Medina, Mary Rayome

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: Troy Bier

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Brian Oswald, Danielle Scott, Ed Allison, Elizabeth Messerli

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

#### Student Representative's Report

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

- ◆ Student Council will be receiving the Wisconsin Association of School Councils "Spirit of Excellence" award at an upcoming Milwaukee Bucks game
- ◆ The National Honor Society placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in a snow sculpting contest held on February 8, 2020
- ◆ Forensics will be competing in their first meet at Auburndale on February 17, 2020
- ◆ The high school musical "Little Mermaid" is slated to occur April 23-26, 2020
- ◆ National Honor Society is planning to volunteer during the upcoming Kiwanis Youth Outdoor Day
- ◆ The FACT group will be hosting a workshop during a teen health conference scheduled to occur in Marshfield on April 14, 2020

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of January 13, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

#### Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – February 3, 2020. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Ms. Rayome 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 361.1 Rule – Procedures for Selection and Reconsideration of Library Materials for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of the 2020-21 Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools' (WRPS) Strategic Plan.
- ES-3 Approval of the proposed modifications to the WRPS Response to Intervention Guide.

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-3. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Rayome provided updates and reports on:

- Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, Tracy Hauke, Lincoln High School (LHS) Librarian, Kirsten Johnson, Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) Librarian, and Jamie Jestadt, Elementary Librarian updated the Committee on the library and technology plan in WRPS. The District focus is on having Future Ready schools and students. Librarians presented ways that are being used to accomplish this, including frameworks and a digital learning plan. Surveys have been conducted to evaluate where students are in meeting the Strategic Plan Objective 1 at WRAMS and LHS. The surveys show positive results.
- Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviewed results from the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) Mid-Year Report. The District has provided more professional development in math, and student results reflect positively on this. Ms. Filtz further explained that in elementary reading classes, reading stamina is encouraged daily. Students also have opportunities to choose books of interest that encourage prolonged reading stamina.

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the February 3, 2020 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Business Services Committee – February 3, 2020. 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 the proposed Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing Cooperative 66.0301 Agreement for the 2020-21 school year.
- BS-2 Approval of the proposed award from the Chef Ann Foundation, valued at approximately \$168,966, along with an additional opportunity for a systems assistant grant of \$35,000 for the Food Service Department.
- BS-3 Approval of the purchase of 2019-20 Floor Finish Supplies as presented.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items BS 1-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the February 3, 2020 Business Services Committee. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Personnel Services Committee – February 3, 2020. 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 Morgan Tracy (Occupational Therapist – District) and Sara Danke-Lukaszewicz (PAC Assistant Coordinator – District).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointment of Shelly Anderson (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln).
- PS-3 Approval of the resignation of Tim Bruns from his Summer School Principal position (*effective May 15, 2020*).
- PS-4 Approval of the professional staff resignation request of Janice Gerlach (Counselor – THINK/Lincoln).

PS-5 Approval of the support staff resignation request of Kalie Abel (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln).

PS-6 Approval of the professional staff early retirement request of Patricia Larsen (Teacher – Washington/THINK).

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items PS 1-6. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- Substitute pay rate and current substitute fill rate.
- WRPS current starting base wage in comparison to other area districts. Committee members requested that the administration bring a base wage proposal to the March Personnel Services Committee meeting.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the February 3, 2020 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Katie Medina suggested that some consideration be given to reviewing how WRPS and local area school districts, specifically Port Edwards and Nekoosa, might work together as a consortium to share services where possible. Particular areas mentioned included virtual learning, foreign language, pupil services director or special services staffing time, and/or possibly developing new schools concentrated in the areas of art or technical education. The Board considered past meetings which have occurred between the Boards of Port Edwards and Nekoosa to explore shared services possibilities. More focus in the discussions might produce better results. All were in agreement that inviting local legislators to consortium meetings in the past hasn't proven to be particularly helpful or beneficial. Superintendent Broeren explained that some of these conversations with other districts do occur currently; however, based upon student demand and/or need, WRPS doesn't have additional staff time to provide or sell. Board members mentioned the fact that smaller districts have the opportunity to purchase specialized services to meet student needs through their local CESA organization. Mr. Broeren will speak about these topics with area superintendents in future conversations.

#### Legislative Agenda

John Benbow shared the following information:

- Governor Evers called for a special session of the legislature to convene on February 11, 2020 to take up a plan to invest a portion of state surplus funding in K-12 education, with key areas being special education reimbursement aid and a proposed sparsity aid increase.
- The Assembly Committee on Education will hold a public hearing on February 12, 2020 to take public testimony on several bills relating to American Indian studies, reading instruction/dyslexia, and the expansion of part-time enrollment.
- Bipartisan legislation in Assembly Bill 476 would require lead testing of drinking water in schools. Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 contains changes to the bill which addresses some of the concerns expressed by WASB.
- Seventeen WASB resolutions were adopted by the 2020 Delegate Assembly, with one resolution pertaining to Native American mascots not adopted.
- In his recent State of the Union address, President Trump recently touted proposed federal tax breaks to support private school choice.
- Superintendent Broeren made mention of the impact of Governor Evers' plan to invest \$250 million of the \$450 million in state surplus funds that would include a commitment to two-thirds funding in statewide K-12 and provide funding for school-based mental health and special education aid. The estimated impact for additional proposed special education reimbursement aid for WRPS is around \$495,100. Obtaining these dollars would free up money in the General Fund which could be used on regular spending. The plan provides an additional \$3.75 million for School-Based Mental Health Collaboration grants, and also includes a provision to pass along \$130 million in equalization aid for property tax relief.

- Mr. Benbow updated the Board on a pre-conference workshop entitled “Opportunity of Conflict” which he attended at the State Education Convention. In speaking with a number of Board members from other school districts, he learned of the animosity and divisiveness that exists among various boards throughout the state. He expressed appreciation toward fellow WRPS Board members and thanked them for their devotion and commitment to students. Mr. Benbow reviewed what the school board’s primary set of responsibilities includes, and described numerous ways Board members devote their time and attention to professional development activities and to support many school events and initiatives outside the Board room.

Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note January, 2020 receipts in the amount of \$10,381,175.09 and approve January, 2020 disbursements in the amount of \$6,516,000.84. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

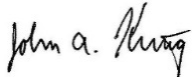
New Business

None.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk