



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

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

April 12, 2021

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Services Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
Conference Room 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, Aaron Nelson, Roxanne Filtz, Brian Oswald, Danielle Scott, Ed Allison

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Student Representative Report

No report for April as Rachel Marten is excused.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of March 8, 2021, special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of March 8, 2021, and special Board of Education meeting minutes of March 22, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – April 5, 2021. 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 the purchase of Edgenuity for the 2021-2022 school year, with the total cost of \$26,250 to be paid from Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Funds (ESSER II).
- ES-2 Approval of the proposed K-5 social studies acquisition not to exceed \$98,000.00, to be purchased with WRPS ESSER II funds.
- ES-3 Approval of the three applications to participate in the 11 requested courses at Mid-State Technical College through the Start College Now (SCN) program in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year.
- ES-4 Approval of the one application to participate in the one requested course at UW-Independent Learning through the early College Credit Program (ECCP) in the fall of the 2021-2022 school year.
- ES-5 Approval of a three-year program purchase of Mystery Science for a total cost of \$22,729.00, to be paid from the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSER II).
- ES-6 Approval of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between WRPS and Wood County Head Start as presented in Attachment D.
- ES-7 Approval of the proposed increase in staffing to address learning loss.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-7. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Rayome provided updates and reports on:

- Ms. Filtz shared progress of students at the end of trimester two as measured by Benchmark Books. Because of the unprecedented time for teaching and learning, this information is being shared to give a more accurate picture of where our students are performing in reading. Overall, the District percentages of students who are meeting the reading benchmarks are improving. She feels the District is slowly closing the learning gap.

Ms. Hett requested additional data around the impact that quarantines may be having on student learning.

Ms. Filtz will gather additional information for the Board.

- Ms. Filtz shared an outline of the District's plan for using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) dollars, as well as a view of how the district intends to spend the most recent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. The dollars will be used for school safety and health, mental, social and emotional well-being, and addressing learning losses sustained during the pandemic. The Board will receive ongoing frequent reports that detail how the Federal Relief Funds are being utilized.
- An update on enrollment in off-campus/virtual programs was provided. Virtual enrollments are down as more students return to buildings.
- A student trip to the Nashville Orchestra has been rescheduled for July 8 to July 11. The cost will stay at \$892 with no additional cost to families. One night at the hotel has been removed in order to cut down the cost that went up after the group size went down. The group is now at 40.
- Craig Broeren, Superintendent, indicated that the move to four days a week at the secondary level has been good. Over 800 staff and students have been surveillance tested, with very low numbers of positive cases. Since students returned March 26, there have been only four additional cases. Mr. Broeren continues to communicate with families and hopes to go to five days a week in the near future.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the April 5, 2021 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – April 5, 2021. 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 to terminate the 4K 66.0301 Cooperative Contract with Nekoosa and Port Edwards School Districts effective June 7, 2021.
- BS-2 Approval to purchase a work/plow truck from Wheelers in the amount of \$32,969.00 from the 2021-22 Buildings & Grounds Budget.
- BS-3 Approval of the purchase of three Juniper switches and a 5-year support contract from AE Business Solutions for a total cost of \$26,539.99 with 80% to be funded using anticipated Federal E-rate program dollars, and 20% to be funded from the 2021-22 Technology Budget.
- BS-4 Approval to contract with Current Technologies to rewire the Pitsch facility for a total cost of \$29,890.00 with 80% to be funded using anticipated Federal E-rate program dollars, and 20% to be funded from the 2021-22 Technology Budget.
- BS-5 Approval of the proposal from D.C. Steinle Inc. to construct a storage shed for track equipment at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School at a cost of \$31,640.00 to be paid from the 2020-21 Middle School Athletic Budget.
- BS-6 Approval of the application from Tim and Joan Radtke for construction of a home by the 2021-2022 Lincoln High School Building Trades Home Construction class.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items BS 1-6. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices from Kompas Care for special education student management software; Nassco for desk shields; Oasys Software for special education; Tweet Garot for a Howe hot water heater; Juniper Switches for network equipment; Fortigate Renewal; PDF for laptops for students and staff and Chromebooks for elementary staff; Capstone for Pebble Go database; Systems Technologies for Howe and WRAMS camera updates.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the April 5, 2021 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – April 5, 2021. 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 Christina Mitchell-Leitner (Teacher – LHS/WRAMS), Evan Platz (Teacher – WRAMS), Travis Sprague (Teacher – Lincoln), Brett Sutherland (Teacher – LHS), and Mackenzie Wockenfus (Teacher – District).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Adam Doerrler (Custodian – RCHS/Pitsch), Lynn Peterson (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside), Amy Modrzewski (Special Ed Aide – THINK), Tori Elmhurst-Koltz (Special Ed Aide – Mead), and Cheng Khang (ELL Aide – Mead/Grant).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff retirement of Sue Reinke (Library Aide - Grove).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff early retirements of Cathy Kapfhamer (Custodian – WRAMS), Jean Merriman (Library Aide – Woodside), and Cheryl Koch (Special Ed Aide – WRAMS).
- PS-5 Approval of the professional staff resignation of Rachel Crozier (Teacher – Howe).
- PS-6 Approval of the support staff resignation of Timothy Gildenzoph (Custodian – Pitsch and RCHS).

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-6. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the April 5, 2021 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier congratulated John Benbow, Katie Medina, and Larry Davis on their re-election to the Board. Mr. Bier then shared the following information:

- The statewide passage rate for school referenda on the April 6, 2021 ballot dipped in comparison with recent elections, with the biggest change seen in the rate of passage for board's seeking approval of school borrowing (debt issuance). Of the 70 total school referendums on the ballot, 42 were passed for an overall passage rate of 60 percent.
- The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) will hold the first of its four scheduled public hearings on the state budget on Friday, April 9, 2021 at UW-Whitewater. Other hearings are scheduled for April 21 at Rhinelander, April 22 at UW-Stout in Menomonie, and a statewide virtual hearing will occur on April 28.
- WASB recently interviewed Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek), member of the powerful Joint Finance Committee to gather her thoughts on the governor's budget proposal for schools. Rep. Rodriguez expressed concern that the level of spending in the governor's proposal may not be sustainable moving forward, but was optimistic that there would ultimately be bipartisan agreement and mentioned special education aid and broadband expansion as shared priorities.
- The Senate recently passed the following bills which will move to the Governor's desk for signature:

- SB 39 – allows a pupil who attends a virtual charter school to participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in the pupil’s resident school district
- SB 109 – allows a pupil to attend a “fully virtual option” offered by a nonresident school board or a charter school located in a nonresident school district under the full-time open enrollment program
- SB 110 – provides specifics around the number and type of applications that a pupil may submit to a nonresident school board under open enrollment
- SB 183 – concerning Legislative oversight of federal COVID-19 funds

Two bills passed the Senate and are moving on to the Assembly:

- SB 52 – if an incumbent files a notification of noncandidacy or fails to file a declaration of candidacy, that fact must be posted on the internet or in three different locations within the relevant jurisdiction if there is no internet site
- SB 95 – requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop, in consultation with the WIAA and at least two pediatric cardiologists, an information sheet on the nature and risk of sudden cardiac arrest during youth athletic activities

Two bills passed the Assembly and are moving on to the Senate:

- AB 23 – prohibits DHS and local health officers from requiring individuals to receive a COVID vaccine
- AB 25 – prohibits employers from requiring employees or prospective employees to receive a COVID vaccine as a condition of employment

- The DPI is creating a new webpage with recommendations for using federal COVID relief funds.
- Jill Underly defeated Deb Kerr as the next State Superintendent, and will be serving in a 4-year term
- The Senate and Assembly Committees on Education held a joint informational hearing on Thursday, April 8, 2021 to take invited testimony on “Federal Funding Distributed to Wisconsin related to K-12 Education.”
- School boards across the state will hold their reorganization meetings at the end of April.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note March, 2021 receipts in the amount of \$13,818,403.26 and approve March, 2021 disbursements in the amount of \$3,947,864.99. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Unfinished/Old Business

Future Levy Override and Bond Issue Referendum Questions

Superintendent Broeren provided an update on the successful passage of the two referendum questions on the ballot. As levy override and bond issue conversations develop, the Board will be kept apprised of all aspects of these funding mechanisms, and recommended resolutions will be brought through at appropriate times. A core group of individuals from the District and construction/architect firms will be meeting to develop a schedule moving forward.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

Mr. Oswall presented the following professional staff appointment:

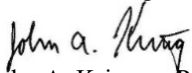
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|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Christy Meld | Location: | Grant Elementary |
| | Position: | Teacher (1.0 FTE) |
| | Effective Date: | Beginning of 2021-22 School Year |
| | Salary: | \$55,000/annual |

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the professional staff appointment of Christy Meld. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk