



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

John A. Krings, President
John Benbow, Jr.
Troy Bier
Larry Davis
Katie Medina
Kathi Stebbins-Hintz
Julie Timm

August 14, 2023

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: District Board Office, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
Conf Rm A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Larry Davis, John Krings, Katie Medina, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Julie Timm

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: Troy Bier

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Phil Bickelhaupt, Craig Broeren, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Brian Oswald

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None.

School Showcase – River Cities High School

River Cities High School (RCHS) Principal Steve Hepp was joined by staff members Don Neve, Marti Olivares, and Tim Studinger to present on unique ways staff provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of students attending River Cities. The presentation touched on the history of River Cities as an alternative high school which has graduated 1,484 students since its inception in 2000. The school utilizes a “Creative Action Plan” model to guide plans for students that take into account creative, psychological, physical, interpersonal, and financial self-care. Specific initiatives tied to the model were shared along with positive student feedback about their experience at RCHS. Board members thanked Mr. Hepp and the RCHS staff for their presentation as well as their positive impact on students to help them be successful.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of regular Board of Education meeting minutes of July 17, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – August 7, 2023. Report given by Katie Medina.

Ms. Medina 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 Policies 352 - Field Trips, 352 Rule – Field Trip Planning Criteria, 354 – Travel and Exchange Programs, and 539.2 – Exchange Teaching for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of Board Policies 443 Student Conduct, 443 Rule – Code of Classroom Conduct, 443.9 – Cheating, 443.9 Rule (1) – Cheating Guidelines, 443.9 Rule (2) – Plagiarism Guidelines and 310 Instructional Goals and Objectives for first reading.
- ES-3 Approval to apply for the Title VI Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Formula Grant in the amount of \$20,771.00.
- ES-4 Approval to migrate from Skyward SMS 2.0 to Skyward Qmlativ and enter into a new 3-year contract with Skyward and ISCorp for a cost of \$23,383.74 to be funded from the 2023-2024 Technology Support Budget.

Committee Reports (continued)

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-4. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Medina provided updates and reports on:

- Updates being made to the *School Health Manual* around contact information, updated forms, and procedural changes in nursing services.
- The District annual Seclusion and physical restraint report. Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, noted a decline from 48 to 29 restraints which may be attributed to factors such as the increased training of staff in this area, mental health and trauma training that has occurred, and the implementation of social and emotional learning curriculum which has helped students and staff become more aware of triggers and regulation. Changes being implemented in the debriefing process after a second incident occurs were explained.
- The Committee learned that the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grant awards funds of up to \$1,000 per student for each class of 2022 high school graduate who has earned industry-recognized certifications, and WRPS had 95 claims approved, resulting in an allocation of \$67,016.80.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the August 7, 2023 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – August 7, 2023. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow reviewed the following consent agenda item brought before the Board through the Business Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held:

BS-1 Approval to purchase and install additional security surveillance cameras and door access control at Mead, Washington, Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School, East Junior High, and Lincoln High School from Systems Technologies at a total cost of \$72,351.00 to be funded from Fund 46 in accordance with the District 10-year Facility Plan.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices, bid specs, and purchases made
- Wisconsin Retirement System rate increase of 0.2% on January 1, 2024
- Placement of a WoodTrust Bank ATM machine at Lincoln High School. *Board members raised questions around circumstances when card fees are assessed, and Mr. Broeren clarified that non-WoodTrust Bank customers would be assessed a fee. He also clarified the differences between a convenience fee and service fees in terms of what can be passed along to the user.*

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the August 7, 2023 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – August 7, 2023. Report given by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz 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 Bridget Koeshall-Chariton (Office/Health Aide – Washington) and Kimberly Brillowski (Administrative Assistant – District).
- PS-2 Approval of the professional staff resignations pending receipt of liquidated damages of Evan Platz (Science Teacher – WRAMS) and Sydney Erspamer (ELA Teacher – WRAMS).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff resignations of Connie Schmutzer (Kitchen Helper – Lincoln), Amanda Belke (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Amanda Grant (Kitchen Manager – Howe), Kristin Weidman (Special Ed Aide – WRAMS), Kate McAllister (Special Ed Aide – Grove), and Curtis Filtz (Relief Custodian – District).

- PS-4 Approval of a one-time stipend of \$2,000 for Sarah Ehleiter for the coordination of the Title VI program for the 2023-24 school year.
- PS-5 Approval of Board Policy 347 Rule - Guidelines for the Control and Maintenance of Student Records for second reading.
- PS-6 Approval of Board Policy 525 - Personnel Records for second reading.
- PS-7 Approval of Board Policy 823 - Access to Public Records for second reading.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda items PS 1-7. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the regular August 7, 2023 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

John Benbow shared the following information:

- Governor Evers signed Assembly Bill 233 into law allowing school board members to serve as volunteer school bus drivers.
- A group of legislators introduced SB 395 which would eliminate the statutory restrictions on the low revenue ceiling which currently freeze low-spending school districts that failed an operational referendum from utilizing increases in the low revenue ceiling for three years.
- Governor Evers signed Assembly Bill 321 related to updating early literacy instruction into law as 2023 Act 20 which would:
 - create an Office of Literacy to be known as the Wisconsin Reading Center at DPI
 - create the Council on Early Literacy Curricula
 - create a literacy coaching program through which the Office of Literacy would assign 64 contracted literacy coaches to schools
 - create grants to cover 50 percent of the costs of purchasing approved curriculum and instructional materials
 - prohibit the use of instruction or materials that contain the “three-cueing” method of literacy instruction
 - increases frequency of screening and diagnostic reading assessments and prescribes specific interventions
 - requires changes in how educators are prepared to teach reading

Bills

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to note July, 2023 receipts in the amount of \$128,462.96 and approve July, 2023 disbursements in the amount of \$18,560,692.65. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

Brian Oswall, Director of Human Resources, presented the following professional staff appointment recommendations effective with the 2023-24 school year:

Cyndee Lewis	Location:	Central Oaks Academy
	Position:	Teacher – Grade 3 (.20 FTE)
	Education:	Master’s – St. Mary’s University – December, 2019 BA – UW Stevens Point – May, 1983
	Major/Minor:	Education, Elementary Education/Spanish
	Salary:	\$10,147

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the professional staff appointment of Cyndee Lewis as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Oswall also presented the following non-represented support staff resignation:

Natasha Slattery	Location:	District
	Position:	School Nurse
	Effective Date:	August 7, 2023
	Date of Hire:	August 29, 2017

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve of the resignation of Natasha Slattery. Motion carried unanimously.

Electronic Board Communication and Use of Devices

Superintendent Craig Broeren presented a proposal for the Board to consider which would include issuing Board members Chromebook devices to receive meeting materials and communication in digital format. Should the Board be willing to move in this direction, all hard copy materials sent via the U.S. Postal Service would cease. Some savings in postage and copy costs would be experienced through this change. Mr. Broeren explained that relying on the Postal Service to deliver Board materials in a timely fashion has become challenging, and delays in the postal system has caused paper packets to be delivered well past meeting dates at certain times. To ensure the Board receives materials in a timely fashion, hand deliveries of materials has become a more frequent occurrence.

A comparison of the electronic method used by DC Everest, Stevens Point, and Wausau was considered along with affiliated costs. Annual subscription rates can range from \$3,250 to \$10,000 for certain platforms to be used; however, Mr. Broeren proposes the use of Google Drive which would be an efficient and secure platform to share information at no additional cost. Board members have been receiving meeting materials in digital form via Drive for the past year, and it has been going well. Confidential materials are typically not shared digitally, and this would continue. For the sake of uniformity and to house all Board information in one place to keep it off of personal computers, Mr. Broeren recommends that a Chromebook device be purchased for each Board member for a total cost of \$2,488.50.

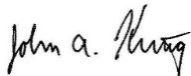
Board members discussed the proposal and ultimately expressed a willingness to move toward the electronic delivery of meeting information with the understanding that some flexibility in transitioning to a full digital interface may be necessary.

Motion by Julie Timm, seconded by John Benbow to approve of purchasing technology devices for Board member use from PDS at a cost of \$2,488.50. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk