



**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

April 8, 2024

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: Troy Bier, Larry Davis, John Krings, Katie Medina, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Julie Timm

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: John Benbow

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, 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.

Special Recognition

President Krings presented special recognition to outgoing Board Member, Larry Davis and thanked him and Katie Medina for their longstanding service and dedication on the Board.

School Showcase – River Cities High School

Principal Steve Hepp and staff members from River Cities High School presented information about the initiatives occurring at the school to help students be successful and graduate. Use of the Phoenix logo was explained along with the “RISE” acronym that helps students accept Responsibility, take initiative to Improve their lives, develop Support systems, and Elevate themselves to raise themselves up and grow. The Board thanked Mr. Hepp and River Cities staff members for their informative presentation.

Student Representative Report

Sarah Panzer reported on:

- Students and staff enjoyed the recent viewing of the solar eclipse that occurred
- Parent teacher conferences for Lincoln High School (LHS) are scheduled to occur on April 22, 2024
- A musical performance of “My Fair Lady” by the LHS Theater Department is coming up on April 25-27, 2024
- The high school prom is scheduled for May 4, 2024

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of March 11, 2024; and special open and closed session Board minutes of March 11, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – April 1, 2024. Report given by Katie Medina.

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

- ES-1 Approval of 10 student applications to participate in 30 requested courses at Mid-State Technical College through the Start College Now program in the fall of the 2024-25 school year as presented.
- ES-2 Approval of the suggested revisions to the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Co-Curricular Activities Code of Conduct for Grades 6-12.

- ES-3 Approval of the continued implementation of the Playworks program at Grant, Grove, Howe and THINK elementary schools as well as new implementation of the program at Mead, Washington, and Woodside during the 2024-2025 school year at a total cost of \$120,700.00 to be funded through the Mental Health Grant and Stronger Connection Grant.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items ES 1-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Medina provided updates and reports on:

- The Committee learned that Lincoln High School's DECA team has 21 competitors moving on to the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Additionally, 5 students will attend the THRIVE Leadership Academy conference due to the LHS chapter's membership, community service, and promotional campaigns. Twenty-six students, three advisors, and one administrator will be attending the ICDC conference in Anaheim, California from April 25, 2024 through May 1, 2024. Payment for the trip will come from LHS DECA fundraisers, The Wolf Den sales, and the CTE Technical Incentive grant.
- Ms. Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, explained that Lincoln High School's Spanish Level 5 course offering has been approved as a dual credit option through UW-Green Bay. In addition, if students earn a grade of a B- or higher in Level 5, they will retroactively receive college credit for the previous Spanish courses, allowing students to enter a college with 14 college credits completed in World Language. The dual credit offering will begin with the 2024-25 school year. The LHS Spanish 5 curriculum/syllabus was approved by UW-Green Bay, which means that none of the curriculum or curriculum maps will need to change. Through the transcript process, students could take earned credits to any college of their choice that will accept the transcripts from UW-Green Bay.
- Eric Siler, District CTE Coordinator, provided an update on District Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming which provides an important pathway to student success. CTE is a student-driven, adult supported process in which students create and cultivate their own unique and information-based visions for post-secondary success obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills. Mr. Siler reviewed Chapter PI-26 legislation which requires every school district to provide Academic and Career Planning (ACP) and Education for Employment (E4E) services to pupils enrolled in grades 6-12. Specific information was shared about how career awareness is introduced and built upon from the elementary level through grade 12. A number of pathways for students was covered along with Advanced Placement opportunities, advanced standing, and transcripted credit. Students have access to multiple resources and help offered through the Academic and Career Planning (ACP) Center, and the ACP process has strong support from local business and Wisconsin education partners.

The Carl Perkins Grant focuses on preparing all students for high skill, high demand, high wage local and regional career pathways. The grant covers costs associated with professional development, dual credit expansion, hardware and software, equipment and supplies, and student classroom career exploration travel expenses. The 2024-25 Carl Perkins grant request in an amount of \$52,000 will be coming to the Board for approval in the future.

The CTE Technical Incentive Grant focuses on encouraging school districts to offer Department of Workforce Development approved industry-recognized certifications to students. These funds cover costs associated with growing CTE programs and expanding opportunities for students to earn industry-based certification. In 2023, WRPS received a total of \$67,680.00 in Technical Incentive Grant funding for industry-based student certifications.

Mr. Krings noted the Board's appreciation for receiving a tour of CTE areas at Lincoln High School on April 1, 2024.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the April 1, 2024 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – April 1, 2024. Report given by Julie Timm.

Ms. Timm 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 application from Scott and Kim Ahles for the construction of a home by the 2024-25 Lincoln High School Building Trades Home Construction class.

- BS-2 Approval of the quote received from Stalker Flooring to refinish the Lincoln High School fieldhouse floor in July 2024 at a cost of \$65,300.00 to be paid from the 2024-25 Fund 46 account.
- BS-3 Approval of the purchase of basketball units from Specialty Closures, Inc. at a cost of \$24,900.00 and a Daktronics scoreboard purchase for \$18,208.20 at a total cost of \$43,108.20. Lincoln High School student activity accounts will pay \$40,000.00 and the remaining cost of \$3,108.20 to be paid from the Lincoln High School athletic budget.
- BS-4 Approval of the replacement of all univent controllers at Mead Elementary at a total cost of \$26,430.00 to be paid out of the 2023-24 Buildings and Grounds budget.
- BS-5 Approval of security cameras and door access control at Lincoln, WRAMS and THINK Academy, with installation by preferred vendor System Technologies at a total cost of total cost of \$62,035.00 to be paid from Fund 46 in accordance with the District 10-year facility plan.
- BS-6 Approval of the purchase of the ParentSquare mass communication software application for a term of three years from ParentSquare at an upfront total cost of \$71,680.00 be funded from the remaining District ESSER III funds.

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

Ms. Timm provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices, bid specs, and purchases made

Motion by Julie Timm, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the April 1, 2024 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – April 1, 2024. 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 Lisa Dixon (Special Ed Aide – Howe), Arianna Moore (Noon Duty Aide – Mead), and Hannah Nelson (ELL Aide – WRAMS).
- PS-2 Approval of the professional staff resignations of Ka Zoua Thao (Teacher – Grant/Howe) and Kate Coenen (Teacher – WRAMS).
- PS-3 Approval of a special education teacher position to support special education students who receive off-site instruction.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items PS 1-3. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the regular April 1, 2024 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Bier shared the following legislative updates:

- Larry Davis chose not to run for reelection and Katie Medina lost her seat on the Board; Mr. Bier thanked them for their service on the Board. He then extended a welcome to newcomers Christopher Inda and Elizabeth St. Myers, who will be joining the Board on April 22, 2024 along with incumbent John Benbow, who retained his seat on the Board.
- Governor Evers signed 11 education related bills into law ranging in topics from raising safety standards, broadening a tech-ed grant program, educator licensing, changes to certain aspects of Act 20 training and screener requirements, and numerous stocking medication bills. He also vetoed SB 549 which would have required schools to admit certain federally chartered youth organizations once a year for recruiting purposes.

- On March 27, 2024 Governor Evers signed AB 1050 into law as 2023 Wisconsin Act 240, which will allow the Office of School Safety (OSS) to use funds raised through concealed carry permit fees to continue funding their operations. This stopgap measure only allows for these measures to stay in effect through the next budget cycle, which means legislators will need to appropriate more money to the office in the next budget cycle or OSS will risk closure or a significant reduction in services.
- With new State legislative maps getting signed into law, there are many changes coming, including possible changes to longstanding relationships that school districts may have established with state representatives. All ninety-nine state Assembly seats will be up for election in the fall of 2024, and one-third of the Senate seats are also up for election.
- Fifty-six of 93 school referendums on the April 2nd ballot were approved by voters in districts where questions were asked, which is a passage rate of slightly over 60 percent. A further breakdown reveals that 19 out of 30 (63%) referendums for issuing debt passed, 26 out of 43 (60%) non-recurring referendums passed, and 11 out of 20 (55%) recurring referendums passed. Locally, both Port Edwards and Stevens Point school districts had referendum questions that passed.
- Governor Evers signed AB 232 into law as 2023 Wisconsin Act 266 which requires school boards to provide instruction on Hmong and Asian Americans as part of already required instruction on human relations and certain demographic groups.

Bills

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Larry Davis to note March, 2024 receipts in the amount of \$16,066,269.12 and approve March, 2024 disbursements in the amount of \$3,997,972.39. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

District Academic and Career Planning/Education for Employment (E4E) Plan

Ms. Filtz explained that the Academic and Career Planning (ACP) initiative, which includes the Education for Employment (E4E) Plan, as outlined during the April, 2024 Educational Services Committee meeting needs to undergo formal Board approval. The administration recommends approval of the District ACP/E4E Plan.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Julie Timm to approve of the WRPS Academic and Career Planning and Education for Employment (E4E) Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds, Establishment of an Escrow Account, and Defeasance of Debt

Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services, presented a Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds, the establishment of an escrow account with respect to and the defeasance of certain of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021, dated August 2, 2021. A final 2024 defeasance analysis worksheet was reviewed which reflected the original \$32,855,000 in debt issued on August 2, 2021 from passage of the April, 2021 referendum to be reduced to a total amount owed of \$20,750,000 as a result of the proposed \$4,020,000 principal reduction being requested through the defeasance action. In a three-year period since passage of the referendum, the District will have paid off \$12,105,000 in outstanding debt.

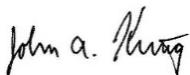
The current request would have \$4,260,798 of the 2024 levy applied toward Fund 39 defeasance costs. This will result in an overall reduction of future debt service levies of \$4,610,875 and a net Fund 39 savings of \$414,602. The principal amount of debt that will be reduced is \$4,020,000. Since the District will receive approximately \$1,304,656 in aid as a result of the debt payment being made, the action will likely help reduce property taxes at the local level. Mr. Broeren clarified that the projections provided are only estimates, and any property tax reductions will be dependent upon the Third Friday Pupil count final numbers, equalized aid based upon property values, and other factors that go into certifying the tax levy in October. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the proposal.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of a Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds, the establishment of an escrow account with respect to and the defeasance of certain of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021, dated August 2, 2021. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

Mr. Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk