



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

John A. Krings, President
John Benbow, Jr.
Troy Bier
Christopher Inda
Kathi Stebbins-Hintz
Elizabeth St. Myers
Julie Timm

December 9, 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: John Benbow, Troy Bier, Christopher Inda, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Elizabeth St. Myers, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Brian Oswald, Ronald Rasmussen, Rodrick Watson

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment
None.

Special Presentation – Seeking Educational Equity & Diversity – Ho-Chunk School District Collaboration

Superintendent Ronald Rasmussen introduced Michelle Cloud, Division Manager for the Ho-Chunk Education Department, and Bethany Redbird, School Community Relations Director from the Ho-Chunk Nation who both joined the meeting virtually. Ms. Cloud and Ms. Redbird described ways in which the Ho-Chunk Nation has been collaborating with the District to offer courses for educators such as the Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) virtual class to learn more about educational equity and inclusive practices for the betterment of all students. Mr. Rasmussen stated that Ho-Chunk representatives have come to Lincoln High School to present to students, which has been mutually beneficial. Board members were invited to participate in an upcoming SEED class in January, and also encouraged to reach out anytime to learn more about social justice issues and/or Ho-Chunk programming.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative Delainey Morrison shared updates on the following:

- Winter sports is beginning with boys and girls hockey, boys swim and dive, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls wrestling, and gymnastics
- The second trimester began on December 2nd
- Lincoln High School Key Club participated in a “Santa’s Workshop” for elementary students on Saturday, December 7th
- An orchestra concert is scheduled for December 16th, and a Community Holiday Concert is scheduled for December 19th
- Winter break begins December 23rd with students returning on January 2nd

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Julie Timm to approve special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of October 10, 2024 and October 30, 2024; regular Board meeting minutes of November 11, 2024; special closed session Board meeting minutes of November 13, 2024; and special Board of Education meeting minutes of December 2, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee ReportsEducational Services Committee – December 2, 2024. Report given by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz 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 the recommendation by the administration for the District to not move forward with the implementation of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program at Lincoln High School at the present time.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda item ES 1. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. John Benbow voted no.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz provided updates and reports on:

- WRPS Innovation Mini-Grant recipients for 2024-25 include Missy Henneman, Joni Feidt, and Jennifer Landers.
- A potential 2025-26 school calendar change is being considered by the administration which would move the spring break dates, shift a student contact day, and rearrange some teacher in-service and professional development days. The main reason for the change is due to the potential savings that could be realized; if the calendar remains as is, the District will be required to pay for transporting parochial school students during the spring break week.
- Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided an update on the requirements of 2023 Wisconsin Act 20 to create and publish an Early Literacy Remediation Plan that applies to grades 5K through 3. Numerous staff members have been collaboratively working to develop the plan, and Ms. Wilhorn reviewed the plan's components along with the next steps involved for the District to comply with Act 20, including the development of a 3rd grade promotion policy along with potential summer school requirements.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the December 2, 2024 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – December 2, 2024. 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 renew an 18-month license for each of our 467 Meraki wireless access points from PDS, for a total cost of \$55,815.84, to be funded from the 2024-2025 Technology Referendum Budget.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz 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 were reviewed.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the December 2, 2024 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – December 2, 2024. Report given by Troy Bier.

Mr. Bier 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 appointment of Kaitlyn Schooley (School Counselor – Grant).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Mistique Smithson (Special Ed Aide – WR Area Middle), Kathy Hoppmann-Felch (Noon Duty Aide – Grant), Megan Kreuser (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), and Heather Michels (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff resignations of Matthias Haschke (Title VI Coordinator/Native American Liaison – District), Emily Schwenn (Behavioral Interventionist – Howe), Patti Lang (Noon Duty Aide – Lincoln),

Steven Placek (Custodian – Lincoln), Cora Buckle (Special Ed Aide – Woodside), and Candace Duran (Special Ed Aide – Mead).

- PS-4 Approval of the professional staff resignation of Lacey Mancl (Science Teacher – Lincoln).
- PS-5 Approval of the support staff retirements of Diane Glaza (Security Aide – Lincoln) and Jane Lubeck (Secretary – WR Area Middle).
- PS-6 Approval of hiring a secondary school counselor position to be paid from the School-Based Mental Health Grant. This position will be evaluated for continuation after two years based on effectiveness and available grant funds.
- PS-7 Approval of the hiring of a Speech and Language Assessment Specialist at the rate of \$25.00 an hour for approximately 8 hours per week. This position will be paid using funds from the IDEA Flow-through budget.
- PS-8 Approval of a one-time stipend of \$1,900.00 for the facilitator of the Vaping Prevention and Treatment Initiatives grant. Funds for the stipend will be paid from the Vaping Prevention and Treatment Initiatives grant.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Julie Timm to approve consent agenda items PS 1-8. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Elizabeth St.Myers to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the December 2, 2024 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Bier shared the following legislative updates:

- Legislative leadership elections have taken place with Republicans holding majorities in both houses. Robin Vos will retain speakership and local representative Scott Krug will serve as the Assembly Assistant Majority Leader with Nancy VanderMeer serving as Caucus Secretary. Appointments have been made to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC), and local Senator Patrick Testin will be serving as Vice Chair.
- Governor Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), announced that \$1 million in grants is available for the Teacher Training and Recruitment Grant program to train and recruit teachers in severe shortage areas. The program has funded two rounds of awards in 2020 and 2022 that benefited 10 schools' efforts to train, recruit, and mentor educators.
- The Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Policy and Resolutions Committee received 17 resolution proposals from member boards by the September 15, 2024 deadline as recommendations for the 2025 Delegate Assembly. Twelve of these resolutions will be submitted for consideration by the Delegate Assembly.
- Governor Evers will be hosting budget listening sessions across Wisconsin to help inform him on what is impacting communities most and what resources may be needed to help. These sessions come ahead of the Governor's introduction of his two-year budget priorities in January/February of 2025. The full schedule can be found on the WASB Legislative blog website.
- Dane County Judge Jacob Frost restored collective bargaining powers for public employees who lost them under 2011's Act 10. Judge Frost laid out which sections of the law were no longer enforceable under his decision which will like undergo a lengthy appeal process.

Bills

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to note November, 2024 receipts in the amount of \$1,667,279.28 and approve November, 2024 disbursements in the amount of \$4,848,504.17. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

A question was raised around two donations listed on page 2 of 5 concerning receipts of food service donations in the amount of \$2,000.00 and \$500.00, and whether a note of appreciation was generated. The Board expressed deep appreciation for these generous donations. Mr. Rasmussen will provide additional details to update the Board once he has gathered them.

New BusinessEmployee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

Appointment of Summer School Principal

Superintendent Ronald Rasmussen explained that interviews have been conducted for the Summer School Principal position, and the administration recommends the appointment of Amanda Van De Hey to serve in this role under a 21-day contract effective from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Duties will include the coordination of and half-day supervision of the District Summer School program. Any breach of contract will result in a requirement to pay liquidated damages in the amount of \$1,000.00 for notice provided between January 1 through May 31, and \$2,000.00 for notice provided between June 1 through August 31. A salary of \$7,000.00 is being proposed with payment to be made on a schedule of \$3,500.00 paid in June for duties served between January 1-June 30, and \$3,500.00 paid in December for duties served between July 1-December 31.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the appointment of Amanda Van De Hey to the Summer School Principal position effective January 1, 2025 under a pro-rated contract that will be in effect from January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

2025-26 School Calendar Modifications

Superintendent Ronald Rasmussen presented proposed modifications to the 2025-26 School Year calendar which would move the spring break dates, shift a student contact day, and rearrange some teacher in-service and professional development days as discussed in the Educational Services Committee meeting on December 2, 2024. The calendar has since been reviewed by the Quality Educator Committee (QEC), who signaled support for the revisions.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve of the proposed modifications to the 2025-26 calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on 2023-24 School and District Report Cards

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, provided an update to the Board on 2023-24 District and School Report Cards which get issued by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction on an annual basis. Longitudinal data was shared over a time period covering 2018-19 to 2023-24 with Ms. Filtz highlighting that generally speaking, the data is trending in a positive direction. The goal to close learning gaps caused by the COVID-19 pandemic year in 2020-21 is being achieved. A comparison of data to Wisconsin Valley Conference schools and local districts was provided which reflects positive results for WRPS, even though the percentage of economically disadvantaged students remains high for the District. Information relative to student demographics, including economically disadvantaged trends and students with disabilities, was reviewed. When comparing area high school report card scores, Lincoln High School's performance exceeded all other area schools with the exception of Pittsville. Scores have continued to trend upwards with Lincoln's 2023-24 category of "Exceeds Expectations" surpassing numerous other school district scores which "Meet Expectations." Postsecondary preparation comparisons to other schools were reviewed. Overall, Ms. Filtz shared that the District is trending in the right direction with some areas undergoing extra attention where improvement may be needed.

School Violence Event Drill Reports Submitted by Buildings

Mr. Rasmussen presented the required annual school violence event drill reports that were conducted by each school building in accordance with Wisconsin Statute §118.07(4)(cp). He also shared the safety assessments at each school building that were conducted by Director of Buildings & Grounds Ed Allison in collaboration with local law enforcement officials. Lastly, Mr. Rasmussen shared recommended updates to the District Crisis Action Plan which the Board is required to review and approve every three years in accordance with State statutes. The importance of having a comprehensive school safety plan, conducting training, and routinely testing and exercising the District's Crisis Action Plan results in:

- Students and staff access to a safe and secure learning/working environment
- Procedures and protocols in place increase survivability during a life-threatening incident or event
- Emergencies require a systemic response; having an all-hazards-based safety plan provides an effective structure
- Response time is critical; practicing procedures and protocols will shorten response times
- Mitigating liability to the District
- Concentrated effort to focus on both the physical and psychological safety/well-being of students and staff
- Building a culture of safety within the District

Mr. Rasmussen highlighted a number of safety initiatives have been undertaken and included in the plan since the last full Crisis Action Plan triennial review and approval occurred. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the plan.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the annual school violence event drill reports submitted by each building principal for drills conducted in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 118.07(4)(cp). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to approve of the School Safety Assessment reports as required under Wisconsin Statute 118.07(4)(b) and conducted at each school building by the Director of Buildings and Grounds in partnership with local law enforcement officials. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the updated District Crisis Action Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Lincoln High School Tennis Court Upgrades

Mr. Rasmussen presented a proposal from Pro Track and Tennis, Inc. to upgrade the Lincoln High School tennis courts at a cost of \$150,520.00. The tennis courts at Lincoln and the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) have been on the 10-year Facility Plan for resurfacing, and the District has received significant feedback from community members about the poor condition the courts are in. The proposed bid is for the courts at Lincoln to be resurfaced and striped for both tennis and pickleball, with the expense shared between Fund 46 and Fund 80. An additional bid for WRAMS will likely be brought forward in the near future. Approving of the Lincoln proposal will ensure that the company secures a summer, 2025 date on their calendar for this work to be accomplished.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to approve of the proposal from Pro Track and Tennis, Inc. to upgrade the Lincoln High School tennis courts at a cost of \$150,520.00 with funding to be split between Fund 46 and Fund 80 accounts. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Demolition Proposal for Immanuel Lutheran Church Property

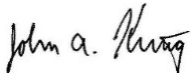
Mr. Rasmussen presented a proposal from Robinson Brothers to complete asbestos, hazardous materials, and lead paint material abatement and disposal from the Immanuel Lutheran Church building in preparation of demolition work to be completed. The cost for this abatement will be \$115,625.00. A proposal for demolition of the building is still being prepared and will be brought to the Board for approval in the near future.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the proposal from Robinson Brothers to complete asbestos, hazardous materials, and lead paint material abatement and disposal from the Immanuel Lutheran Church building in preparation of demolition work to be completed at a cost not to exceed \$115,625.00 to be funded by the District Fund 46 account. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

Mr. Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Julie Timm – Clerk