



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

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

January 13, 2025

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, Christopher Inda, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Elizabeth St.Myers, Julie Timm

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: John Benbow

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None.

Special Presentation by District Financial Auditing Firm HawkinsAsh CPAs

Superintendent Ronald Rasmussen introduced Senior Audit Manager Chuck Krueger from HawkinsAsh CPAs. Mr. Krueger provided a thorough review of the 2023-24 District financial audit dated June 30, 2024, including an advisory comment report and management letter issued by his firm. Areas touched on in Mr. Krueger's presentation included accounting standards being utilized, District financial statements, assets, liabilities, debt schedules, current fund balance, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB), and factors having a bearing on the District's future. He complimented the Board for paying down debt early and closely monitoring expenses. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions, and thanked Mr. Krueger for this informative presentation.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative Delainey Morrison shared updates on the following:

- Winter sports season is in full swing
- Educators Rising hosted a blood drive on January 10, 2025
- DECA students have been competing in District competitive events, and 52 will be moving on to compete at the State Career Development Conference
- Students will be receiving registration information on January 15, 2025 and begin the registration process on January 23, 2025
- Progress 2 term ends on January 17, 2025 which also marks the half-way point in the school year
- Lincoln High School parent teacher visitation is scheduled for January 22, 2025
- Sportainment Night is scheduled at Lincoln on January 24, 2025
- Fire on Ice week runs from January 27-31, 2025 with the annual dance happening Saturday, February 1, 2025

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve regular Board meeting minutes of December 9, 2024; special closed session Board meeting minutes of December 9, 2024; special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of December 9, 2024; and special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of December 16, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee ReportsEducational Services Committee – January 6, 2025. 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 to not designate any space limitations for regular education open enrollment students for the 2025-26 school year, and designate space available in special education programming as presented.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda item ES 1. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz provided updates and reports on:

- A number of grants have been secured through the Gifted and Talented Education (GATES) program. Kelly Bluell, GATES Coordinator, explained that grant amounts range from \$870.00 to \$20,000.00 and she provided details about how the funding is being utilized to enhance GATES programming.
- Brian Oswald, Principal of Central Oaks Academy Charter School, provided an update on 2024-25 financial, operational, and academic goals for the school. Enrollment in Central Oaks is currently at 103 students with some fluidity at the middle school level. In addition to their participation in online coursework, approximately 50-60 students regularly attend school in person for encore instruction and community building activities on Fridays. On other days of the week, anywhere from 8-15 students attend for open lab sessions or other academic support in areas such as writing/language arts. Goals were reviewed for the upcoming year, and Mr. Oswald explained that the charter contract is due for renewal in June, 2026.
- Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, explained that Justine Horvath, Lincoln High School French teacher, is planning a short term language-immersion family stay from February 8-27, 2025. Ms. Horvath intends to place one or two of the visiting students for Winter Hosting with a Lincoln High School French student's family. Placement of visiting students with local families is completely voluntary and occurs once rigorous background checks and interviews have been successfully completed. The visiting student will attend classes with the host student to shadow a typical day, and have full immersion into American language and culture during the visit.
- A number of student trips is being planned, including a trip to Luther College in Iowa from January 12-13, 2025; a trip to the musical "Mean Girls" in St. Paul, Minnesota on April 12, 2025; and a trip for band students to travel to Hawaii in December, 2025 to participate in Pearl Harbor Day commemoration ceremonies.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the January 6, 2025 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – January 6, 2025. 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 investment in the Lincoln High School Fitness Center from Dynamic Fitness & Strength for a total cost of \$194,938.85 and be funded from the 2024-25 Lincoln High School Physical Education budget, Athletic budget, donations from booster clubs, and student activity accounts.
- BS-2 Approval of the Robinson Brothers' church demolition quote for \$112,000.00, to be funded from the 2024-25 fund 46 budget.
- BS-3 Approval of a proposal for Communication and Marketing Services for \$10,200.00, to be funded from the 2024-25 School Board and Superintendent budget.

Motion by Julie Timm, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items BS 1-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Timm provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices, bid specs, and purchases made were reviewed by the Committee
- 2023-24 District financial audit statements and communication with those charged with governance and management was reviewed by the Committee

- An annual update was provided on utility costs for electric, natural gas, lighting, sewer, water, fire suppression, storm water, and snowplowing for the District

Motion by Julie Timm, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the January 6, 2025 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – January 6, 2025. 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 Rebecca Hamann (Teacher – Lincoln) and Peter Fee (Teacher – Lincoln).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Pang Foua Khang (Security Aide – Lincoln), Molly Tolzman (Special Ed Aide – Woodside), Eric Callahan (Custodian – Lincoln), and Jamie Dewitt (Pupil Services Administrative Assistant – District).
- PS-3 Approval of the non-represented certified staff appointment of Lisa Bechard (Nurse – District).
- PS-4 Approval of the non-represented support staff appointments of Jill Piatt (HR Specialist – District) and Christine Wefel (Executive Assistant – Superintendent/Board – District).
- PS-5 Approval of the support staff resignation of Malinda De La Cruz (Supervisory Aide – WR Area Middle School).
- PS-6 Approval of a one-time stipend of \$500.00 for the assistant facilitator of the Vaping Prevention and Treatment Initiatives grant and \$1,900.00 for supplies and trainings needed to make this program successful. Funds for the stipends 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 1-6. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bier provided updates and reports on:

- Class size reports for elementary and secondary levels for 2024-25 were shared with the Committee

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the January 6, 2025. Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

A request was made to receive an update on how “Late Start Mondays” are going. Mr. Rasmussen will ensure this topic is added to a future Educational Services Committee meeting agenda.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Bier shared the following legislative updates:

- On December 18, 2025, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Jacob Frost granted a temporary stay of his December 2nd ruling striking down most of the 2011 Wisconsin Act 10 law as unconstitutional. The stay is in place while Frost considers written arguments over whether to place his ruling on hold while the Legislature appeals it.
- Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu indicated he will likely back a request from Attorney General Josh Kaul for more than \$2 million to keep the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety (OSS) going after its existing funds expire in September.
- The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) announced a historic \$70 million distribution from the Common School Fund to Wisconsin public schools, which marks the largest distribution in the fund’s 175-year history.
- Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu announced his appointments for committees in the upcoming session. Senator John Jagler is back as Senate Education Committee chair with Senator Romaine Quinn also returning as Vice-Chair. The number of Senators on the Education Committee is decreasing from 7 (5 GOP, 2 DEM) to 5 (3 GOP, 2 DEM). Locally, Senator Patrick Testin has been appointed to the Joint Committee on Finance. A full list of all Committee appointments can be found in the WASB Legislative blog.

- The State Superintendent race is set with three candidates: Jill Underly, Jeff Wright, and Brittany Kinser. With three candidates in the race, a primary election will be held on February 18, 2025 to narrow the field to two.
- Governor Tony Evers is scheduled to deliver the “State of the State” address on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. The governor’s “2025-27 Biennial Budget” address will be delivered on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Coverage of both addresses will be featured on Wisconsin Eye (WisEye).

Bills

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to note December, 2024 receipts in the amount of \$12,375,148.27 and approve December, 2024 disbursements (with the exception of Check #112630) in the amount of \$3,789,131.72. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve of the disbursement of Check #112630 in an amount of \$50,000.00 to Boys & Girls Club. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 5-0. Elizabeth St.Myers abstained.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

None.

Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Delegate Assembly Resolutions

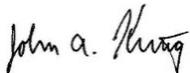
The Board reviewed proposed WASB resolutions to be taken up by the Delegate Assembly during the State Education Convention in January, 2025. After some discussion, direction was provided to Troy Bier, particularly with regard to Resolution 25-08: Accountability and School Report Card Standards, as he votes his conscience as the Board Delegate Assembly representative.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Julie Timm to approve of having Troy Bier use his own discretion and vote his conscience on behalf of the Board on proposed Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) resolutions when participating as the Board Delegate at the upcoming Delegate Assembly meeting in January, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

Mr. Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Julie Timm – Clerk