



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

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

March 10, 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: 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

School Showcase Presentation

Lincoln High School Theatre Teacher and Assistant Performing Arts Center Director Sara Danke proudly announced that LHS is the first school in Wisconsin to be nationally recognized as having excellence in theatre education. LHS students, Ella, Dade, and Adelina, who currently serve as Thespian officers, shared their passion for theatre and the impact it has on their lives. They expressed gratitude for the theatre department and a strong commitment advocating for this program. Their involvement has helped them build confidence, develop strong oral communication and problem solving skills, and embrace their creativity. The LHS theatre department hosts numerous events, including programs for younger students. The 2025 Spring Musical, *The Lightning Thief*, will be performed May 1-4, 2025 and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Public Comment

None.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative Delainey Morrison shared updates on the following:

- Trimester 3 started on March 10, 2025
- LHS took six wrestlers to state, Tanner Gormanson is the Heavy Weight State Champion
- Elsa Urban represented LHS at State Gymnastics on March 8, 2025
- First place was taken in gold and silver events for State Figure Skating
- Career Day for seniors is March 11, 2025
- Juniors take the ACT on March 11, 2025
- HOSA Blood Drive is March 18, 2025
- Track and Field started March 10, 2025; other spring sports will start in the next few weeks
- Spring Break is March 24-28
- LHS Job Fair is April 2, 2025
- Career Day for Freshmen and Sophomores is April 8, 2025

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board meeting minutes of February 10, 2025, and special closed Board meeting minutes of February 10, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Educational Services Committee – March 3, 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 of the Summer Academy course proposals for Grades 6-8 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:

- Ms. Julie Kolarik, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, provided an update on the school-wide professional development training program, *Reframing Behaviors*. The focus of the program is to shift the way staff perceive students' behaviors. Training is provided to professional and support staff with each school having a designated facilitator.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the March 3, 2025 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – March 3, 2025. 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 of the CESA 5 contract in the amount of \$394,836.80 to be paid for with Flow-Through and other District accounts for the 2025-26 school year.
- BS-2 Approval of the LifeGuard MD, Inc.'s proposal for 26 AED Units, which will cost \$46,712.00 and be paid from the 2024-25 Community Service Budget.
- BS-3 Approval to increase the 4K contract for the 2025-26 school year by \$50.00 for a total of \$2,475.00 per student.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Christopher Inda to approve consent agenda items BS 1-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices, bid specs, and purchases made.
- A donation from Rapids Mat Backers, Inc. in the amount of \$8,943.84 for wrestling mats.
- A donation from Peter Falk in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Children's Theatre.
- A donation from Revision Eye Care in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Children's Theatre.
- A donation from Women's Ministry of St. Luke in the amount of \$549.35 for Families helping Families.
- A donation from Gerard Jackson in the amount of \$232.50 for the Food Service Angel program.
- A donation from USW Local Number 24 in the amount of \$400.00 for the Food Service Angel program.
- A donation from Kevin Tritz in the amount of \$60.00 for wrestling mats.
- Safe-Way currently purchases its bus fuel from Levenhagen Oil Corporation. Quotes were received from Levenhagen and Insite FS. The Insite FS quote cost for the Kellner location was 3.2 cents less per gallon, and the Rudolph location was 44.9 cents less per gallon compared to Levenhagen. Safe-Way will begin utilizing Insite FS early March.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the March 3, 2025 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – March 3, 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 support staff appointment of Jenna Gutowski (Supervisory Aide – WRAMS), Mary TerMaat (Supervisory/Study Hall Aide – LHS), Meg Hoffman (Title VI Coordinator/Native American Liaison – LHS & WRAMS, and Noon Aide – LHS), Erin Flugaur (Kitchen Helper – THINK), Virginia Hafermann (Kitchen Helper – LHS), Tricia Joosten (Kitchen Helper – LHS), Victoria Blanco (Administrative Assistant to Social Workers/Families in Transition Coordinator – District), Paige Weber (Noon Aide – THINK), Becky Zelenka (Special Education Aide – WRAMS).

- PS-2 Approval of the professional staff resignation of Mikayla Obsuszt (Business Teacher - LHS).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff resignations of Nancy Thao (ELL Aide - Howe), Julie Olsen (Library Aide – THINK), Kyle Olson (Instructional Aide – WRAMS).
- PS-4 Approval of the professional staff retirements of Kurt Jensen (Language Arts Teacher - LHS), Randy Duxbury (Physical Education Teacher – WRAMS), Dale Dahl (Music Teacher – WRAMS), Jill Joosten-Russell (Language Arts Teacher – LHS), Kelly Garrigan (Science Teacher – WRAMS), Patrick McDonald (Physical Education Teacher – LHS).
- PS-5 Approval of the 2025 contract with Presence to provide speech and language services at a cost of \$31,048.96 for students receiving speech services to WRPS students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) to be funded by the District’s Special Education budget.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve consent agenda items PS 1-5. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bier provided updates and reports on:

- The District’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP) utilization rate is slightly down from last year, but is still near average usage over the past four years.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Elizabeth St.Myers to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the March 3, 2025. Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

A Board Member requested an update on the bullying issues addressed last month. Superintendent Rasmussen stated that Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS) Administrators and the Student Engagement Facilitator will provide an update at the Educational Services Meeting in April. Discussions have been held regarding modifications to the Bridges program.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Bier shared the following legislative updates:

- A bill is circulating requiring installation of water filters and regular testing the water for contaminants at schools. The bill is based on water quality and potential mitigation efforts. The bill will not contain funding and it is the intention to secure funding in the state budget process. WASB supports efforts to assist schools in ensuring water is safe but has concerns about the lack of funding. They will continue to monitor the bill as it goes through the legislature as well as the governor’s state budget for potential funding sources.
- The primary election held on February 18 had a low turnout, with less than 500,000 voters. Incumbent Dr. Jill Underly, and Brittany Kinser, a former special education teacher and reading education advocate, will advance to the State Superintendent general election on April 1, along with local School Board and town races. Voter turnout is expected to increase due to the Supreme Court election on the ballot.
- Two education bills will be heard in the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The first bill requires school districts to notify a parent within one day if their child was involved in an incident, and the second bill would require the city of Milwaukee to fund and hire School Resource Officers. A third bill requiring schools to allow students to wear traditional tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies or school-sponsored event will be heard in the Assembly Committee.
- Marquette Law School came out with a poll that featured questions related to K-12 education. Questions ranged from views of ACT 10, satisfaction with public schools, private school vouchers, property taxes vs. more funding for schools, DEI programs, and special education funding. Results showed 58% were satisfied with public schools which is typical for polls conducted recently. More information is found on the Marquette University poll website.
- The Senate Committee on Education will hold a hearing on two bills passed by the Assembly. The first bill would restrict the ability of DPI to change cut score on state assessments and school district report cards. Governor Evers stated he would veto this bill as it infringes on the independency of DPI. The second bill would require boards to adopt policies to restrict access to devices during instructional time.
- Everyone is encouraged to be an informed voter for the April 1 election.

Bills

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to note February, 2025 receipts in the amount of \$9,490,605.72 and approve February, 2025 disbursements (with the exception of Check #113381) in the amount of \$4,012,121.39. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve the disbursement of Check #113381 in an amount of \$85,000.00 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.

Action on Emergent 3 Safety App Service Agreement

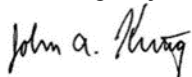
Superintendent Rasmussen provided an overview of the Emergent 3 Safety App, which would be integrated into the Crisis Action Plan. The app is designed to facilitate timely communication to staff, law enforcement, and dispatch. Mr. Rasmussen presented a video explaining how the app operates.

The app can be accessed on both cell phones and computers, with real-time crisis plans and school maps uploaded for immediate reference. Staff members can check in to a location, report their safety status, and view maps highlighting safe zones and affected areas. Additionally, the app includes a chat feature, enabling staff to communicate with others within the school.

Baraboo School District utilizes the app and speaks favorably of its effectiveness. It is user-friendly, and all staff members would receive training on its use. WRPS School Resource Officers have reviewed the app and support its implementation. The Emergent 3 Safety App has an initial cost of \$6,500 to be funded by the Building and Grounds budget, and an annual cost of \$9,000 to be funded by the Technology budget.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the proposal of the Emergent 3 Safety App at an initial cost of \$6,500 to be funded by the Building and Grounds budget and an annual cost of \$9,000 to be funded by the Technology budget. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Christine Wefel – Secretary

Julie Timm – Clerk