



# Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

## MINUTES

John A. Krings, President  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Larry Davis  
Sandra K. Hett  
Anne Lee  
Katie Medina  
Mary E. Rayome

December 12, 2016

### REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494  
Conf. Rm. A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Krings, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome, John Benbow, Anne Lee, Larry Davis, Katie Medina

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Matt Green, Ed Allison, Lizzie Severson, Kevin Yeske, Tracy Ginter, Phil Bickelhaupt

MEDIA PRESENT: Jesse Austin – River Cities Community Access

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

#### Student Representative's Report

Drake Blossfield reported on the following:

- Trimester 1 has concluded, and new classes are beginning with the second trimester.
- The Lincoln Student Council recently learned about an organization called “Dude Be Nice,” which encourages individuals to do random acts of kindness toward others. The first project carried out by the students involved serving a surprise celebration luncheon to two retiring employees so that they would feel appreciated. It was well received.
- The Lincoln swim team finished strong against Appleton recently, with a “first” in the 100-medley relay as well as the 100-freestyle relay.
- The girls’ basketball team scored a victory over Wausau East, and the boys’ basketball team won against Oshkosh West.
- Many students participated in a blood drive held at Lincoln under the “Pint for a Pint” campaign.
- The Student Council is bringing Christmas spirit into the building by starting a “Dear Santa” campaign whereby letters can be submitted by either students or staff (these can be funny or serious), and the Council will respond to the letters.

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of November 14, 2016; special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of November 14, 2016; special Board of Education meeting minutes of December 5, 2016; and special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of December 6, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee ReportsA. Business Services Committee – December 5, 2016. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow explained that there were no consent agenda items being brought forward for Board consideration.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Purchased services for police liaison officer support
- Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps after school workers
- A review of District audited financial statements for 2015-16 was tabled until more information is available
- The performance contractor selection process was reviewed

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular December 5, 2016 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Personnel Services Committee – December 5, 2016. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Ms. Rayome 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 resignation request of Sue Zirnhelt (Volunteer Center Coordinator – Lincoln).

PS-2 Approval of the support staff retirement request of Marcella Klish (Food Service Helper – Lincoln) and Dennis Fenske (Custodian – WRAMS).

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 1-2. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of December 5, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Educational Services Committee – December 5, 2016. Report given by Anne Lee.

Ms. Lee 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 to add “Teach and Lead” as a Family and Consumer Science course offering for students at Lincoln for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.

ES-2 Approval to add “English 4” as an English/Language Arts course offering for students at Lincoln for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.

ES-3 Approval to change “Algebra Topics” from a one year math course offering to a one trimester course offering for ninth grade students beginning in 2017-18.

ES-4 Approval to add “Foundations for Advanced Algebra” as a mathematics course offering for students at Lincoln for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.

ES-5 Approval to offer “String Orchestra” as a course offering in music for sophomores at Lincoln beginning in 2017-18.

ES-6 Approval to add “Life Sciences and Society” as a science course offering for students at Lincoln for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.

ES-7 Approval to add “Physical Sciences and Society” as a science course offering for students at Lincoln for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.

ES-8 Approval to not add “Forensics Science” as a science course offering for students at Lincoln.

ES-9 Approval to add “Bio-Medical Science” as a science course offering for students at Lincoln for one credit, contingent on securing up to \$17,900 in grants for equipment and staff training, beginning in the 2017-18 school year.

- ES-10 Approval to add “Contemporary Issues” as a social studies course offering for eleventh and twelfth grade students for one-half credit beginning in 2017-18.
- ES-11 Approval to not add “Introduction to Economics” as a social studies course offering for ninth grade students.
- ES-12 Approval to apply for various grants to support the Science on a Sphere (SOS) project at a cost of \$33,360.00 to be implemented at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School.

Ms. Hett requested that consent agenda items ES-8, ES-9, and ES-11 be held out for a separate vote.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items ES-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, and 12 be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of consent agenda item ES-8. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. Sandra Hett voted no.**

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve of consent agenda item ES-9. Motion carried on a vote of 5-2. Sandra Hett and Katie Medina voted no.**

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of consent agenda item ES-11. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. Sandra Hett voted no.**

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Trimester Schedule Proposal for Grades 6-9 – Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, presented the Committee with proposed revisions to the grades 6-9 schedules which would take effect in 2017-18. The revisions would provide a middle school schedule for grades 6-8, giving each student a 12 week exploratory experience in each elective area and career cluster. Grade 9 students would be on the Lincoln High School (LHS) schedule with elective options. Concerns were raised by art teachers present that grade 7 students do not have an art option. The art teachers proposed that these students have a choice between music or art. Several questions concerning the proposals were brought up and discussed. Tracy Ginter, Principal of Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School, and Kevin Yeske, Principal of East Jr. High, were present to share information and answer questions concerning the proposed schedules. Committee members opted to table the proposal, suggesting that music teachers provide feedback on the suggested schedule modifications. The item was referred to the full Board meeting in December for further consideration and possible action.
- 2015-16 School and District Report Cards – Ms. Hintz discussed District report cards issued by the Department of Public Instruction. Non-participation in test taking by virtual families is a concern, and families will continue to be encouraged to participate. Discussions surrounding test results, the achievement gap, and test taking strategies will continue.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the December 5, 2016, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Ms. Hett requested that the new school store at Lincoln be placed on a future Board agenda as an update item. Drake Blossfield expressed an interest in being involved to provide the information needed for this update item.

#### Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information which he gathered from the December, 2016 edition of *Wisconsin School News*:

- The state’s child population continues to decline and according to the Wisconsin Budget Project, the largest declines occurring between 2010-2015 happened in Adams County (-16.0%), Iron County (-15.5%), Lincoln County (-14.1%), Bayfield County (-13.3%), and Rusk County (-11.9%). Declines in these and other counties continue to place pressure on already tenuous school funding situations. Some counties did see an

increase as follows: Grant County (+10.9%), Dunn County (+6.5%), Eau Claire County (+6.3%), Pierce County (+5.1%), and Dane County (+5.1%).

- An international study published in the *Review of Educational Research* found that a positive school climate has a significant impact on academics. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to include non-academic factors, like school climate, in how they gauge school success.
- State Supt. Tony Evers has released his 2017-19 biennial budget request for the Department of Public Instruction. The request calls for a “Fair Funding Plan,” which includes increasing state general aid to school districts and incorporates a poverty factor in the general aid formula. Provisions targeting assistance to rural schools include items such as sparsity aid, rural teacher grants, transportation aid, high cost transportation aid, special education categorical aid, as well dollars to support mental health services for districts that wish to partner with social service agencies in school facilities.
- Mr. Benbow mentioned a study called “The World’s Most Literate Nations” conducted by John Miller, president of Central Connecticut State University, which identified the United States as being in the top ten countries in literacy. Countries ranking at the top include Finland, Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Germany, Latvia, and Netherlands. The study used several indicators including library resources, newspaper circulation, and literacy scores on standardized tests.
- A “Building a Grad Nation” report from 2016 analyzed data using new criteria established by the ESSA to determine how graduation rates looked when comparing public schools, virtual schools, and charter schools. Public schools faired the best in three categories studied:

	<u>% of Schools Graduating &lt;67%</u>	<u>% of Schools Graduating 85%+</u>	<u>Average Graduation Rate</u>
Public High Schools	7%	64%	85%
Charter Schools	30%	44%	70%
Virtual Schools	87%	4%	40%

Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note November, 2016 receipts in the amount of \$1,753,200.06 and approve November, 2016 disbursements in the amount of \$3,144,284.99. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

New Business

Employee Appointment, Resignation, Retirement Requests

None.

Construction Project Contractor Approvals

Dr. Dickmann stated that planning work has begun concerning the Phase 1 construction project at Lincoln. Plunkett Raysich Architects has a long standing relationship with the school district, and has been utilized by the District in a number of past projects. This firm has also been assisting the District in developing conceptual plans for restructuring options. In the same vein, Miron Construction has been the at-risk construction manager for the District in past projects, and has been instrumental in bidding out and securing contractors with the District’s best interests in mind. The administration recommends approval to utilize both firms for the Phase 1 project.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of using Plunkett Raysich Architects and Miron Construction for the District Phase 1 construction project. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Trimester Transition Schedule Proposal for Grades 6-9 in 2017-18 School Year

Following up on the Educational Services Committee report from December 5, 2016, the administration has revised the original trimester scheduling proposal for grades 6-9 in order to include an option for students in grade 7 to select an art course as requested by the Committee. The original proposal did not include this option for grade 7. Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that she did speak with District music teachers, and they were gracious in their response when they acknowledged that not all students at the grade 7 level have an interest in music, and

may rather take an art course. The Committee had asked whether including art at the grade 7 level might be difficult to schedule. After reviewing this possibility, the administration has determined that this would be difficult because it would create a traveling teacher. However, it is not impossible and it would not create additional FTE's. Costs would be limited to those affiliated with the traveling teacher.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the transition schedule for grades 6-9 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Amendment of 2016-17 District Budget

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, presented a recommendation to amend the 2016-17 District budget from that which was approved by the Board in June, 2016. Mr. Weigand reviewed changes being recommended in the General Fund, Special Project Fund, Referendum Debt Service Fund, Food Service Fund, and Community Service Fund. The majority of changes are in the revenue area, where decreases are being proposed in the tax levy with an increase in state equalization aid and program grants. Once actual staff costing was factored into the budget, the total for instructional staff services increased. The Board took the opportunity to ask questions concerning the proposed budget amendments.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed amendments to the 2016-17 District budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk