



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

January 9, 2017

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, Ed Allison, Lizzie Severson, Ronald Rasmussen, 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:

- Students are transitioning back to the school routine after the winter break.
- The Lincoln wrestling team recently took third in a competition, and swimming took first place.
- Students involved in a DECA district competition in the prior week had a strong finish.
- The “Dear Santa” campaign launched by students in December went very well, and a similar activity is being considered with “Cupid” in February.
- Planning and preparation for the upcoming Fire & Ice Week/Dance is underway.
- The annual “Sportainment Night” is scheduled for February 17 at Lincoln.
- The DECA group is planning to participate in the annual “Polar Plunge,” which benefits Special Olympics.

President Krings acknowledged it being “Adult School Crossing Guard” week, and extended appreciation to all crossing guards in our community who help students cross streets safely on their way to and from school each day.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of December 12, 2016; and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of December 12, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee ReportsA. Business Services Committee – January 2, 2017. 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 a proposal to purchase 80 Epson PowerLite W29 LCD projectors from PDS at a total cost of \$36,600.00, with funding from a combination of the 2016-17 District Technology budget and the Technology Referendum budget.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda item BS 1. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Dept. of Public Instruction Educator Effectiveness State System Fees
- Food Service consulting services
- A review of District audited financial statements for 2015-16 was tabled

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular January 2, 2017, Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – January 2, 2017. Report given by Sandra Hett.

Ms. Hett 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 Gamboa (Kitchen Helper – Lincoln) and Steve Herman (Night Custodian – WRAMS); and the professional staff appointment of Danielle Heuer (.50 FTE Math – East Jr. High).
- PS-2 Approval of proposed language changes found under the “Substitute Teacher Compensation” and “Arrival at School” sections of the Substitute Teacher Employee Handbook.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-2. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- Class size and sections at District elementary and secondary levels for 2016-17.
- Proposed language revisions to the Professional Staff Employee Handbook were reviewed by the Committee. The proposed changes will be finalized by Administration and brought back to the Committee in February for possible action.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of January 2, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – January 2, 2017. 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 that for the 2017-18 school year, the WRPS Board of Education will not deny open enrollment applicants due to space.
- ES-2 Approval of the suggested changes to the “Supplemental Pay Plan for Professional Development” for the 2016-17 school year.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-2. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Elementary English/Language Arts – Jen Wilhorn, Elementary Literacy Supervisor and Principal of Vesper Community Academy, updated the Committee on the acquisition and implementation of the elementary writing “Units of Study” that was approved last spring. In August, teachers attended a two day professional development session. Grade level teams have been meeting since then. Educator Effectiveness coaches and interventionists are supporting the implementation. Elementary administration is working together on a book study to further support the implementation. Regarding the acquisition of reading materials, eight teachers are piloting another set of materials. Mid-March feedback will be shared and reviewed with Elementary Language Arts CII.

The Board expressed appreciation for all of the work that teachers are doing to implement new programs and pilot others.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the January 2, 2017, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- The “State of the State” address by Governor Walker has been rescheduled to occur on January 10, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.
- On the topic of requiring random drug testing in all Wisconsin schools for students involved in extracurricular activities and parking vehicles on school property, Governor Walker has questioned it and hasn’t shown great support for it.
- Joint Finance Committee Co-Chair Rep. John Nygren is calling for an end of the Local Government Property Insurance Fund, which makes property insurance available for local governments including school districts. The number of insured entities has dropped to 129 members, with \$3.6 million in premiums being paid.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note December, 2016 receipts in the amount of \$8,698,860.79 and approve December, 2016 disbursements in the amount of \$2,371,397.61. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointment, Resignation, Retirement Requests

None.

Lincoln High School Presentation on “Wolf Den” School Store

Dr. Colleen Dickmann introduced Lincoln High School students Emma Berlyn, Jacob Mancl, and Austin Reimer who presented information about a new school-based enterprise housed within Lincoln, which is the “Wolf Den” school store. Specific activities the students involved themselves in to make the school store come to fruition include:

- Research and planning
- Students wrote a marketing plan which they presented to administration
- Met with food services and coffee shop staff leaders
- Toured other school stores (Wausau East and Wausau West)
- Attended a School Based Enterprise (SBE) DECA Conference over Summer, 2016
- Developed a name, “Wolf Den” to incorporate the school mascot
- Determined the location for the store - Room 110 at Lincoln, which is near the Marketing classroom
- Determined hours of operation (4th and 5th hour, after school until 3:30 p.m., and during special events)
- Product mix includes healthy food/beverage options, school spirit wear, accessories, basic school supplies

- Store layout was determined and designed
- Start-up costs included painting supplies, display case, a point-of-sale computer system, slushy machine, fixtures, counter tops, stockroom shelving, store front doors, security system equipment, promotional materials, and merchandise
- Dollars for start-up costs came from Act 59 CTE Incentive Grant Money and Financial Literacy Grant (\$14,568); Advocates for WRPS Education Funding (\$1,000); Building Budget (\$300); and Wolf Den Activities Account (\$5,025.55)
- Over half the debt has been paid in less than two months of operation
- Benefits of the Wolf Den include the creation of an atmosphere of school spirit within LHS; hands-on learning experiences which integrate national curriculum standards in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management; students are being prepared to transition from school to work or college; a goal toward profitability has been set to provide travel and post-secondary scholarships for Marketing students

The Board thanked the students for their informative presentation, and the work they have put into the Wolf Den school store.

China Trip by Principal Ronald Rasmussen

Lincoln High School Principal Ronald Rasmussen updated the Board on a trip that he took to China in November, 2016. The purpose of the trip was to develop sister school relationships and experience cultural immersion in preparation for the launch of the Wisconsin Rapids International Education Program (WRIEP) in the 2017-18 school year. Highlights from Mr. Rasmussen's presentation included:

- A visit to the Maling Middle School, with which a sister school agreement was signed
- Learning facts about the Chinese education system including the fact that Kindergarten is not mandatory; primary school is grades 1-6; middle school is grades 7-9; and high school education is optional
- Maling Middle School is a high school founded in 1822 which currently has 3,000 students enrolled, of which 2,000 live on campus; there are approximately 250 faculty members; the school is a 4-star high school
- A variety of classrooms were part of the visit, as was a tour of the school campus
- Mr. Rasmussen attended the 12th Annual Jiangsu International Forum for School Principals
- A visit to the Liangfeng Senior Middle School was part of the trip, as was a meeting with the Mayor and Education Bureau personnel
- A STEM presentation was made by Mr. Rasmussen to Jiangsu STEM Pilot
- A Signing Ceremony for the cooperative agreement between Nanjing Jianye District Education Bureau and WRPS took place
- Mr. Rasmussen visited Jianye Senior High School, which is the WRPS Sister School located in Nanjing
- A warm welcome was extended by the Jianye Junior Middle School and Mochou Lake Primary School as well, when Mr. Rasmussen paid them a visit
- Highlights of Mr. Rasmussen's cultural experience in China were shared as relationships and contact were established

Future considerations and plans concerning the exchange program were shared by Mr. Rasmussen, including:

- Students are currently corresponding with their Chinese peers
- Teacher communications have begun via videoconferencing
- The 2017-18 International Exchange Program is prepared to accept up to four students
- Applications and other documents for the program have been finalized
- Host families are being coordinated
- Working relationships will continue to be developed with other schools in the School District Alliance of Wisconsin (SDAWI)
- Possible sister schools may be considered in the future with our middle school and elementary schools
- A summer exchange program for high school students is being considered
- A two week, school year elementary exchange program is being explored
- A two or three week summer school elementary program focused on English and STEM is being considered
- Further travel to China with SDAWI partners to facilitate student exchanges is another future consideration

The Board thanked Mr. Rasmussen for his presentation.

2017 Friend of Education Award

Supt. Dickmann spoke with Board members Mary Rayome and Sandra Hett recently concerning a recommendation for McMillan Memorial Library to receive the "2017 Friend of Education" award. McMillan Memorial Library has been building partnerships with WRPS and has assisted in serving children for many years.

Initiatives involving students of all grade levels have been developed at McMillan Memorial Library such as the creation of a media center for writing, art and design, video and music production, invention, coding, etc.; hosting District art shows and job fairs; building a responsive collection to support the District curriculum; introducing new teachers to the library and its offerings during new teacher orientation; providing an instructional aide to supervise the library commons area which attracts students to the library after school hours; and renovating the children's space to accommodate the needs of local area youth. McMillan Memorial Library has been a community partner to the schools and continues to positively impact students and their families. It is recommended that McMillan Memorial Library receive the "2017 Friend of Education" award.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of the McMillan Memorial Library being named as the "2017 Friend of Education." Motion carried unanimously.

2017 Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Resolutions

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed WASB Resolutions which will be voted upon at the delegation meeting coming up at the January, 2017 State Education Convention.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of having John Benbow use his own discretion and vote his conscience on behalf of the Board when attending the WASB delegate assembly at the upcoming State Education Convention. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk