



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

April 10, 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, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Matt Green, Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Kevin Yeske, Patti Ritchay, Ronald Rasmussen, Elizabeth Severson, Tracy Ginter

MEDIA PRESENT: Travis Plowman – 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

No Report – Student Excused

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of March 13, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – April 3, 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 the proposal to purchase 40 Epson PowerLite 99WH LCD projectors at a cost of \$22,880.00 and 20 HoverCam document cameras at a cost of \$5,760.00 from Tierney Brothers; as well as 10 HP computer monitors from PDS at a cost of \$1,360.00 to be funded from the 2016-2017 District Technology budget, the 2016-2017 LHS Technology budget, and the Technology Referendum budget.

BS-2 Approval of the purchase from PDS of 170 HP 600 G2 desktop computers for Lincoln High School, Grove Elementary, and Mead Elementary at a cost of \$92,905.00, to be funded from the 2016-2017 District Technology budget and the Technology Referendum budget.

BS-3 Approval of the proposal for a house to be constructed for Jerry and Colleen Klonowski by the 2017-18 Lincoln High School Trades House Construction class.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- District utilization of the e-Rate program
- Current practice of providing transportation at no charge to child care facilities within a school attendance area

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular April 3, 2017, Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – April 3, 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 professional staff appointments of Sawyer Ladick (LD/ID Teacher – Lincoln) and Hallie Brock (Speech/Language – Woodside/Vesper).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Mark Sylvester (Noon Aide – Mead), Troy Brey (Custodian – Lincoln), Stacey Bray (Noon Aide – Howe), and Jonathan Moore (Relief Custodian – District).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff resignation request of Linda Bidwell (Noon Aide – Howe).
- PS-4 Approval of Board Policy 533 – Staff Recruiting/Hiring and Board Policy 533 Rule – Staff Recruiting/Hiring Procedures, for second reading.
- PS-5 Approval of a 2016-17 wage increase for Food Service employees retroactive to the start of the 2016-17 school year as follows: Lincoln High School Head Cook, \$0.50/hour; East Junior High and Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Head Cooks, \$0.20/hour; Elementary School Head Cooks, \$0.16/hour; Service Cooks, \$0.15/hour; Second Cooks, Ala Carte Cooks and Bakers, \$0.15/hour; and Helpers, \$0.14/hour.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-5. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of April 3, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – April 3, 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 of Board Policy 426 - Homeless Education Program, and Board Policy 426 Rule - Homeless Education Program Procedures for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of the revisions to Board Policy 345.41 as set out in Attachment C, with language change, for first reading.
- ES-3 Approval to adopt the Social Studies Scope and Sequence set out in Attachment D beginning in the 2018-19 school year.
- ES-4 Approval of the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grant for years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 in the amount of \$50,000 per year.
- ES-5 Approval of the Add-Vantage Math Recovery Professional Development Grant for AVMR training during the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$12,000.

ES-6 Approval of the Peer Review and Mentoring Grant for the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$25,000.

ES-7 Approval of the AODA grant for the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$25,000.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-7. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- The District received notification that it was not successful in securing the Community Impact Grant
- Pupil Nondiscrimination Self-Evaluation Report
- Upcoming student travel plans for Lincoln High and East Jr. High students
- Curriculum changes for 2017-18 pertaining to courses for Japanese, Driver's Education, and Project Lead the Way Principles of Biomedical Science

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the April 3, 2017, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- Forty out of 65 referendum questions on Tuesday's spring election ballot statewide were approved by voters for an overall passage rate of 62%, which is down from the 82% overall approval rate of last November, and 77% seen in April, 2016
 - Twenty-nine questions were for debt issuance with 16 passing
 - Of the 36 questions asked to allow the district to exceed the revenue limit, 24 asked to exceed the revenue limit on a non-recurring basis, with 18 passing
 - Six of the 12 questions asking to exceed the revenue cap on a recurring basis were approved
- Budget Committee Hearings continue to occur across the state, and upcoming meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 in Spooner, WI; Wednesday, April 19 in Ellsworth, WI; and April 21 in Marinette, WI
- Governor Walker's 2017-19 State Budget proposes giving all school districts an additional \$200 in per-pupil categorical aid in the first year, and another \$204 in the second year
- At the federal level, the Trump administration wants to spend \$1.4 billion to expand school vouchers, paying for it with deep cuts to federal aid to public schools
- Supt. Tony Evers was re-elected to the State Superintendent post in the April, 2017 election
- A bill being circulated would eliminate current state law prohibition against carrying firearms in specified places, including school zones, but would retain provisions in current law that allow certain persons or governing bodies to post their buildings and grounds so that individuals who carry a firearm in violation of the posting would commit trespass – if passed, it could be costly to districts to post valid notification signage

Dr. Dickmann indicated she's been hearing that the Joint Finance Committee now plans to work with the Governor's budget instead of putting it aside to start new, but plans to pull policy items out of the budget.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note March, 2017 receipts in the amount of \$10,465,474.44 and approve March, 2017 disbursements in the amount of \$3,049,508.18. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointment, Resignation, Retirement Requests

Dr. Christianson presented a professional staff employee appointment request as follows:

Andrew Cook	Location:	East Jr. High
	Position:	Technology Education (1.0 FTE)
	Education:	BS – UW Platteville – May, 2014
	Major/Minor:	Technology Education
	Salary:	\$45,000

Motion by Mary Rayome seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the professional staff appointment of Andrew Cook for the 2017-18 school year at a salary of \$45,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Health Insurance Contribution Amounts by Hourly Employees

Dr. Christianson stated that the topic of hourly employee health contribution amounts has been discussed in prior Board meetings. He provided an overview of the current benefit level for eligible employees working six or more hours per day as follows:

	Family Plan	Single Plan
District Contribution	\$18,074.40 (\$1,506.20/month)	\$8,078.40 (\$673.20/month)
Employee Contribution	\$3,189.60 (\$265.80/month)	\$1,425.60 (\$118.80/month)

In prior Board meetings, the possibility of changing hourly employee contribution rates has been under consideration as a potential area to reduce costs. At the present time, the District is providing insurance eligibility at a more favorable level than what the Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires. Health insurance is being allowed at the job description rate of six hours per day as opposed to a year-end calculation of actual hours worked to meet the 30 hour per week criteria. Situations in which employees do not work due to it being a non-student contact day, or because a leave of absence without pay was used, may cause an employee to work less than 30 hours per week. A graduated coverage option that has been under consideration, based upon the number of hours an employee works annually was reviewed as follows:

Total Hours	District Contribution % (Family/Single Plan)
1,400 >	85% / 85%
1,200 to 1,399	80% / 80%
1,000 to 1,199	70% / 80%

Under the modified eligibility criteria, the projected savings to the District based upon the number of employees working from December, 2014 to November, 2015 (*which is when these modifications began to be explored*) was \$262,455 with two employees anticipated to have lost coverage. Last year’s numbers have not been calculated, and there is some discussion being held by the administration about the possibility of considering a 1,300 hour threshold in lieu of a 1,400 hour threshold. Dr. Christianson shared comparison data for another school district which bases their employee premium contribution rates on a graduated coverage basis.

The administration has no recommendation about plan modifications at this time, and has only brought the information forward to the Board as an update on potential areas being explored for budget reductions. The Board questioned whether there is intent to hire more part-time people in order to avoid premium costs. Dr. Christianson explained that there is no intent in that regard. In fact, the District has continued to provide more favorable coverage to employees, over and above the ACA requirement.

Donation for River Cities High School (RCHS) Transition Support Services, Equipment, and Supplies

Dr. Dickmann explained that last year an anonymous donor provided \$15,000 to the District for transition support services at River Cities High School. The coordinator who was hired to provide these services assists students as they navigate post-secondary pursuits. The donor has come forward again, this time doubling the donation to offer \$30,000 for RCHS transition support services, and to also help with equipment and supplies to support River Cities students.

The Board expressed deep appreciation for the generous donation.

Motion by John Benbow seconded by Larry Davis to approve of a donation by a community partner for River Cities High School transition support services, school equipment, and supplies in the amount of \$30,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Phase 1 – Lincoln High School Construction Project Cost Estimate

Dr. Dickmann shared updated architectural drawings concerning the Phase 1 Lincoln High School construction project. A section of the drawings contains a potential community locker room which was not a part of the initial \$8.4 million project estimate. The community locker room is not being addressed at this meeting, but may potentially be brought back for consideration and discussion at a later date when the administration has had ample time to determine if Community Fund 80 might be able to be utilized to pay for it.

The remainder of the drawing was reviewed in detail with the Board. A couple of changes were noted:

- The current athletic director’s office would become a space for the officials
- Current football storage moves to the exterior of the building, and the vacant space becomes a classroom
- The ceiling in the new addition has been raised to 22’ to accommodate for the safety of gymnasts who reach full extension during competitions
- A mezzanine space has been added to the addition to house mechanical equipment and technology wiring
- A new athletic director office, CTE/Youth Apprentice office, and conference room has been added

The initial projected cost approved by the Board was \$8.4 million; however, with the actual drawings now finalized with the recommended changes, the cost (prior to the bid process) is now estimated to be \$9.5 million. Information was shared on how the dollars would be allocated to pay for the Phase 1 project, as well as the Phase 2 project at the Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School as follows:

\$ 4,700,000	~	2016-17 Budget
\$ 4,200,000	~	2017-18 Budget
\$ 1,300,000		Energy Exemption – Tax Levy
\$ 10,200,000		Available Funds
(\$ 9,500,000)		High School Project (excluding Community Locker Room/Cafeteria Renovation)
\$ 700,000		Funding Available for Middle School Addition
\$ 4,000,000	~	2018-19 Budget
\$ 3,200,000		Funding from Fund Balance
\$ 7,900,000		Available Funds
(\$ 7,900,000)		Middle School Project
\$ 3,700,000	~	2019-20 Budget
(\$ 3,200,000)		2019-20 Repay Fund Balance
\$ 500,000		2019-20 Available to provide additional operational funds
\$ 3,000,000		2020-21 Budget (Technology, Curriculum, Safety, Salaries)
	~	Previously used for defeasance of General Fund Debt and increases to General Fund Balance

Due to the fact that the initial motion made for the Phase 1 project included the \$8.4 million estimate, Dr. Dickmann is recommending Board action to approve the updated project cost estimate of \$9.5 million. It is hoped that after constructions bids come in, the project cost will decrease. Should costs for the project increase any further, items would need to be removed to stay within the project budget.

Dr. Dickmann further recommended that the Board move ahead to approve the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School Phase 2 project at an estimated cost of \$7,900,000.

The Board discussed the project recommendations.

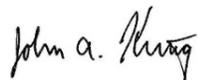
Motion by John Benbow seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the updated cost estimate of \$9.5 million to complete the Phase 1 construction project at Lincoln High School. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Anne Lee to approve of Phase 2 construction at the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School as outlined in the Construction Process Meeting document dated October 24, 2016 at an estimated cost for Phase 2 of \$7.9 million. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk