



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 11, 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, Katie Medina

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Davis

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Daniel Weigand, Ryan Christianson, Matt Green, Ed Allison, Phillip 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

Desiree Alu reported on the following:

- The LHS Student Council continues to volunteer in elementary classrooms across the district, most recently at Grant for a holiday workshop
- Students will be participating in a visit at Cranberry Court Assisted Living Community Center to do crafts and cookies with the residents
- Winter sports are underway, including hockey, gymnastics, and basketball
- Scores for the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) have been returned to students

Approval of Minutes

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

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – December 4, 2017. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow reviewed the following consent agenda item brought before the Board through the Business Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held:

Committee Reports (continued)

- BS-1 Approval of the proposed modification to Policy 830.1 Facility Use Policy for the Performing Arts Center (PAC) for first reading to provide a \$46 per hour charge for rental requests not made a minimum of two weeks prior to the event as well as the modified fee schedule and decrease in the charge for exceeding the rental time limit.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda item BS-1. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular December 4, 2017 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Personnel Services Committee – December 4, 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 Jennifer Westover (Noon Aide – Washington), Jordan Bernette (Noon Aide – Grove), and Sandra Dankemeyer (Night Custodian – Grove).
- PS-2 Approval of Board Policy 510 – Personnel Policies Goals, second reading.
- PS-3 Approval of Board Policy 523.4 – Employee Assistance, second reading.
- PS-4 Approval of Board Policy 536.2 – Staff Retirement, second reading.
- PS-5 Approval of Board Policy 511.5 – Employee Anti-Harassment, second reading.
- PS-6 Approval to delete Board Policy 854 – Display and Distribution of Materials on School Property, second reading.
- PS-7 Approval of Board Policy 440 – Student Rights and Responsibilities – Freedom of Expression, second reading.
- PS-8 Approval of Board Policy 851 – Media Distribution in Schools/Advertising/Sponsorship or Commemorative Naming Rights for District Facilities or Educational Spaces, second reading.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-8. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of December 4, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Educational Services Committee – December 4, 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 proposed revisions to Board Policy 164 – Board Member Compensation and Expenses as set out in “Attachment A” for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of proposed revisions to Board Policy 163 – Opportunities for Development, as set out in “Attachment B” for first reading.
- ES-3 Approval of proposed revisions to Board Policy 162 – New Board Member Orientation as set out in “Attachment C” for first reading.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda items ES 1-3. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Title IV, Part A Funding – the Committee learned from Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, that funding for Title IV is based on the Title I Funding formula. WRPS received a total allocation of \$11,325.00. Parochial schools will receive \$1,288.38 of this total. The WRPS portion will be used on a new student transition program developed by the Boomerang Project to assist fifth grade students in their transition to sixth grade at the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School beginning in 2018-19, as well as eighth grade students in their transition to ninth grade at the high school. Middle school students will participate in “WEB,” which stands for “Where Everybody Belongs,” and freshman will be involved in “Link Crew.” Both programs employ strategic and intentional actions so students get the necessary support and feel welcome and safe in their new school. Reviews of the program are phenomenal, and teachers from the middle school and high school will be attending training sessions to properly implement the program. The annual “Courage Retreat” is a day set aside to encourage students to use moral courage and make responsible decisions, and normally involves eighth grade students, but will involve seventh graders instead in future years.
- Homeless Education Services – Heather Lisitza, Homeless Coordinator, provided information on the impact of homelessness on students, statutory requirements that districts must follow on this topic, and the services that WRPS provides. Ms. Lisitza provided an explanation of the federal McKinney-Vento Act and its impact and obligations for school districts to undertake steps to implement policies and practices for youth which reduce barriers to enrollment, attendance, or success in school.

Several of the specific requirements of districts include: 1) designation of a local homeless liaison; 2) identification of students who are experiencing homelessness or are unaccompanied youth; 3) provision for the immediate enrollment of students who are homeless; 4) making school placement decisions which are based upon the child’s “best interest”; 5) removing transportation barriers for homeless students; and 6) helping students obtain basic needs for student success such as free lunches, waiver of book/class fees, obtaining school supplies or clothing/hygiene items, and connecting students/families to community resources and social services as necessary. Statistical data for a six year period was shared concerning the number of students qualifying for services. During the 2016-17 school year, 238 youth qualified for McKinney Vento services, and 102 students have qualified to date in the current year.

- Lincoln High School Principal Ronald Rasmussen provided information concerning the trimester schedule which was implemented at Lincoln at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year. Results from a student survey conducted aimed at obtaining feedback regarding the trimester schedule were shared. Results from the survey overwhelmingly indicate that students are in favor of the change to a trimester schedule. With respect to Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Mr. Rasmussen explained that courses run either Tri-1 and Tri-2, or Tri-2 and Tri-3, depending upon the building schedule and instructor preference. Data from AP testing indicates that overall, students who score a three or better have fallen below the national average in the last few years. At the same time, many more students are now taking the exams, and there are more types of exams being taken. In 2014-15, 150 students took an AP test and in 2015-16 and 2016-17, 222 students took an AP test. The only time gap that exists between the content being taught and the test being taken is for students who are scheduled for Tri-1 and Tri-2, and then need to wait through March and April before taking the test in May; previously, some students had a gap between January and May when the two semester schedule was in place. Teachers offer multiple review sessions for students during I/E time and after school. Also regarding math, “AP Calculus BC” is a two-semester college course that gets scheduled for an entire academic year, or three trimesters.

Other courses reviewed by Mr. Rasmussen include World Languages and Pre-Calculus. After speaking with teachers involved and performing a grade analysis on the Pre-Calculus course, the administration has concluded that there are no concerns for gaps in instruction time if the courses are not scheduled in back-to-back trimesters. A suggestion was made to perhaps review similar data for Geometry or Algebra 2.

- Ms. Stebbins-Hintz provided results for 2016-17 School and District Report Cards, including a comparison to Valley Conference School and Wood County School results. The District is very close to an overall score of “Exceeds Expectations,” and will continue to strive for continued improvement without overemphasizing test scores. A national level report card from the federal government will also be released at some point in time this year. More information will be shared concerning this when it becomes available.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the December 4, 2017 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- Governor Walker signed Senate Bill 253 into law, which will implement in state statutes provisions in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) intended to prohibit aiding and abetting sexual abuse of children/students by school personnel.
- Legislative leaders announced the formation of a “Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding” to be chaired by Senator Luther Olsen and Representative Joel Kitchens. The commission will travel around the state conducting public hearings to learn more about school funding issues in Wisconsin. Recommendations will be given to legislative leaders before the end of the session. Members named to the commission include lawmakers, educators, and experts in the field of education.
- Other bills signed into law include: AB-266 *Technical Excellence Scholarship Program*; AB-250 *Alternative Education Grants*; AB-251 *DPI Grant Programs*; AB-280 *Financial Literacy in Schools*; SB-299 *Montessori Teaching License*; SB-382 *School Employee Tuberculosis Screening*.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note November, 2017 receipts in the amount of \$1,172,994.53 and approve November, 2017 disbursements in the amount of \$4,202,572.91. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New BusinessEmployee Appointment Request

None.

Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$9,200,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2017B

Superintendent Broeren explained that several items on the Board agenda are for discussion only, and will be followed up on at the December 13, 2017 meeting for formal action and possible Board approval. The first topic is concerning a Resolution awarding the sale of \$9,200,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes for the additional classrooms and gymnasium being constructed at the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School to accommodate eighth grade students relocating there in 2018-19.

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, explained that the middle school and high school projects were not originally anticipated or scheduled to be completed in the same year. However, because the high school project was slightly delayed, no additional state aid was received for that project, and Fund balance will not sufficiently cover both projects in the same year which is reason for issuing the \$9,200,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes.

Performance Contract Agreements with Nexus Solutions

Nexus Solutions is the approved performance contractor working with the District on the Lincoln High School projects. At the December 13, 2017 meeting, the Board will be asked to formally approve Nexus Solutions as the performance contractor for other District energy conservation measures, facility improvements, and infrastructural repairs. Nexus representatives presented a report to the Board on November 13, 2017 which outlined the projects being considered by the District.

One-Year District Lighting Project

Mr. Weigand reviewed one of the projects presented to the Board on November 13, 2017 which pertains to energy efficiencies that would be gained through a one-year District energy project. Numerous buildings would have LED lighting installed as described in previous meetings.

Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit for One Year in 2018-19 to Fund District Energy Projects

Mr. Weigand explained that the proposed Resolution to exceed the revenue limit for one year would be for the purpose of funding the energy efficiency projects described above.

Multi-Year Energy Efficiency and Deferred Maintenance Projects

As presented to the Board in November, a number of multi-year energy efficiency projects which would occur throughout the District are slated for approval at a cost of \$9,300,000. Nearly every building will experience

maintenance upgrades which may be in the form of improvements in areas such as HVAC upgrades, window and door replacements and improvements, water conservation upgrades, or masonry repairs. These infrastructure improvements have been deferred for many years, and the time allowed to take advantage of the unique Act 32 financial solution to fund the projects ends on December 31, 2017. In addition to facilities being updated, energy savings realized from the projects provides a financial benefit to the District.

Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$9,300,00 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2017C

Mr. Weigand explained that the proposed Resolution pertains to the multi-year energy efficiency projects just described. These projects would be funded outside of the revenue cap, and not from General Fund operational dollars.

Resolution to Exceed Revenue Limit Not to Exceed Ten Years to Fund District Energy Measures/Projects

Similar to the one-year Resolution to exceed the revenue limit, a Resolution is also being proposed to exceed the revenue limit for not more than ten years on a non-recurring basis in order to fund the multi-year energy efficiency measures and projects.

The Board discussed the proposed projects and funding solutions. Consideration was given to the fact that the last major renovations occurring in the District were in 1999 and 2001 and were tied more to enrollment and adding space, rather than updating equipment. Ed Allison, Director of Buildings and Grounds, confirmed that a great deal of equipment slated for replacement in the buildings is outdated and nearing or past its economic lifecycle. The proposed projects would position the District well in terms of reliability, performance, cost effectiveness, and maintenance operation needs for the next couple of decades.

2017-18 District Budget Amendment

Mr. Weigand presented recommended amendments to the 2017-18 budget which pertain to the District tax levy and state aid. Amounts recorded for local revenue and state sources have been updated as the projection for state aid decreased since less was spent on the LHS renovation project than anticipated originally. This increases the tax levy; however, this should reverse next year when expenses for the high school addition are aidable for State Equalization Aid.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of an amendment to the 2017-18 District budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Update on 2016-17 District Auditor's Report and Affiliated Communication

Mr. Weigand provided an overview of the 2016-17 District "Independent Auditors' Report on Communication with Those Charged with Governance and Management Advisory Comments" and "Financial Statements with Independent Auditors' Report" dated June 30, 2017. Various sections of the report were highlighted and discussed.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Anne Lee to approve of the 2016-17 District audit report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk