



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 10, 2018

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Daniel Weigand, Brian Oswald, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ed Allison

MEDIA PRESENT: Jesse Austin – River Cities Community Access

Vice President Mary Rayome called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Student Representative’s Report

Desiree Alu was absent from the meeting, but submitted the following report through Superintendent Broeren:

- DECA students are hosting a “Christmas Party” where cookies will be decorated and then sold during lunches, with proceeds from the sale being donated to the local “Toys for Tots” program.
- Over forty Student Council members volunteered to serve at the most recent Neighborhood Table event; another forty students raked leaves in November for the “Day of Caring” event.
- DECA sent over 500 “Dear Santa” letters to benefit “Make-A-Wish” as Macy’s is donating \$1.00 for every letter sent.
- Lincoln is currently sponsoring a cold weather gear drive, with a collection box set up in the office to collect coats, hats, mittens and other winter wear items.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of November 12, 2018, and special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of November 6, 20, and 29, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

- Business Services Committee – December 3, 2018. Report given by John Benbow. Mr. Benbow explained that there were no consent agenda items to be brought forward for Board action from the December 3, 2018 Business Services Committee meeting. Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on the following:

Committee Reports (continued)

- Review of invoices for video surveillance servers, digital two-way radios, and a technology software subscription.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular December 3, 2018 Business Services Committee meeting with one correction to reflect that Katie Medina was present and Larry Davis was not. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – December 3, 2018. 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 appointment of Amanda Zager (Teacher – WRAMS).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Michelle Zuege (Kitchen Helper – WRAMS) and Kathleen Pyburn (Noon Duty Aide – Lincoln).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff resignation requests of Rochelle Oelke (Noon Duty Aide – Grant) and Karlie Tomsyck (College, Career and Volunteer Coordinator – Lincoln).
- PS-4 Approval of a one-time stipend of \$2,000 for Sara Kolo for the supervision of the Title VI program for the 2018-19 school year.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 1-4. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- Salary information concerning school district nurse compensation and affiliated duties. The Committee requested additional salary and hourly information for future discussion.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of December 3, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – December 3, 2018. 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 the 66.03.01 Cooperative Agreement between Black River Falls and Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools for participation in the Central Wisconsin Reading Recovery Consortium.
- ES-2 Approval of the DPI mini-grant entitled Cool to Be Kind for Lincoln High School in the amount of \$1,000.
- ES-3 Approval of the ACT Now! Staff Training Grant for Mead Elementary Charter School in the amount of \$1,500.

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

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Principal Penny Antell and members of the Mead Elementary Charter School Governing Council were in attendance to share information with the Committee about a teacher poll conducted to consider the positives and negatives of continuing to operate with charter status. Additional conversation by the Council is planned, with a recommendation to be made concerning whether or not Mead should continue to operate as a charter school. Ms. Antell shared 2018-19 goals for Mead as well as 2017-18 accomplishments. Mead has 15 new staff members this year, which equates to a 20 percent staffing change.
- Melissa Miller, Reading and Math Interventionist at THINK Academy and coordinator of the Mead Elementary Charter School Outdoor classroom, updated the Committee on the status of this project. She

stated that a decision had been made to name this the “Community Outdoor Learning Center” to promote more community involvement. Meetings have been conducted with Ed Allison, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and the architect. To date \$40,000 of the \$100,000 goal has been raised, including a \$10,000 matching grant from Incurage. There are several fundraisers planned, and bricks can still be purchased for part of the walkway. Plans are to reach out to businesses for assistance, as well as more grant writing. Because of other updates being made to the school in June, breaking ground has been pushed back to July, 2019.

- Craig Broeren, Superintendent, and Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of Lincoln High School, updated the Committee on proposed athletic facility upgrades at Lincoln High School. These plans for the LHS facility started about six years ago with conversation around changes needed for the pool. With the pool concerns handled through recent construction projects due to grade level restructuring, attention can now be turned to other facility needs, including the condition of the track which has been an on-going area of concern. Just recently area softball and baseball groups approached WRPS regarding collaboration on a possible baseball and softball quadplex on the LHS grounds. This eventually led to a proposal submitted to the Legacy Foundation, including the potential renovation of specifically baseball and softball facilities, which then gave rise to an expanded conversation around nearly all LHS exterior athletic facilities. Since the conversation has only recently turned to the potential of renovating a number of athletic facilities at LHS, very little of this plan has been discussed publicly up to this point. However, Mr. Broeren asked the Committee for permission to bring the possibility of the project to the community via local stakeholders including youth sports organizations, adult sports organizations, etc., and solicit input about where this might lead.

Mr. Krings questioned whether the Chamber of Commerce had been contacted, and Mrs. Hett asked if Fund 10 would finance any of this. Mr. Broeren stated that the District would certainly involve the Chamber of Commerce. He also clarified that significant District funds from sources such as Fund 10 or others are not part of the plan; however, since this is located on District property, there may be maintenance and upkeep necessary in the future or other miscellaneous expenses generated that the District would be responsible for.

- Ms. Stebbins-Hintz reviewed results of the 2017-18 School and District Report Cards. She noted that the District Meets Expectations, and several of the schools Exceeded Expectations. Overall the District lags behind the state in growth, but this is an area the District is working on. She also noted that the District did better this year on closing gaps. Next year’s Report Card will include results from the ACT Aspire test. The District will also receive a Federal Report Card, to be released soon.
- Mr. Rasmussen explained that LHS hired a new French teacher this year, Justine Horvath. Ms. Horvath is working to develop a three week home stay program with students from France. She previously worked at two other districts in Wisconsin and implemented this program in those districts. Committee members agreed this was a wonderful opportunity, and encouraged implementation of the program.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the December 3, 2018, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- A special “Dark Store” study committee created to try to curb a practice that has resulted in shifting property taxes from “big box” retailers and pharmacy chains onto homeowners and small businesses will be holding its final meeting on December 11, 2018.
- The Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding is expected to conduct a final meeting on December 19, 2018. They will be discussing and finalizing the Commission’s recommendations for improving the school funding formula based on testimony received at previous public hearings.
- In an extraordinary session held by the Legislature on December 5, 2018, a bill was passed requiring Wisconsin Department of Justice settlement funds to be deposited into the General Fund and not the Common School Fund. WASB opposed the measure and requested the language be removed based on their viewpoint

that those funds are arguably constitutionally required to be deposited into the Common School Fund established by the original Wisconsin Constitution.

- Two draft bills developed by the Legislative Council Study Committee on the Identification and Management of Dyslexia have been forwarded to the Joint Legislative Council for consideration of advancement to the full Legislature. The first proposed bill would require the Department of Public Instruction to hire a dyslexia specialist beginning in the 2019-20 school year with certain duties and qualifications laid out in the legislation. The second proposed bill would require the DPI to develop a guidebook for parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators regarding dyslexia and related conditions.
- Proposed 2019 WASB Resolutions to be considered by the Delegate Assembly on January 23, 2019 at the upcoming State Education Convention have been finalized and are being printed and posted to the WASB website.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note November, 2018 receipts in the amount of \$1,231,325.44 and approve November, 2018 disbursements in the amount of \$4,226,878.70. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointment, Resignation, and Retirement Requests

None.

Wisconsin Rapids Education Association (WREA) Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2018-19

President Krings and Superintendent Broeren provided an update on the recent bargaining process conducted between the Board WREA Negotiation Committee and WREA bargaining team. The parties reached a tentative agreement of a 2% base salary wage increase for the 2018-19 contract year which would be distributed equally among staff members and prorated based upon individual employee Full Time Equivalency (FTE) status. A full time staff member would receive an approximate \$945.00 increase on their annual salary from the settlement. Board members had an opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the proposed 2018-19 Wisconsin Rapids Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement settlement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of District Auditor's Report

Mr. Weigand summarized the findings of the annual audit by pointing out that the "Auditor's Report on Communication With Those Charged With Governance" document stipulates that professional standards require that the auditors accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit and communicate them to the appropriate level of management, and that management has corrected all such misstatements. None of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole. Mr. Weigand explained that the adjusting journal entries stipulated toward the end of the document did not affect the financial statements as a whole.

In reviewing financial highlights from the audit, total revenue to total expenditures indicates that there was an increase in fund balance. However, even with the increase, Mr. Weigand explained that the District fund balance is not yet at a level that eliminates the need to short-term borrow, although the amount needing to be borrowed is decreasing. Fund 10 revenue and expenditures were reviewed by Mr. Weigand. With regard to revenue, Mr. Weigand noted that the District received a hail storm settlement amount of \$3,000,000. Also, for the first year since Mr. Weigand has been with WRPS, enrollment did not decline and instead experienced an increase in students. Special education expenses were reviewed and the Board discussed the amount of revenue received from the State for these expenses.

Mr. Weigand explained that the District General Obligation Debt amounts have changed significantly. A Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) note issued in 2006 still exists in an amount of \$2,820,000 which the District pays no interest on. In 2007, the District borrowed around \$6,000,000 for boiler replacements and renovations and \$2,915,000 of this amount was refinanced in the 2015 year. This year, new borrowing occurred in an amount of \$10,455,000 for District energy projects taking place at Lincoln High School which included such things as the pool renovation, locker room area, and energy recovery system; \$9,200,000 for the WRAMS addition as grade level restructuring moved the eighth grade class to WRAMS in 2018-19 making it a grades 6-8

middle school; and \$9,300,000 was also borrowed for numerous energy projects taking place across the District. Since the District started to defease debt approximately five or six years ago, a total of \$17,870,000 has been defeased during this time frame. The auditors noted that of the amount defeased, \$1,310,000 is deposited into an escrow account to be paid out when the Bonds become due.

With regard to OPEB liability, District obligations for OPEB are decreasing because some time ago the Board took action to modify the retirement benefit so that the amount paid is frozen at the health insurance cost figure at the time of retirement. As health insurance costs increase, the District's obligation to pay for a retiree's insurance does not increase. Mr. Weigand made mention that staff members are retiring later, around 61 or 62 years of age rather than 58 or 59, which contributes to less OPEB liability for the District.

Mr. Weigand noted excess expenditures over budgeted amounts in the areas of pupil transportation, non-program transactions, principal and interest payments. The District spent \$9,310,439 on special education programs and is anticipating that 24.5% will be returned in special education aid. The reimbursement has been decreasing every year and this will continue unless the State modifies the funding reimbursement.

The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the audit.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the District auditor's report from Hawkins Ash CPAs dated June 30, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval to Amend the 2018-19 District Budget

With regard to the 2018-19 District budget, Mr. Weigand and Superintendent Broeren explained that the District has seen the most significant change in account codes to be utilized in its financial accounting system beginning in the 2018-19 budget year than has ever been experienced. Information needed to accommodate the changes being required were not received by District staff until as late as October, 2018. Accounting structures have been totally revamped as a result of federal government reporting requirements which reflect building-based budgeting. The quantity of budget codes now being utilized has quadrupled in number to approximately 20,000-30,000 codes. There has been a major investment of time and resources spent by the District to bring it into compliance with these changes.

In terms of amendments to the 2018-19 District budget, Mr. Weigand stated that he changed the manner in which tax levy amounts would be tracked from having two levies – one in Fund 10 and the other in Fund 38, to instead have everything levied under Fund 10. This will be helpful and simplify how potential changes can be made to the budget in the future, should they be needed. Mr. Weigand levies in Fund 10 and transfers to Fund 38 as appropriate to make payments on Bonds that come due.

Also noted was the fact that the District had some additional grants come in that weren't approved in June which necessitates changes in the General Fund. Referendum debt was increased due to an adjustment in Bond payment amounts. Capital projects were anticipated to have been done last year; however, since they were not, a substantial amount for the projects will be invoiced in 2018-19 once the projects conclude. Fund 73 was not part of the June budget hearing meeting. Mr. Weigand projects that there will be \$1,414,923.00 in staff retiree health insurance payments made.

Lastly, a change in Community Service Fund 80 increased the dollars to include a vestibule project which encloses and provides a walkway from the new gym to the pool at Lincoln High School so that spectators do not need to exit one door and walk outside to get around and enter into the pool area. This update to the project will eliminate cold air from coming into the pool area as well as build-up of frost on the door since it was previously leading directly outside.

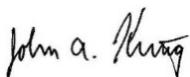
The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the proposed amendments.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed amendments to the 2018-19 District budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk