



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

John A. Krings, President  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Troy Bier  
Larry Davis  
Sandra K. Hett  
Katie Medina  
Mary Rayome

March 8, 2021

**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Services Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494  
Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Aaron Nelson, Roxanne Filtz, Brian Oswald, Danielle Scott, Bill Oswald, Jamie Oliver, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ed Allison, Elizabeth Messerli

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Special Recognition

President Krings presented special recognition to Art Teacher Dustin Anderson for his Wisconsin Elementary Art Teacher of the Year award and for the positive contributions he makes in the lives of students and in his profession.

Student Representative Report

Rachel Marten reported that the surveillance testing done up to this point has been going extremely well with the process being very smooth and efficient. Four days of in-person learning begins March 16, 2021, and special activities are being planned to welcome students back. Seniors eligible have an option to drop down to 2 courses for trimester 3 to alleviate campus crowding. Rachel presented the Board with a binder of materials containing content that has led to Lincoln receiving the first place 2020-21 Wisconsin Association of School Councils' "Spirit of Excellence" award. The Board commended Rachel and the students of Lincoln for this great accomplishment.

Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of February 8, 2021, and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of February 8, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.**

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – March 8, 2021. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Ms. Rayome 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 adoption of the proposed K-12 School Counseling Curriculum beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

ES-2 Approval of adoption of the proposed third grade social studies curriculum map beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

ES-3 Approval of the proposed draft of the Central Oaks Academy Charter School contract beginning with the 2021-22 school year, with the understanding that a new contract proposal will be brought forward if the Department of Public Instruction makes any significant changes during the review process.

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items ES 1-3. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Rayome provided updates and reports on:

- Craig Broeren, Superintendent, shared updates around surveillance testing in preparation for secondary level students to return to 4-day in person learning beginning March 16, 2021.
- Dr. Scott presented an update on the work being done to address the District's disproportionality identification by DPI. Dr. Scott stated that the District is addressing the disproportionality for African-American students in special education as a whole and for Hispanic students in the specific disability category of learning disabilities. She indicated that when students with IEPs transfer in from other districts, a thorough review of their IEP is conducted and if it is felt there are concerns, a new IEP evaluation is conducted so that student needs can be better met. The District continues to strive toward eliminating its significant disproportionality identification through the work of the special education department and District equity work.
- Ms. Sara Kolo, WRPS Equity Coordinator, gave a presentation regarding the newly formed definition of educational equity. She is working with teachers and administrators to determine biases, especially those of color and LGBTQ+. There are several professional development opportunities available.
- Ronald Rasmussen, Lincoln High School Principal, reviewed and explained the attachments shared in the background regarding failure rates. Data reflects grading for Term 1 of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years. He noted there is a slight increase of approximately five percent between the two years, but also pointed out that of the 90 Fs in 20-21, 35-40 of those students are truant.
- Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, updated the Committee on virtual enrollment numbers. She noted that enrollment is down a bit, and the District will see even lower numbers at the trimester. Virtual parents are being notified that where their student is attending as of March 26th is where the student will finish the school year, so it is expected that numbers will drop further as students transition back to the buildings.
- Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction, indicated that this school year will be the last school year WRPS will be using Reading Recovery as a reading intervention for first grade students. It has been difficult to staff Reading Recovery as it is a huge time commitment for staff. It was further noted that Jackie Heinz, Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, retired a few years ago but has agreed to continue assisting the District in that role; however, it is unknown for how long. Ms. Wilhorn noted that removing Reading Recovery will not affect intervention staffing, and since its inception there have been many other types of interventions added to assist staff with students of concern.

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the March 1, 2021 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Business Services Committee – March 1, 2021. 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 proposed Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing Cooperative 66.0301 Agreement in the amount of \$300 for the 2021-22 school year.
- BS-2 Approval of the purchase of floor finish supplies from Nassco in the amount of \$11,076.72, and Hillyard in the amount of \$8,191.91.
- BS-3 Approval of the proposed CESA 5 agreement in the amount of \$324,550.80 for the 2021-22 school year.
- BS-4 Approval of the purchase of 600 Chromebook cases from Bump Armor at a cost of \$15,380.81 to be funded from the 2021-22 technology budget.
- BS-5 Approval of the purchase of several online databases from WiLS in the amount of \$17,587.07 to be funded from the 2020-21 Common School Fund budget.
- BS-6 Approval of the purchase of cafeteria tables for the Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School from Marshfield Book & Stationery at a cost of \$72,088.75 paid for using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSR) Grant Program II funds.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items BS 1-6. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Purchases of document cameras, police liaison services, and copy paper.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the March 1, 2021 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Personnel Services Committee – March 1, 2021. 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 Keegan Crowley (Noon Duty Aide – Woodside), Afton Gordon (Health Aide – WRAMS), Gail Prochnow (Secretary – Mead), Karrie Moore (Accounts Payable Secretary – District), Katherine Barthel (Library Aide – Mead), Anne Sager (Kitchen Helper – Lincoln), Casey Saeger (Special Ed Aide – Mead), and Staci DeWitt (Office Aide – Mead).
- PS-2 Approval of the professional staff early retirements of Tammie Rau (Teacher – WRAMS), Jamie Graper (Teacher – Howe), Sara Esser (Teacher – WRAMS), Connie Henke (Teacher – Grove/Woodside), and Curt O’Brion (Teacher – Grove).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff early retirement of Linda Leinweber (Kitchen Helper – Lincoln).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff resignations of Sandra Ashbeck (Noon Duty/Instructional Aide – THINK), Debra Nelson (Library Aide – Mead), Erin Hepp (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Amanda Mrozek (Special Ed Aide – THINK), and Sarah Doughty (Office Aide – Mead).
- PS-5 Approval of Board Policy 672 – Purchasing Procedures/Competitive Pricing for second reading.
- PS-6 Approval of language changes to the Post-Employment Insurance Benefit section as presented for the following Employee Handbooks: Office/Clerical and Aide Support Staff, Professional Staff, Food Service, and Custodial and Maintenance Staff.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-6. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources, updated the Committee on District employee utilization of the Employee Assistance Program, which was slightly less when compared to the previous year.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the March 1, 2021 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Troy Bier shared the following information:

- The state Senate approved Senate Bill 55 which would modernize the publication of minutes (proceedings) of meetings held by school boards and other governmental bodies. Action now moves to the Assembly where the companion bill (Assembly Bill 60) has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Local Government.
- Governor Tony Evers’ state budget was introduced to lawmakers on February 16, 2021 and contains a strong public school funding component with the addition of \$612.8 million in state general aid to school districts over the biennium; allows a \$200 per pupil increase in school district revenue limits in 2021-22 and \$204 per pupil in 2022-23; increases the low revenue ceiling from \$10,000 per pupil to \$10,250 in 2021-22 and \$10,500 in 2022-23 to provide greater revenue limit equity for low-spending school districts; provides an additional \$709 million in special education categorical aid; increases special education aid by \$296.7 million

in 2021-22 and by \$412.9 million in 2022-23 to reimburse eligible special education costs at 45 percent and 50 percent in those fiscal years, respectively. Increases in school mental health categorical aid, an adjustment to the rolling three-year membership average to account for the effect of the pandemic on school district enrollment, and increasing per pupil categorical aid payments from \$742 to \$750 per pupil are also included in the Governor’s budget. More information will be forthcoming on the budget as it moves through the legislative process.

- WASB held its first “Capitol Chat” webinar on February 26, 2021 to provide updates on legislative topics including Governor Evers’ budget proposal, COVID liability protection, vaccine update, and school start date.
- WASB also conducted a brief interview with Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education, to gather his thoughts on the governor’s budget proposal for schools and other K-12 bills he has authored this session. Key takeaways include the impact federal COVID relief funding will have on legislators’ willingness to agree to state funding increases for schools and the high level of interest in providing funding based upon in-person instruction. The full interview is available on the WASB Legislative blog.
- Mr. Bier provided a reminder about the upcoming spring election on April 6, 2021 where various races such as state superintendent, local school board seats, and referendums are on the ballot.
- The state Senate Committee on Education held hearings recently on the following bills:
  - *SB 39 – allows a pupil who attends a virtual charter school to participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in the pupil’s resident school district*
  - *SB 69 – incorporates the Holocaust and other genocides in the state model social studies standards and requires instruction on these topics*
  - *SB 95 – creates sudden cardiac arrest awareness/information requirements for youth sports similar to those currently required for concussions/head injuries*
  - *SB 109 – allows a pupil to attend a “fully virtual option” offered by a nonresident school board or a charter school located in a nonresident school district under the full-time open enrollment program*
  - *SB 110 – provides specifics around the number and type of applications that a pupil may submit to a nonresident school board under open enrollment*
- Mr. Bier provided a reminder about the upcoming spring election on April 6, 2021 where various races such as state superintendent, local school board seats, and referendums are on the ballot.

### Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note February, 2021 receipts in the amount of \$10,160,436.61 and approve February, 2021 disbursements in the amount of \$3,561,102.86. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

### Unfinished/Old Business

#### Future Levy Override and Bond Issue Referendum Questions

Superintendent Broeren provided an update on the final information session planned for the public on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at the PAC as well as upcoming radio station interviews and methods that the District is utilizing to inform the public about the upcoming referendum questions on the ballot.

### New Business

#### Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

Mr. Oswall presented the following support staff appointments:

Faith Peaslee	Location:	WRAMS
	Position:	Kitchen Helper (3.75 hrs/day)
	Effective Date:	March 8, 2021
	Hourly Rate:	\$14.83 (starting rate) / \$15.61 (after 60 days)
Keegan Crowley	Location:	Woodside Elementary
	Position:	Special Education Aide (7.0 hrs/day)
	Effective Date:	March 10, 2021
	Hourly Rate:	\$15.25 (starting rate) / \$16.05 (after 60 days)

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the support staff appointments of Faith Peaslee and Keegan Crowley. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Oswall presented the following professional staff resignations:

Cynthia Kane	Location:	Washington Elementary
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 7, 2021
	Date of Hire:	August 28, 2007
Lindsey Blanke	Location:	District
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 7, 2021
	Date of Hire:	August 25, 2020
Rachel Sheets	Location:	Woodside/Grove Elementary
	Position:	Teacher (.70 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 7, 2021
	Date of Hire:	September 3, 2013
Samantha Franz	Location:	Mead Elementary
	Position:	Teacher (1.0 FTE)
	Effective Date:	June 7, 2021
	Date of Hire:	August 27, 2013

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the professional staff resignations of Cynthia Kane, Lindsey Blanke, Rachel Sheets, and Samantha Franz. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Oswall presented the following support staff resignations:

Pam Walker	Location:	Mead Elementary
	Position:	Noon Duty Aide (2.0 hrs/day)
	Effective Date:	May 3, 2021
	Date of Hire:	September 5, 2017
Pang Foua Khang	Location:	Mead/Grant Elementary
	Position:	ELL Aide (7.0 hrs/day)
	Effective Date:	March 12, 2021
	Date of Hire:	November 1, 2017

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the support staff resignations of Pam Walker and Pang Foua Khang. Motion carried unanimously.**

Final Version of Central Oaks Academy Charter School Contract

Superintendent Broeren reviewed the Central Oaks Academy Charter School contract noting that technically nothing has changed in the contract's intent since the Educational Services Committee discussed its contents on March 1, 2021. Ms. Hett questioned whether "Parent Advisory Council" language that was added back in on page 10 is necessary, and Mr. Broeren explained that after checking with the Department of Public Instruction, this will be required so the language was not stricken. Ms. Hett noted that on page 16, the word "academic semester" was to be changed to "academic trimester." Mr. Broeren will ensure that change is incorporated in the final version signed by both parties.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the final version of the Central Oaks Academy Charter School Contract as described and changed. Motion carried unanimously.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

  
John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk