



Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

MINUTES

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

October 28, 2019

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Craig Broeren, Daniel Weigand, Brian Oswald

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

Roll Call

District Health Insurance Carrier Proposal

Superintendent Craig Broeren explained that the administration has been exploring employee health insurance plan renewal options after receiving the WCA Group Health Trust's plan renewal rate of 8.5% for the upcoming 2020 fiscal year, which equates to an increase of \$978,536.00. Proposals were solicited from WEA and Security Health Plan, with a quote submitted by WEA that is around 20% higher than the current plan; and a quote from Security Health Plan which would equate to a 3.9% increase for Broad network coverage, and a 1% increase for Narrow network coverage. The plan by Security virtually matches the current plan with a few differences in the area of drug coverage. If the plan is approved for implementation, Security will work with individual employees to counsel and assist them with these areas of the plan that differ. While the WCA plan includes Aspirus as its Narrow network provider, the Security Health Plan Narrow network does not include Aspirus, and instead includes Marshfield Clinic and Ascension. Aspirus, Marshfield Clinic, Ascension, Mayo, and UW hospitals and clinics are all in-network for the Security Health Plan Broad network coverage option. Projected savings for making the change is estimated to be between \$353,312.00 and \$591,746.00 depending upon the number of employees choosing Narrow versus Broad network coverage.

A few perks for covered employees under the Security Health Plan include a "Care My Way" program which is a free health provider service offered by telephone and would take the place of the current "Teledoc" service offered through the WCA plan which currently costs employees \$60 per use. The Security plan also features an over-the-counter healthcare store that provides \$30 per quarter for employees on the plan to use on items such as pain relievers, antihistamines, sunscreen, toothbrushes, etc. The biometric screening covered under the WCA plan that 60-70 employees were taking advantage of is not offered under the Security plan, except through the course of normal visits with a healthcare provider. A new offering for employees covered by the Security plan will be the possibility of up to \$200.00 per year to be put towards a fitness membership.

The Board questioned whether Security Health offered any type of guaranteed not to exceed rate increase for a second year renewal. Mr. Broeren explained that they did offer a guaranteed renewal rate based upon the District's loss ratio as long as it is under 83%. They will review these figures by June 30, 2020 to make a determination as to what the renewal rate will be, which could range from 0% to 12% based upon a loss ratio under 83%. If the loss ratio is over 83%, there are no second year rate increase guarantees.

Information concerning neighboring district health plan offerings was shared. Mr. Broeren expressed the importance of offering a competitive health insurance benefit package to attract and retain employees. While switching insurance carriers is somewhat inconvenient for employees, the overall cost savings cannot be ignored. A number of meetings will take place to educate employees about the options available to them, and to answer their questions.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the health insurance plan proposal submitted by Security Health Plan to be effective January 1, 2020 which equates to a 3.9% Broad network increase and 1% for Narrow network as described and presented; and to also continue the employer contribution to District employee Health Savings Accounts (HSA) in an amount of \$1,500.00 for employees carrying a single plan, and \$3,000.00 for employees carrying a family plan. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

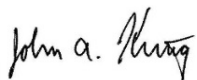
Update on 2019-20 District Budget

Mr. Broeren and Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, reviewed the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) 2019-20 Revenue Limit Worksheet, explaining that the tax levy amount of \$24,463,682.00 approved by the Board in June, 2019 remains unchanged. The overall pupil count is trending upward with a total of 5,007 reported for the third Friday in September, and property values have increased by 6.15%, which is also up from an original anticipated rate of 3.9%. The 2019-20 mill rate of \$9.99 has decreased from the 2018-19 rate of \$10.44 since valuations increased. The State equalized aid amount from July 1, 2019 was up by \$1,500,000.00 which helps offset costs to local taxpayers.

An item worth noting is an approximate increase of \$162,206.00 in the State School Voucher Program over last year. Also noteworthy is the \$175.00 revenue limit adjustment per member, which hasn't increased for a number of years. The additional equalization aid made available in the 2019-20 State budget required an adjustment to the distribution of amounts levied. Mr. Weigand is interested in defeasing \$1,520,000.00 of the total \$2,050,000.00 available Fund 39 Debt for defeasance. A total of \$1,264,501.00 has been allocated to Community Services Fund 80 for potential future projects. At the conclusion of the 2018-19 fiscal year, the District's General Fund balance reached a point where the District no longer has a need to short-term borrow. The reallocation of funds between General Fund, Debt Service Fund, and Community Service Fund results in no change to the overall tax levy.

The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the 2019-20 District budget.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk