



## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

John A. Krings, President  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Troy Bier  
Christopher Inda  
Kathi Stebbins-Hintz  
Elizabeth St. Myers  
Julie Timm

February 3, 2025

### SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING Board Review/Approval of Neola Policies

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

TIME: Immediately Following the Regular Board of Education Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Troy Bier, Christopher Inda, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz,  
Elizabeth St. Myers, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen

President John Krings called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Roll Call

Mr. Krings stated the reason for the meeting is to review and approve of Neola policy drafts.

The Board reviewed two Neola policies that had been approved in a prior meeting to bring in language from existing policy as follows:

0167.3 - updated to bring in "Speak Your Peace" initiatives.

0171.3 - updated to bring in language from the current policy concerning Board Secretary duties.

Superintendent Ronald Rasmussen reviewed each individual Neola policy contained in the 6000 and 7000 Series:

6108	6116	6144	6146	6147	6150	6151	6152	6152.01	6210
6220	6230	6231	6235	6236	6320	6330	6423	6424	6440
6450	6460	6470	6510	6520	6605	6610	6611	6620	6630
6670	6680	6700	6800	6830					
7100	7217	7230	7240	7250	7250.01	7300	7410	7420	7430
7434	7440	7440.01	7440.02	7440.03	7455	7460	7510	7530	7530.01
7530.02	7540	7540.01	7540.02	7540.03	7540.04	7540.05	7540.06	7540.07	7540.08
7541	7542	7543	7544	7550					

The following policies included additional discussion as noted:

6152.01 – Waiver of School Fees or Fines – A question was raised about who decides whether a fee or fine is waived. Superintendent Rasmussen explained that the school Social Worker/Homeless Liaison collaborates with families and school administrators/secretaries to complete the necessary forms and process the waiver.

6231 – Budget Implementation – A new process is planned to have more frequent updates of monthly financial data snapshots brought to the Business Services Committee and also during Board meetings in the future.

6235 – Fund Balance – This policy provides a specific amount (18%) of fund balance that is required to be maintained by the District; Mr. Rasmussen stated that the goal will be to maintain a targeted balance of 20-30%.

6605 – Crowdfunding – This is a new policy for the District, and staff are to seek approval to crowdfund for school purposes from the administration.

6610 – Nondistrict-Supported Student Activity Accounts – This policy refers to entities such as Booster Clubs that operate independently, though schools do offer guidance.

7230 – Gifts, Grants, and Bequests – Mr. Rasmussen clarified that the Board of Education must approve grants valued at more than \$10,000. Aaron Nelson, Director of Business Services, will update the Board of Education when grants, gifts, or bequests under \$10,000 that are received.

7250 – Commemoration and Naming Rights of School Facilities – This policy reflects current practice with regard to naming rights, similar to the approach used for the Rapids Area Sports Complex.

7250.01 – Memorials for Staff and Students – Outdoor benches and gardens are acceptable memorials and can be permitted with the Superintendent's approval. A question was raised about the possibility of relocating the benches if necessary. Ed Allison, Director of Buildings and Grounds, noted that they have not encountered issues with moving them in the past.

7530 – Lending of District-Owned Equipment – There are occasions where equipment is exchanged with other agencies such as the City of Wisconsin Rapids, and this policy language covers those occasions.

7530.02 – Staff and School Officials Use of Personal Communication Devices – This policy brings the practice and expectations of cell phone use by staff more in line with current practice.

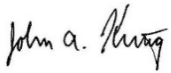
7540.08 – Artificial Intelligence (AI) - This is the District's first policy on AI, and it will likely be changing over the next few months with the way AI is evolving.

Remaining policies were reviewed. Current language has been weaved into the Neola policies to capture the District's local procedures and intent.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier, to approve the updated drafts of Neola Policy 0167.3 - Public Comment at Board Meetings and Policy 0171.3 - Clerk for first reading. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the Neola Policy Series 6000 - Finances and 7000 - Property, and held in draft form until all Neola policies are simultaneously adopted on a future date yet to be determined; at that point in time, any Board Policies currently in effect will be rescinded. Motion carried unanimously.**

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Julie Timm – Clerk