



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education  
**Educational Services Committee**  
510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

Anne Lee, Chairman  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Katie Bielski-Medina  
Larry Davis  
Sandra Hett  
Mary Rayome  
John Krings, President

November 4, 2013

LOCATION: Board of Education, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids WI  
Conference Room A/B

TIME: Immediately following the Business Services Committee and Personnel Services  
Committee meetings, but not before 6:15 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Katie Bielski-Medina, Sandra Hett,  
John Krings, Anne Lee, and Mary Rayome

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ryan Christianson, Colleen Dickmann, Margie  
Dorshorst, Amy Fuller, Julie Marie, Denise Martell, Tina Miller, Matt Renwick,  
Nathaniel Shuda, Kathi Stebbins Hintz, Tina Wallner, Daniel Weigand

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) Tree Orchard Grant

**ES-1 Motion by Sandra Hett, second by John Krings, to approve participation of River Cities High School (RCHS) in the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation Tree Orchard Grant.**

Kathi Stebbins Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, gave an overview of the FTFP Tree Orchard Grant, highlighting it as an additional service learning opportunity for RCHS students.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Atomic Learning

**ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, second by Mary Rayome, to approve the renewal subscription for Atomic Learning in the amount of \$10,694.24.**

Ms. Stebbins Hintz explained that Atomic Learning provides on-line training modules for a wide array of software applications. This training tool is utilized by staff, students and community members.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Updates

A. Wellness Committee Update

Julie Marie, Director of Food Services, reviewed a report from the District Wellness Committee. She noted that schools in the Wood County area are actively using locally grown produce. To date over 8,000 pounds of locally grown produce has been purchased and served. The committee is involved in a variety of other health and wellness initiatives and will continue to meet and investigate ways to promote health and wellness to students and staff.

B. River Cities High School (RCHS)/Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) Great Lakes - College Ready Grant

Ms. Stebbins Hintz provided an overview of the grant program. Students from RCHS are able to take two introductory college courses, enabling them to earn six credits from MSTC. The grant provides the cost of tuition and books. This is the third year of the program and 20 students are enrolled.

C. Howe Spotlight School Update

Matt Renwick, Principal of Howe Elementary School, was present to share that Howe Elementary School was selected as a Spotlight School for the 2013-2014 school year. This award from the Department of Public Instruction is for schools who have received the School of Recognition at least three years in a row. As a Spotlight School, Howe will be hosting three site visits for other Wisconsin schools to hear the Howe story and learn from their success. Mr. Renwick invited committee members to attend the upcoming site visits and distributed an invitation with the dates.

D. THINK Academy Charter School Report

Tina Wallner, Principal of THINK Academy, and Amy Fuller, Governance Council President, were present to provide an update on THINK Academy's second year as a charter school. Ms. Wallner shared the goals of the Charter, explaining that the school was dedicated to the development of a brain-based curriculum, a highly effective Governance Council, a high degree of parent and community support, and student satisfaction and participation.

E. Mead Elementary Charter School Report

Margie Dorshorst, Principal of Mead Elementary Charter School, reviewed the definition of a charter school, as well as why she believed maintaining charter status was important for reaching the school's goals. Tina Miller, Academic Coordinator, reviewed Mead School's accomplishments including reaching the standard of "Exceeds Expectations" on the School Report Card. As part of the Charter grant, Mead School is offering several visitation days for other schools to come and observe how they function as a school and learn from their success. Committee members were invited to attend any of the upcoming visitation days, and a handout was distributed with the dates. In addition, Mead will once again be offering the Summer Innovative Institute which will take place on June 16 and 17, 2014.

F. Educator Effectiveness Orientation

Ms. Stebbins Hintz provided an update as to how Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) is preparing for the implementation of the Educator Effectiveness Process in the 2014-15 school year. A video from DPI was shared, and it was noted that all district professional staff will view this video on the November 8, 2013 Professional Development Day. Elementary principals will share information with their Parent Teacher Organizations and the video will also be made available on the District website. The Quality Educator Committee is working to address how the new system coincides with our current professional development process, and plans to merge the two, making the transition more valuable for staff.

G. New Course Proposals and Modifications

Ms. Stebbins Hintz updated the Board on five new course proposals. The proposals are still moving through numerous committees for review before the final proposal will be presented to the Educational Services Committee in December. Implementation of the Business Communications and Food Science classes is targeted for the 2015-16 school year. Modifications to grade 10 and 11 social studies courses, and English 101 and 102 are targeted for the 2014-15 school year.

Several questions were asked about English 101 and 102, including the cost of tuition, if financial aid would be available, what colleges would accept UW-Wood County credits, and the advantages of this course over Youth Options. Ms. Hintz indicated she would get answers to these questions and share them with the Committee.

V. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Fruit Tree Planting Foundation Tree Orchard Grant
- ES-2 Renewal Subscription for Atomic Learning

VI. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

*\*Agenda items are determined by Committee Chair after consultation with appropriate administration depending upon other agenda items, presentation information, and agenda availability.*

Future agenda items include, but are not limited to:

- Graduation Requirement Proposal (December)
- New Course Proposals and Modifications (December)
- RtI Update (January)
- Keyboarding Pilot Evaluation (February)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.