



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

December 2, 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, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett,  
John Krings, Anne Lee, and Mary Rayome

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt, Trudy DeSimons, Ronald Rasmussen, Amy Ryan,  
John Schmitt, Jim Scott, Eric Siler

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Jim Scott requested time to comment when agenda item III, A, 1 was under discussion. When the agenda item was addressed, Mr. Scott raised a concern regarding passing the motion with the Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) vote of 11 supporting, 10 against, and five unsure.

III. Actionable Items

A. Course/Curriculum Modification Proposals

1. Business Communications

Kathi Stebbins Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, gave an overview of the possible addition of Business Communications as a ½ credit course available to seniors for English credit, but taught by a Business Education instructor.

Sandra Hett questioned the imbalance of the CII vote. Amy Ryan, Literacy Supervisor, explained that English/Language Arts instructors believe that an instructor certified in English/Language Arts should teach this class. Ronald Rasmussen, Lincoln High School Principal, and Eric Siler, LVEC, stated that this course is another

example of crosswalking, similar to what was done in science with Animal Science and Principles of Engineering. Ms. Hintz explained that the course would go through the crosswalking process both at the district and DPI level before implementation.

**ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to approve Business Communications as a ½ credit course that would be available to all seniors for English credit, starting with the 2015-16 school year.**

**Motion carried on a vote of 5 ayes and 2 nays. Sandra Hett and Katie Bielski-Medina voted nay.**

2. English 101 and 102

Ms. Hintz explained that the English courses would be available to juniors and seniors. Students that complete and pass these courses have the option to receive three college credits per course as well as receive a ½ high school English credit per course, with UW-Wood County awarding the credits. She further clarified that students are responsible for the cost of tuition, and no Youth Options would be available for these courses. Mr. Rasmussen pointed out that students must pass a placement test to be eligible for these classes. The UW comes to Lincoln High School and tests students, with students paying the approximate \$20.00 fee to test. Ms. Ryan stated that the Language Arts CII Committee had concerns about students who are unable to pay testing fees and tuition.

**ES-2 Motion by Larry Davis, second by John Krings, to approve English 101 and 102 as ½ credit, dual enrollment courses available to a limited number of juniors and seniors, starting with the 2014-15 school year.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Food Science

Ms. Hintz explained that Food Science is a ½ credit course that would be offered through the Family and Consumer Science Department. The course would allow students to receive a ½ credit of science. It is a course that needs to go through the cross-walking process both at the district and DPI levels.

**ES-3 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to approve Food Science as a ½ credit course that would be available to all juniors and seniors for science credit, starting with the 2015-16 school year.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

4. Changes to Sophomore and Junior Social Studies Requirements

Ms. Hintz presented current social studies requirements and how this proposal would maintain the requirement that students complete one year of study in World

and American; however, those requirements could be completed at any time during their sophomore, junior, or senior year. In addition, this proposal eliminates the current World Issues and American Studies classes, replacing them with six one-semester courses which examine a specific topic in those fields. Students would either need to take two of the three offerings in World Issues and two of the three offerings in American Studies, or take AP World History and AP United States History or American Dream. Students would also be able to elect one of the six semester classes for their required ½ credit social studies elective, or continue to select the ½ social studies elective credit from the remaining social studies electives that are offered.

It was recommended that this proposal be tabled until further information is obtained regarding college admission requirements and scheduling concerns.

**ES-4 Motion by John Krings, second by Larry Davis, to table this proposal for future consideration after additional study.**

**Motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 1 nay. Katie Bielski-Medina voted nay.**

5. Graduation Credits

a. Increase Math Credits from 2 to 3

Ms. Hintz reviewed the proposal to require all students to complete three rather than two credits of mathematics before graduating from Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS). She indicated this proposal is currently on Governor Walker's desk awaiting his signature, and it will likely pass into law.

**ES-5 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to increase the Lincoln High School graduation requirement in mathematics from two to three credits.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

b. Increase Science Credits from 2 to 3

Ms. Hintz stated that this change would require all students to pass three science credits instead of two to graduate from WRPS. Concern was raised about the high numbers of failures in ninth grade science and how this proposal would impact these students. This proposal has also passed the Legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature, which would make it statutorily required.

**ES-6 Motion by Larry Davis, second by John Krings, to increase the Lincoln High School graduation requirement in science from two to three credits.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

c. Eliminate the "Swing Credit"

Ms. Hintz reviewed current graduation requirements and how the swing credit could be eliminated as a requirement, given the proposed increase in math and science requirements.

**ES-7 Motion by Larry Davis, second by John Benbow, to recommend eliminating the "swing credit" as a requirement for Lincoln High School graduation.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

d. Require Information Technology I

Ms. Hintz reviewed the current specifications for the elective course, Information Technology I, and stated that the course is required as a pre-requisite to many computer science classes. She stated that this is a popular course that a majority of students in WRPS take as ninth or tenth grade students.

Further study on how requiring this course fits within the scope and sequence of the Information Technology Curriculum is recommended.

**ES-8 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by Larry Davis, to table this proposal for future consideration after additional study.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

e. Eliminate ½ Credit of Required Physical Education for Four Season Athletes

Ms. Hintz reviewed the proposal that would enable athletes who have completed four athletic seasons in "good standing" to be able to waive a ½ credit of the required 1.5 physical education credits for graduation from Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools.

Several concerns were addressed regarding this change, including what is "good standing," how much participation would be required in a sport, and what happens in cases of injury or athletic codes. It was further noted by Ms. Bielski-Medina that physical education classes teach more than sports, including healthy life-styles. It was felt that clearer criteria needed to be in place to implement this proposal.

**ES-9 Motion by Larry Davis, second by John Krings, to recommend tabling this proposal for future consideration after additional study.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

f. End Senior Social Studies Credit

Ms. Hintz explained that all seniors must complete ½ credit of social studies their senior year. This proposal would allow students the flexibility to complete the ½ credit of social studies anytime during their sophomore, junior, or senior year.

**ES-10 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to recommend ending the Lincoln High School graduation requirement that a ½ credit of social studies be completed during a student's senior year, and that this change begin with the class of 2015.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

g. Begin Changes with the Class of 2017

Ms. Hintz explained that the proposal is to begin the changes to the graduation requirements with the class of 2017, the current freshmen class. This recommendation coincides with the current legislative bill.

Sandra Hett stated that a letter should be sent to parents of current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students informing them of this change so that families are aware of the change well in advance of graduation.

**ES-11 Motion by John Benbow, second by Larry Davis, to recommend the proposed changes to graduation requirements in 5a, 5b, and 5c, to begin with the class of 2017.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Updates

None

V. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 Business Communications
- ES-2 English 101 and 102
- ES-3 Food Science
- ES-4 Table Changes to Sophomore and Junior Social Studies Requirements for Additional Study
- ES-5 Increase Math Credits from 2 to 3
- ES-6 Increase Science Credits from 2 to 3
- ES-7 Eliminate the "Swing Credit"
- ES-8 Table Requiring Information Technology I for additional study
- ES-9 Table Eliminating ½ Credit of Required Physical Education for Four Season Athletes for additional study

- ES-10 End Senior Social Studies Credit with the Class of 2015
- ES-11 Begin Graduation Changes 5a, 5b, and 5c with the Class of 2017

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:

- Lincoln Schedule Update (January)
- RtI Update (February)
- Keyboarding Pilot Evaluation (February)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.