



# Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

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

## MINUTES

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

August 12, 2013

### REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494  
Conf. Rm. A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ed Allison

MEDIA PRESENT: Coltin Esser – River Cities Community Access; Nathaniel Shuda – *The Daily Tribune*

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

#### Recognition of District Retirees

This item was tabled by President Krings as the recipient was unable to attend.

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of July 8, 2013; and special Board of Education meeting minutes of July 23, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Comments from Citizens and Delegations

Carrey Koran is a parent to four children attending Vesper Community Academy (VCA). She explained the positive experiences that have occurred since her children began attending VCA last year, and has concerns with the possibility of the charter status at Vesper not being renewed. The needs of her children are met well at VCA. She urged the Board to continue Vesper's charter status.

Another parent of a VCA student, Kari VanErt, expressed concern and requested an explanation as to why the Vesper charter contract is being recommended for nonrenewal. She believes in the project based learning approach, and cannot understand why funding is being cut for a school that is so successful. Ms. VanErt questioned what other successful programs in the district are being considered to be cut if a program as successful as Vesper is. Ms. VanErt stated that last year Vesper had two sections of 4K programming, and questioned why the 4K program from Vesper has been moved to another school in the district when community members want to send their children to 4K at Vesper. She urged the Board to delay a decision for 30 days, and to make a list of the pros and cons about the charter nonrenewal so that an informed decision can be made and parents can understand the decision.

Scott Krug, State Representative for District 72, stated that he learned about the issue concerning Vesper's potential charter nonrenewal on the prior Thursday. Since then he's been speaking with the Department of Public Instruction to determine what some of the funding issues are and hasn't been able to obtain enough answers. He has a concern that there hasn't been an application filed to continue the grant. Rep. Krug recalls the concerns voiced by the Board at a prior meeting in regards to items in the state budget relating to charter oversight issues. Rep. Krug stated that he has spent considerable time in contact with the Governor's office to attempt to have the charter provisions removed that local school boards across his District found unacceptable. Rep. Krug urged the Board to take another month to discuss and review the issue before making a decision.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – August 5, 2013. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow reviewed the following consent agenda items brought before the Board through the Business Service Committee and asked if there were any motions to be held:

- BS-1 Approval of the General Office Supply Bid as listed on the General Office Supply Bid Summary.
- BS-2 Approval of the service agreement with Complete Control to provide 192 hours of HVAC service at a cost of \$15,750.00.
- BS-3 Approval of the 66.03.01 cooperative agreements for students attending the Virtual program from the Port Edwards School District and the Stevens Point School District.
- BS-4 Approval to purchase two Juniper SRX550 Firewalls and related accessories from Transcendent 360°IT at a cost of \$13,755.60 with funding from the District technology budget.
- BS-5 Approval to purchase 40 HP 6300 desktop computers from Camera Corner Connecting Point at a cost of \$24,000.00 to be funded from the District technology and special education budgets.
- BS-6 Approval of the contract for inter-school mail and food service meal delivery by Bob's Delivery LLC for the 2013-14 school year at \$85.00 per day and \$79.00 per day respectively.
- BS-7 Approval to reverse the entrance and exit from the Lincoln High School student parking lot.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items BS 1-7. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- The purchase of employee leave tracking services for 2013-14, an order for Vocational Technology equipment, and a copy paper purchase.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report, and minutes of the regular August 5, 2013, Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Personnel Services Committee – August 5, 2013. 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 retirement request effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year of Pamela Witt (IMC Aide – Woodside).
- PS-2 Approval of the professional staff resignation request effective July 30, 2013 of Nou Vang (School Social Worker – Howe).
- PS-3 Approval of the non-union, non-certified support staff resignation request effective July 29, 2013 of Cindy Heinz (Employee Benefits Manager – Central Office).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff resignation request effective July 23, 2013 of Her Vue (ELL Aide – Grove).
- PS-5 Approval of the professional staff appointments of Duane Braun (Technology Education – Lincoln/East), Kelsey Sachs (Grade 2 – Mead), and Aubrey Sytkowski (Speech/Language Clinician – Woodside/Parochial).
- PS-6 Approval of the support staff posting results of Jean Merriman (IMC Aide – Woodside), and Carole Pfahning (Office Aide – Mead).
- PS-7 Approval of Policy 342.5 – Title I Programs for second reading.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 1-7. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on current staffing vacancies in the district, and the status on filling those vacancies. The Committee also reviewed wage recommendations for two confidential secretary positions in the Human Resources Department, as well as the disbursement manager position in the Business Department.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of August 5, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve special closed session Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of July 10, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Educational Services Committee – August 5, 2013. Report given by Anne Lee.

Ms. Lee 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 Board Policy 365.1 Rule – Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy for first reading; and the deletion of Policy 365.1 – Exhibit 1 – Independent Use Student Consent and Waiver for first reading.

ES-2 Approval of the proposed changes in the professional educator compensation procedures for credits and DEUs.

ES-3 Approval of the Mead Elementary Charter School Contract renewal for the 2013-2014 school year only.

ES-4 Approval to not renew the Vesper Community Academy Charter School Contract.

ES-5 Approval of math curriculum purchases as follows:

- Student activity books for grades K-4 at a cost of \$56,006.40 paid for by Fund 10 curriculum dollars
- SwD teacher materials in an amount of \$12,778.88 paid for by Fund 27 special education dollars
- Grade 5 hard cover books in an amount of \$30,660.30 with referendum dollars

Larry Davis requested that consent agenda Item ES-4 be held out.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of consent agenda items ES 1, 2, 3, and 5. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

With regard to Item ES-4, Mr. Davis felt additional discussion should be held on the item, given the concerns expressed by the Vesper community. Mr. Davis feels confident after speaking with Superintendent Dickmann that the project based learning approach used at Vesper will continue, with or without a charter. Ms. Rayome agreed, stating she would support project based learning and the sharing of information concerning this approach with other schools across the district. At the same time, Ms. Rayome is leery about the budgetary and other changes occurring at the state level which could negatively impact the District. Mr. Krings also voiced support for continuing the project based learning approach. He believes in the sharing of best practices from every building across the district. Mr. Benbow believes there is a misconception that funding is being taken away from Vesper if the charter is non-renewed. He reiterated that no funding is being taken away from students; rather the Board is attempting to protect the entire district by not locking something in that could harm educational support for students attending other schools if legislative action occurs concerning charter school oversight. Ms. Hett stated she believes she can live with the charter renewal for one year only, with hopes that the legislature does not press forward to make changes with regard to charter schools which are not in the best interest of school districts.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to not renew the Vesper Community Academy charter contract. Motion carried 6-1 on a roll call vote. Sandra Hett voted no.**

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports heard by the Educational Services Committee on the Wisconsin State Student Information System (SSIS) student data collection. Kathi Stebbins Hintz, Director of Instruction, explained that she has received confirmation from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that items such as blood type, voting status, and religious affiliation will not be included on Wisconsin's SSIS. Family income would be included if families complete free and reduced lunch applications. Student privacy will continue to be a priority as school districts and the DPI only utilize student data to benefit student learning and growth.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the August 5, 2013, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Mr. Davis requested information concerning how District students are doing in terms of the nutrition they are receiving at home. He recently watched a television program which indicated that fifty percent of students across the nation do not know where their next meal is coming from, and would like to know if local students are typical of those across the nation. He is concerned about the nutrition children are receiving and whether it sustains them so that they are able to properly learn. Discussion took place on the recent “Backpack for Kids” program the Board heard about, and programs such as the Boys & Girls Club meal offerings over the summer; a federal free breakfast program over the summer; and free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs during the school year. The free and reduced percentage in the District has continued to rise, not decrease over the years. Dr. Dickmann stated that there are always needs in the community’s student population, which staff members attempt to address as much as possible. It would be difficult to ascertain what nutrition children out in the community might be receiving over the summer.

Legislative Agenda

None.

Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note July, 2013 receipts in the amount of \$1,492,869.18 and approve June, 2013 disbursements from 2012-13 books in the amount of \$917,514.70; and July, 2013 disbursements from 2013-14 books in the amount of \$2,813,726.84. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

New BusinessDistrict Crisis Action Plan

Dr. Dickmann reviewed the District Crisis Action Plan, which was initially adopted by the Board in August, 1998. The revised plan was developed through collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, fire department personnel, and the Emergency Government office. The plan covers various types of potential situations such as natural, technological, and human-caused hazards. Components of the plan address emergency preparedness, mitigation and prevention, personnel organization and responsibilities, and communication protocol during a crisis. Building administrators are working closely with their staff members to refine and develop building level Crisis Response Teams in accordance with the plan. Certain portions of the plan are restricted to protect the security and integrity of the plan.

Board members took the opportunity to discuss the plan and ask questions. As required by state statute, the Board will review the plan again in August, 2016, or sooner should the need arise.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the updated District Crisis Action Plan. Motion carried unanimously.**

Weapons Policies

Dr. Dickmann presented newly worded policies for the Board to consider adopting with regard to weapons on school premises. Current Policy 443.8 – Weapons on School Premises would be reworded and pertain specifically to students. Policy 522.9 – Possession or Use of Weapons would apply to staff members. Lastly, current Policy 832 – Weapons on School Premises would be reworded and apply to visitors and volunteers.

There are many commonalities in the policies; however, the staff member policy language would allow employees to have a cased and unloaded weapon in their vehicle. The primary reason would be for those staff members who choose to hunt having the ability to leave directly from work with their equipment to do so. The Board expressed mixed feelings concerning this practice. The Board discussed the policies further and had questions answered by the administration.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve changes to Policy 443.8 – Weapons on School Premises; Policy 832 – Weapons on School Premises; and adoption of a new recommended Policy 522.9 – Possession or Use of Weapons (Staff/Employees), all for first reading. Motion carried unanimously.**

Memorandum of Understanding With Local Law Enforcement Agencies

In recent conversations held with law enforcement agencies, Dr. Dickmann has been discussing the possibility of off-duty police officers having the ability to carry concealed weapons on school property. The state and federal Gun Free School Zone Acts of the Wisconsin Statutes and a section of Title 18 of the United States Code provide an exception to the general prohibition on possessing a firearm on school grounds or in a school zone. Agencies in both Portage and Wood counties are supportive of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would allow peace officers to carry concealed weapons on school property while

off-duty. Dr. Dickmann stated that the concealed carry training that law enforcement officers receive is more rigorous than civilian training. Allowing officers to carry concealed weapons while on school property would add extra security during school activities, and perhaps deter unwelcome behavior. Dr. Dickmann acknowledged that she understands that some individuals might get nervous about having individuals possess concealed weapons around them. The Board discussed the proposed MOU.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Benbow to approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement agencies regarding conceal carry of weapons by off-duty peace officers while on school premises. Motion carried unanimously.**

Police School Liaison Agreement

An updated Police School Liaison contribution agreement with the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department was shared by Dr. Dickmann. The document is the same as previous agreements, with the exception of two items.

The first item relates to language being added and inserted as Section 2.02. The language pertains to the District recognizing and agreeing that Police School Liaison Officers (PSLOs) will be armed from time to time while on duty at District schools and facilities. This is not a change, but rather reflects current practice.

The second modification is the insertion of Section 3.04. This section provides the ability of the police department to install a secured locker on District property at their expense, which will house a weapon when the officer is on the premises. Dr. Dickmann explained that this section refers to a second weapon that the officer might have on school premises, outside of the sidearm they typically carry. Additional weapons brought on the premises would be done so as unobtrusively as possible. It is her understanding that keys would be issued to the PSLO and the building principal (or his/her designee) in case the officer is unable to respond to a crisis. The Board questioned the safety of having potentially untrained individuals (principal or designees) possessing or handling the weapon. It was pointed out that the key possessed by District staff would be for the purpose of opening the locker, not necessarily utilizing the weapon. While it is a topic that causes some discomfort, the Board recognizes the need to take all precautionary measures possible to protect students and staff.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Benbow to approve of the revised 5-year Police School Liaison Agreement between the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department and the Wisconsin Rapids Public School District. Motion carried unanimously.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

John Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Sandra K. Hett – Clerk