



# 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

December 9, 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, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome

EXCUSED: Larry Davis

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Dr. Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Amy Ryan, Ryan Christianson, Trudy DeSimons, Ed Allison

MEDIA PRESENT: Jesse Austin – River Cities Community Access

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

#### Student Representative Report

Emily Morzewski provided updates and reports to the Board on the following topics concerning Lincoln:

- Winter sporting activities
- Student Council Fall Leadership Summit held in Stevens Point, WI and upcoming state conference
- Community Candles fundraising event which provides gifts to Lincoln High School students for Christmas
- Graduation planning activities are beginning with cap and gown orders taking place
- The Lincoln winter play performance, "A Christmas Carol" is occurring this week in the PAC

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of November 11, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

#### Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – December 2, 2013 – Report given by John Benbow.

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

BS-1 Approval of a 66.03.01 cooperative agreement for a student attending the Virtual program from the Stevens Point School District.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of consent agenda item BS 1. Motion carried unanimously.**

Committee Reports (continued)

Mr. Benbow reviewed the following updates and reports provided to the Committee:

2012-13 Auditor Report – The Committee reviewed the Independent Auditors' Report of June 30, 2013.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the regular Business Services Committee report and minutes of the December 2, 2013, Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Personnel Services Committee – December 2, 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 resignation effective June 11, 2013 of Judith Kalla (Special Ed Aide – Woodside).

PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Holly Boehm (Special Ed Aide – East), Margaret Matthews (Special Ed Aide – WR Middle), Joanne Dachel (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Tina Havitz (Kitchen Helper – Mead), Christine Halverson (Special Ed Aide – WR Middle), Melissa Wagner (Health/Office Aide – Grove), Beth Frank (Kitchen Helper – Lincoln).

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-2. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of December 2, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Educational Services Committee – December 2, 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 Business Communications as a ½ credit course that would be available to all seniors for English credit, starting with the 2015-16 school year.

ES-2 Approval of 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. *Ms. Hintz clarified that a few students are piloting the coursework during the 2013-14 school year, and will receive credit. The course offering would be published in the 2014-15 Lincoln Program of Studies.*

ES-3 Approval of 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.

ES-4 Approval to table a proposal for changes to junior and sophomore social studies graduation requirements for future consideration after additional study.

ES-5 Approval to increase the Lincoln High School graduation requirement in mathematics from two to three credits.

ES-6 Approval to increase the Lincoln High School graduation requirement in science from two to three credits.

ES-7 Approval to eliminate the “swing credit” as a requirement for Lincoln High School graduation.

ES-8 Approval to table the proposal to require Information Technology I as a required course, for future consideration after additional study.

ES-9 Approval to table the proposal to eliminate a ½ credit of required physical education for four season athletes, for future consideration after additional study.

ES-10 Approval to end 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.

ES-11 Approval of proposed changes to graduation requirements in consent agenda items ES-5, ES-6, and ES-7 begin with the class of 2017.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items ES 1-11. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the regular Educational Services Committee meeting minutes of December 2, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.**

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Ms. Lee inquired about whether report cards will need to be aligned in the future with the Common Core State Standards initiative, specifically at the elementary level. Ms. Hintz explained that it is her understanding that districts are to be moving toward standards-based report cards, and the administration is awaiting specific direction from the Department of Public Instruction on this topic.

President Krings thanked Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds, for providing a tour of the Buildings & Grounds facility to interested Board members. Mr. Krings expressed appreciation for the work that goes on “behind the scenes” by the department to support school programs.

Legislative Agenda

Mary Rayome reported on the following:

- A revised version of a voucher accountability bill is being worked on in the Wisconsin Legislature. State Senator Luther Olsen hopes that the revised version of the bill can be passed in January, 2014.
- There is an apparent decrease in the number of junior and senior undergraduates enrolled in teacher-training programs in the University of Wisconsin System Schools of Education.
- Tea Party leaders and other conservatives across the state are urging Governor Walker to reject Common Core education standards. A Walker spokesman released a statement reiterating Governor Walker’s past comments that Wisconsin should set higher, state-specific standards. To date, Governor Walker has not said publicly what specifically he would want to do or change, nor has he committed to rescinding the standards already in place.

Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note November, 2013 receipts in the amount of \$1,230,111.65 and approve November, 2013 disbursements in the amount of \$3,667,387.09. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

New Business

Determine Possible Interest in Land Purchase

Superintendent Dickmann explained that a local realtor contacted the District to gauge interest in the purchase of property located near the Buildings & Grounds facility located on 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Industrial Park on the west side of town. The property consists of 2.15 acres north of the Buildings & Grounds building, and the asking price is \$29,900.00. Ed Allison, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, stopped by to view the property and consider whether the District might have a use for it. The administration is not recommending the purchase of this property at this time.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to indicate to the realtor that the District has no interest in the land available for purchase located at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Motion carried unanimously.**

2013-14 Final Budget Report to the Department of Public Instruction

Mr. Weigand presented adjustments made to the 2013-14 District to align it with staff and programmatic changes since the budget was approved by the Board in June, 2013.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the 2013-14 final budget as presented and reported to the Department of Public Instruction. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Substitute Teacher Employee Handbook

Ryan Christianson, Director of Human Resources, presented the recommended Substitute Teacher Employee Handbook. After review by legal counsel, a few slight changes are being recommended to be made to the original draft as follows:

- Under the “*General Employment Information*” section on page 2, add the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: “*If so, you will be advised thereafter if the District will assign you to the list for the upcoming school year.*”
- On page 8, eliminate the reference to specific compensation found in the “*Substitute Teacher Compensation*” section. Compensation rates would be communicated separately with substitute teachers, outside of the handbook. In paragraph 3, the words “*a per diem based on*” will be added in the first sentence for clarification during long-term assignments. A subheading titled “*Employee-At-Will*” was added to the last paragraph on page 8, and the following sentence will be added to the end of this paragraph to clarify that substitute assignments are “at-will” and made at the discretion of the Board: “*Likewise, the District does not guarantee number of substitution offers and reserves the right to remove you from the substitute list when it deems it appropriate.*”
- On page 9, the mileage reimbursement paragraph had its own subheading added which is titled “*Mileage Reimbursement.*”

Board members discussed the handbook. A question was raised on whether substitute teachers who travel between buildings receive mileage reimbursement if they accept two separate assignments. Mr. Christianson believes the language in the *Mileage Reimbursement* section properly defines that mileage reimbursement will only occur during substitute assignments for traveling teachers. Furthermore, current practice aligns with the wording in this section.

The Board suggested that rather than have the grievance procedure language being cross-referenced to the Professional Staff Handbook, it should be included in the Substitute Teacher Handbook similar to other employee handbooks. The language would then be more readily available to employees without having to refer to another handbook. Mr. Christianson suggested that the grievance procedure could actually be added to the Human Resources webpage, and a link to the URL included in the handbook for employee reference.

Anne Lee requested a grammatical change in paragraph 6 on page 8 so that the first sentence reads: “*For substitute teachers who qualify...*” instead of the words “that qualify.”

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Anne Lee to approve the Substitute Teacher Employee Handbook as presented, including the noted changes. Motion carried unanimously.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

John Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Sandra K. Hett – Clerk