



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

June 9, 2014

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, Larry Davis, Anne Lee, Katie Medina, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: John Benbow

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Trudy DeSimons, Ed Allison, Margie Dorshorst, Kelly Schaeffer

MEDIA PRESENT: Jesse Austin – River Cities Community Access; Melanie Lawder – Daily Tribune Media

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Recognition of District Retirees

President Krings presented special recognition to retiring District employee Ardell Mueller.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of May 12, 2014; special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of May 12, 2014; and special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes for two meetings held on May 28, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – June 2, 2014. Report given by Katie Medina.

Mr. Krings explained that the Committee and fellow Board members toured the 2013-14 Lincoln High School Building Trades House prior to the regular June 2, 2014 Committee meeting. Board members were impressed with the quality of work done by Building Construction students under the direction of Technology and Engineering Instructor Terry Borres.

Ms. Medina 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 the proposed 2014-20 District Transportation Contract.

BS-2 Approval of the proposed 66.03.01 cooperative agreement for students attending the Virtual program from the Spencer School District.

BS-3 Approval to purchase (124) LG 22” computer monitors from IT Savvy at a total cost of \$14,282.32 with funding from the 2014-15 Technology Budget.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items BS 1-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Medina provided updates and reports on the purchase of library media for school libraries.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report, minutes of the regular June 2, 2014 Business Services Committee meeting, and special closed session Committee meeting minutes of May 21, 2014 and June 2, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – June 2, 2014. 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 professional staff early retirement request of Cindy Thompson (CDB Teacher – WR Middle).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff retirement request of Lee Meacham (Custodian – East Jr. High).
- PS-3 Approval of the professional staff resignation requests of Amanda Menzer (Grade 1 – Howe), Hlee Vang (Grade 3 – Grove), and Kelly Hartvig (Kindergarten – Woodside).
- PS-4 Approval of the non-represented, non-union professional staff resignation requests of Ted Moskonas (PAC Director), and Robert Kaiser (PAC Director).
- PS-5 Approval of the support staff resignation requests of Elaine Herman (Special Ed Aide – Grove), Ka Zoua Thao (Instructional Aide – Howe), Ellen Sachs (Noon Aide – Washington), and Deanna Rehberg (Noon Aide – Washington).
- PS-6 Approval of the professional staff appointments of Jared Francois (Teacher Intern, Business – Lincoln), Kelly Look (Grade 1 – Washington), Sarah Mohrbacher (Grade 3 – Grove), Megan Kehlenbrink (Grade 1 – Grove), Kariann Haluska (Grade 6 EBD/LD – WR Middle), Sarah Javenskoski (Regular Ed, Grade TBD – Mead).
- PS-7 Approval of the support staff appointments of Keith Wosick (2nd Shift Night Custodian – East), and Kim Schenk (Secretary to Athletic & PAC Director – Lincoln / Buildings & Grounds Receiving Secretary – District).
- PS-8 Approval of summer grounds appointments of Tyler Wendt and Josh Wefel (District Summer Cleaner), and Logan Zimmerman (District Summer Cleaner and District Summer Grounds).
- PS-9 Approval of summer school support staff appointment of Teresa Wunrow (Summer School Food Service – Lincoln).
- PS-10 Approval of professional staff voluntary reduction request of Paula Reaves (Social Studies – Lincoln).
- PS-11 Approval of recommended stipend payment structure to take effect beginning with the 2014-15 school year for professional staff who fulfill department chair assignments.
- PS-12 Approval of recommended revisions to the vacation benefit language section of the Office/Clerical and Aide Support Staff Employee Handbook.
- PS-13 Approval of recommended changes to insurance eligibility language in the Custodians, Maintenance, and Computer Techs Employee Handbook.
- PS-14 Approval of the students requesting to attend the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools under the Open Enrollment Law, pending a review of discipline records and special services needs.
- PS-15 Approval of the students requesting to attend non-resident school districts under the Open Enrollment Law, pending a review of discipline records and special services needs.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 1-15. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of June 2, 2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – June 2, 2014. 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 the 2014-15 Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools Professional Development Plan.

ES-2 Approval of a five-year contract for Mead Elementary Charter School, providing language is agreed upon by Administration and the Governing Council, as discussed this evening, including flexibility for facility use or closure and restructuring.

ES-3 Approval to table eighth grade students receiving high school credit for successful completion of Algebra.

Ms. Lee requested that Consent Agenda Item ES-2 be held out.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda items ES 1 and 3. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to Consent Agenda Item ES-2, Ms. Lee explained that the topic of renewing the Mead Elementary Charter School contract generated much discussion at the Committee meeting on June 2, 2014. The Administration has been working with the Mead Governance Council to draft acceptable language to address the concerns raised at the meeting by Committee members.

Superintendent Dickmann explained that through communications with a member of the Mead Governance Council, additional revisions are being recommended for incorporation into the Mead Charter Contract before approving the five year agreement. The wording would allow the contract to be terminated before the expiration of its term in the event that there is future restructuring of schools or grades, facility closures, or other changes in facility use. The recommended contract language changes were reviewed by the Board.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed five year Mead Elementary Charter contract, with language revisions incorporated as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Literacy Supervisor Amy Ryan provided an overview of the 2013-14 implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI) across the district. Resources utilized, various data, and accomplishments including success stories were shared by several different interventionist staff members. Next steps and future needs were also reviewed.
- Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of Lincoln, provided Committee members with an update of the trimester scheduling process undertaken by the LHS Scheduling Committee, which began in April, 2013. Since presenting to the Board of Education in January, 2014, there have been meetings held with students, parents, and teachers. Staff members at LHS were polled to determine their level of support in moving toward trimester scheduling. Eighty-three point one percent (83.1%) were in favor of a trimester schedule, with sixteen point nine percent (16.9%) opposed. The Board will be approached in July or August for approval of the LHS schedule change.
- Additional information related to 2013-14 WKCE results was provided by Ms. Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Instruction. Leslie Lewison, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, shared test data specific to ELL students. She noted score improvements in this area, stating WRPS ELL students were consistently doing better than the state average.

Ms. Lee noted that page 2 of the unapproved Educational Services Committee minutes for the June 2, 2014 meeting should be corrected to remove Tina Miller's name in the first paragraph at the top of the page. Ms. Miller is a staff member, and not a member of the Mead Elementary Charter School Governing Council as indicated.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the June 2, 2014, Educational Services Committee meeting with the noted correction. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Ms. Rayome provided the following updates she received from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards:

- A new report from the Education Commission of the States (ECS) gives Wisconsin a good grade on its school report cards. The report praises Wisconsin's success in two of three aspects of state Accountability Systems throughout the nation for gaining recognition among: parents, for the accessibility and clarity of school reports; and experts, for reporting and meeting all five essential indicators identified in the report. Wisconsin was among the top six states chosen by parents for the readability and usefulness of its statewide report card. The experts surveyed consider five indicators as crucial to building a strong accountability system: student achievement, student academic growth, achievement gap closure, graduation rates, and postsecondary and career-readiness. Only five states, including Wisconsin, currently collect, use, and report all five indicators.
- Despite positive marks given to Wisconsin's report cards, a number of lawmakers want to make further adjustments and broaden their impact, particularly as private schools that accept voucher students are brought into the accountability system. A representative from Pewaukee and Kaukauna are among legislative leaders renewing efforts to revamp the state school report card system for all publicly funded schools, including public schools, independent charter schools, and private voucher schools. One of the changes they are likely to seek involves specifying sanctions (e.g., closure, conversion to a charter school, reopening with new principal and staff, etc.) for schools that repeatedly fail to meet expectations.

Earlier in the year, similar attempts by lawmakers to fashion a comprehensive accountability system bogged down. Instead, lawmakers enacted a compromise proposal that did not change report card provisions and did not include sanctions, but did require the state superintendent to ensure that every independent charter school and every private school that accepts voucher students is supplying student data using the student information system or a compatible system by the 2015-16 school year. The new law further provides that the state superintendent may withhold state payments from a private voucher school that fails to comply.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note May, 2014 receipts in the amount of \$2,388,552.92 and approve May, 2014 disbursements in the amount of \$3,513,919.84. *Ms. Hett requested information about Check # 95584 in the amount of \$4,700.00 payable to the Wood County Health Department. She would like an explanation of how many kitchens the expense applies to, and what the inspection covers.* **Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

New BusinessProject SEARCH Grant Opportunity With Opportunity Development Center (ODC)

Dr. Dickmann explained that the Administration has been holding discussions with a number of local individuals to pursue involvement in a program that could potentially benefit the special needs student population in the area. Pam Ross, President of ODC, was introduced to provide an overview of the Project SEARCH program. Ms. Ross has been working individuals from a similar partner program located in Marshfield.

Project SEARCH is an employment training program for students and young adults with significant disabilities. Led by the Division of Long Term Care, Project SEARCH is a collaborative effort among the Department of Health Services, Department of Workforce Development, and Department of Public Instruction. The program is designed to assist high school students who have completed credits for graduation, or post high school students. Eight to twelve students spend their final year of high school at a host business site. Classroom instruction is performed by an onsite instructor. The goal is for students to attain competitive community employment upon graduation.

Historical information about Project SEARCH was shared. Ms. Ross explained that the program has grown from one original program to over 200 across the U.S. and four additional countries. Project SEARCH is trademarked and licensed, and must follow model fidelity standards and undergo audits/reviews. Marshfield School District has experienced great success with the Project SEARCH program they have in place. Governor Walker announced a goal to expand Project SEARCH to 20 additional sites in Wisconsin over the next three years. The first round of Request for Proposals (RFPs) for seven sites was due May 30, 2014 for the 2015-16 school year. ODC is a willing partner who is taking the lead to submit an application for the Wisconsin Rapids area.

Local partners who have been participating in conversations about Project SEARCH include the school districts of Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa, and Port Edwards, ODC, Community Care of Central Wisconsin, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Riverview Hospital as a potential worksite partner. Mid-State Technical College and Renaissance Learning have also been invited into the conversations. Program costs were reviewed. Costs would be shared by Project SEARCH partners. Ms. Ross provided information about the projected student population to be served by the program, eligibility guidelines, a typical annual calendar and daily schedule for students, internships, curriculum needs, and employment goals. Personal stories of student achievement were shared.

Dr. Dickmann explained that the Project SEARCH grant application has been submitted for review. If approved, the program would be implemented in the 2015-16 school year. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) was contacted to address concerns about how the Project SEARCH program might impact the District graduation rate. The DPI was not concerned, and expressed a willingness to help the District explain the program's effect on the graduation rate if the need arises. Nine students have been identified already to potentially benefit from the program.

The Board had an opportunity to ask questions about Project SEARCH.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the grant application submitted for Project SEARCH, should it be successful. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Appointments and Resignations

Ryan Christianson, Director of Human Resources, explained that as the staffing process continues throughout the summer, additional employment related requests are being recommended for Board approval as follows:

Professional Staff Appointments Effective August 26, 2014

Amanda Hamin	Location:	Mead Elementary
	Position:	Grade 3 (1.0 FTE)
	Education:	BS – UW Stevens Point – May, 2006
	Major/Minor:	Elementary Education/Music
	Salary:	\$36,500

Amy Veldhorst	Location:	Howe Elementary
	Position:	Kindergarten (1.0 FTE)
	Education:	BS – UW La Crosse – December, 2012
	Major/Minor:	Early Childhood – Middle Childhood Education/Early Childhood Education
	Salary:	\$36,500

Technology Support Youth Apprentice Appointment Effective June 23, 2014

Markus Hutnik	Location:	District
	Hourly Wage:	\$8.25

Professional and Support Staff Resignations

Mary Gloudemans	Location:	East Jr. High
	Position:	Math (1.0 FTE)
	Effective:	End of 2013-14 School Year
	Date of Hire:	August 21, 2000

Brandi Vakoc	Location:	East Jr. High
	Position:	Cashier (1.75 hours)
	Effective:	June 6, 2014
	Date of Hire:	October 14, 2013

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the appointments and resignations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2014-15 District Health Insurance Renewal Rate

Superintendent Dickmann stated that the District health insurance renewal rate for the 2014-15 fiscal year had been referenced in a prior meeting when the Board was considering changes in deductible amounts;

however, no formal action to approve the rate has yet occurred. The Administration recommends approval of the health insurance renewal rate of 10.88% for 2014-15.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the 2014-15 District health insurance renewal rate of 10.88%. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Resolution

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, presented a recommended Board Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds, the establishment of an escrow account with respect to, and the defeasance of certain of the taxable general obligation refunding bonds dated August 27, 2012. For the past several years, the Board has been eliminating debt. The recommendation being brought forward would mitigate the amount that the Board will need to budget for in the next three years and decrease the amount owed, which should save the District approximately \$40,000 in future interest expense. The two primary sources to pay off the debt will come from fund balance and savings from the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The Board took the opportunity to ask questions concerning the Resolution.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve a Resolution authorizing the transfer of funds, the establishment of an escrow account with respect to, and the defeasance of certain of the taxable general obligation refunding bonds dated August 27, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

District Wide Sick Leave Bank Modifications

Dr. Dickmann explained that a number of years ago the District created a sick leave bank which was intended for teaching staff who had a catastrophic illness and had run out of sick days and hadn't quite made it to be eligible for the long term disability benefit. Since 2006, the benefit has been expanded to all employees, and leaves have been approved for dependents of employees as well. The Administration is interested in reigning the benefit back in to be approved only in circumstances and situations for which the benefit was originally intended.

Mr. Christianson reviewed specific changes that would be incorporated into the WRPS Sick Leave Bank language which would allow for the benefit to be available to all employees, and to clarify that the benefit would be available for circumstances related to a catastrophic illness or injury to the employee only, and not dependents. One additional change pertains to language stating that the superintendent or designee may approve additional donation requests from District employees after November 1 of each year. Should the bank be depleted early in the fiscal year due to high utilization, employees would have the opportunity to donate a day if they hadn't already done so.

Dr. Dickmann noted that employees are currently able to utilize up to a certain number of sick days each year for dependents. Mr. Christianson also mentioned that employees currently have an opportunity to sign up for enrollment in the District short term disability benefit plan to cover themselves during the time period before long term disability could be activated.

In light of the request, the Board considered Family Medical Leave Act provisions and other disability insurance benefits which are available to staff members.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the recommended sick leave bank language modifications. Motion carried unanimously.

Architectural Facility Capacity Study

As a follow-up to a recent update to the Board on work being performed by a group studying District facility usage, Dr. Dickmann reviewed a proposal received from Plunkett Raysich Architects for an educational planning and building capacity analysis. The District has experience working with Steven Kieckhafer and the Plunkett Raysich firm, which would be helpful in the analysis. An updated study by the architectural firm to evaluate space needs in order to support and facilitate educational curriculum and District goals would be beneficial and helpful to the facility study group. Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds, stated that if the Board approves of the study, the administration could begin working with the firm within a week's time.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Anne Lee to approve of the proposal by Plunkett Raysich Architects for an architectural facility capacity study in an amount not to exceed \$4,750.00. Ms. Hett requested a friendly amendment to the motion to have the not to exceed cost changed to \$3,250.00 since the written proposal cost is actually listed at \$4,000.00 total and, if all buildings are done at one time, a discount of \$750.00 will be applied. Ms. Rayome and Ms. Lee accepted the friendly amendment. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

SWC 2000 Hockey Building

Dr. Dickmann stated that she wanted to bring the topic of the South Wood County 2000 Recreation Center forward to apprise the Board about a request that might come about some time in the future. The hockey building, football field, and track located on the Lincoln High School campus were developed and funded through the efforts of many community partners many years ago. An agreement was drawn up for the SWC 2000 Recreation Center to be maintained and overseen by the South Wood County 2000 group in exchange for use of the District land on which it sits. The SWC 2000 Recreation Center Board of Directors is considering the possibility of bringing in different venues in order to raise funds to continue supporting the maintenance and upkeep of the hockey building. In the past when groups have requested to use the facility for venues such as wedding receptions, the requests have been denied since no alcohol is allowed on District property.

The SWC 2000 Recreation Center Board is working to bring a junior hockey team to Wisconsin Rapids in the fall of 2014. Dr. Dickmann's understanding is that the format for games could be similar to what one might experience at Wisconsin Rapids Rafters baseball games. The SWC 2000 Recreation Center Board has expressed an interest in selling alcohol at the junior league hockey games. The District has a few options that it could consider in responding to a formal request by the SWC 2000 Recreation Center Board, if it is made: 1) modify the lease agreement with the SWC 2000 Recreation Center Board to allow the sale of alcohol; 2) deny the request; 3) sell or deed the property that the hockey building sits on to the group to alleviate any potential liability for the District. Dr. Dickmann stated that if an agreement of some sort is entered into with the SWC 2000 Recreation Center Board in the future, the District will want to protect its own interests by ensuring that any agreement allows the District to continue utilizing the hockey facility as needed, and that no alcohol would be part of any venue involving the District.

Mr. Christianson serves as a member of the SWC 2000 Recreation Center Board, and he explained that members of this board have expressed an interest in continuing to attract and hold events in the facility in the future. Bringing in teams such as the River Kings junior hockey team, and other events such as the state curling competition would help in this regard. Mr. Christianson explained that there are some individuals on the SWC 2000 Recreation Board who may be interested in attending a future Board of Education meeting to discuss the topic.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk