



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

October 6, 2014

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: Phil Bickelhaupt, Colleen Dickmann, Margie Dorshorst, Maurine Hodgson,
Ruth Holtz, Sherry Marzofka, Tina Miller, Ronald Rasmussen, Mary Schultz,
Tina Wallner, Jen Wilhorn, Mari Jo Zieroth

I. Call to Order

Anne Lee called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Actionable Items

A. Board Policy 343.4-Course Options Program and Board Policy 343.4-RULE Procedures
for Handling Course Applications Through Course Options Program

Kathi Stebbins Hintz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Ronald Rasmussen, Principal at Lincoln High School, and Maurine Hodgson, Secretary to the Superintendent. Mr. Rasmussen and Mrs. Hodgson were available to answer questions and offer further explanation regarding Course Options. Most questions were concerning the differences between Course Options and Youth Options. Mrs. Hodgson pointed out that home-based students now can attend another district for two courses where they couldn't before. It was further noted that with this change a number of other WRPS Board policies related to topics such as part time open enrollment and transfer of credit will need to be reviewed. These related policies will be brought forward for Board consideration in the coming months.

ES-1 Motion by Mary Rayome, second by John Benbow, to approve Board Policy 343.4-Course Options Program and Board Policy 343.4-RULE Procedures for Handling Course Applications Through Course Options Program for first reading.

Motion carried on a vote of 6 to 1. Sandra Hett voted no.

IV. Updates

A. School and District Report Cards, 2013-14

Ms. Stebbins Hintz reviewed 2013-14 Wisconsin School and District Report Card results. Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools (WRPS) exceeded the state results on student achievement, closing the achievement gap, graduation rate, and attendance rate. WRPS was rated as "exceeds expectations" and had the highest score in the Wisconsin Valley Conference and Wood County. Anne Lee, Board Chairman, thanked all WRPS staff for their perseverance in achieving these scores.

B. ACT Results, 2013-14

Mr. Rasmussen reviewed Wisconsin and WRPS's ACT scores. Wisconsin's average composite ACT score was 22.2, making Wisconsin the second in the nation on the ACT assessment. WRPS ranked slightly below Wisconsin's average with a composite score of 22.1. All Wisconsin public school juniors will take the ACT assessment this school year.

C. Next Generation Technology Assessment, Spring of 2014

Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, reviewed WRPS 8th grade student results from the Next Generation Technology Assessment. Although the proficient and advanced percentage dropped compared to last year, students demonstrated profound improvements in the standards of research and information fluency and critical thinking and problem solving. Standards that continue to need improvement are in the areas of digital citizenship, and technology operations and concepts. Larry Davis mentioned that with the increasing poverty and free and reduced families in the district, this likely affects scores.

D. Renaissance Learning Guidelines

With the implementation of Response to Intervention (RtI) in the 2013-14 school year, the use of Renaissance Learning Products has expanded to more grade levels. In an effort to ensure the Renaissance products that are being used as screeners and interventions are being administered with fidelity, as required by RtI, both the Math CII and Language Arts CII developed Guidelines for Renaissance Learning Products. These guidelines will also become a part of the updated RtI Guidebook for WRPS.

E. Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) Parent Representatives

This year there are two parent openings on the CII Committee. Eight parents requested applications to serve. These eight parents were mailed an application to be completed and returned no later than Friday, October 2, 2014. Ms. Hintz and Ms. Lee will meet to review the applications and bring a recommendation to the Board Meeting on Monday, October 13.

F. Charter School Reports – THINK Academy and Mead Elementary Charter School

THINK Academy Principal Tina Wallner, as well as staff members from THINK were present to highlight happenings at the Academy. It was noted that staff participated in several professional development opportunities during the summer. Staff continue to offer book studies, workshops, parent workshops, and other trainings. Work continues on building an outdoor classroom as well as a butterfly garden and Monarch Way Station that will be attached to the current garden. Staff hope to apply for a grant to pay for a culvert and sidewalk between Rudolph's Little Dears Child Care and the Academy.

Mead Elementary Charter School Principal Margie Dorshorst shared updates at Mead. Mead has been recognized five times as a Schools of Recognition by the Wisconsin DPI. The Wisconsin School and District Report Card for Mead had a score of 71 – Met Expectations, with the strongest area in closing the achievement gap. Enrollment is at the highest since sixth grade students moved to the middle school at 441. This year there are 139 new students to the school, 19 in grade two alone. The schools number one goal this year is addressing behavior. One thing being done to address this is teachers eating lunch with students. There has already been a very noticeable change in behavior. A private counseling service will be at Mead one day a week to work with students, and Woodlands Church is helping needy families with payment.

G. Schools of Recognition

Ms. Stebbins Hintz reported that Howe Elementary School, Mead Elementary Charter School, and Grove Elementary School were identified as Schools of Recognition by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). Each school was recognized because of their high free and reduced lunch rate in combination with their outstanding performance on School Report Card indicators.

Because Howe School has been a School of Recognition for over seven consecutive years, they were eligible to apply and receive the Spotlight School Grant for 2013-14 and 2014-15. Matt Renwick will be present at the November Educational Services meeting to update the committee on the status of Howe's Spotlight School Grant.

V. Consent Agenda Items

ES-1 Board Policy 343.4-Course Options Program and Board Policy 343.4-RULE Procedures for Handling Course Applications Through Course Options Program for first reading.

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/information requests include, but are not limited to:

- Spotlight School Grant-Howe School (November)
- New Course Proposals and Revisions-Discussion (November)
- Graduation Credit Changes-Discussion (November)
- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title Update (November)
- Language Arts Curriculum Update (November)
- RtI Document Update (December)
- New Course Proposals and Revisions (December)
- Supplemental Pay for Professional Development (December)
- Graduation Credit Changes and Board Policy 345.5 Graduation Requirements (December)
- Health Curriculum Update (December)
- Business-Education Partnership/STEM Update (December)
- Strategic Plan Update (January)

Anne Lee adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.