



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

October 13, 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, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome, John Benbow, Anne Lee, Katie Medina

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, 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

Carissa Vruwink provided updates and reports to the Board on the following topics concerning Lincoln:

- A choir concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on October 13
- Fall sports are coming to an end, with the last football game happening Thursday, October 16
- Fall ACT exams will be taken on October 25
- LHS Student Council is volunteering at the Opportunity Development Center (ODC) during lunch periods
- Homecoming was a good time, and well attended

John Benbow expressed appreciation for the all of the booster clubs and student/parent organizations that support schools through a variety of fundraisers and concessions that occur. Mr. Benbow stated that the District budget for co-curricular activities is minimal, with clubs and organizations supplementing a good deal of the cost for uniforms, transportation, team equipment, etc. He encourages spectators to partake in concessions at the events, and appreciates how strong student co-curricular programming is, given the limited amount of funding available.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of September 8, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – October 6, 2014. 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 proposed 66.03.01 cooperative agreement for students attending the Virtual program from the Stevens Point School District.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Annual Honeywell service contract
- Purchase of audiovisual equipment from Tierney Company
- Fiscal year-end fund balance and long-term debt obligation, as well as cash/investment and revenue/expenditure reports for September, 2014 in comparison to four prior years

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular October 6, 2014 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – October 6, 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 support staff appointments of Sharon Steinmetz (Noon Duty Aide – Grove), Lynda Broschardt (Noon Duty Aide – Mead), Geralyn Shudarek (Noon Duty Aide – Mead), Amanda Kempf (Noon Duty Aide – Washington), John Crombie (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), Karrie Benda (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Ker Thao (Noon Duty/Instructional Aide – Howe), Sher Thao (Instructional Aide – Middle School), Melanie Peterschmidt (Saturday School Aide – Lincoln), James Alft (Saturday School Aide – Lincoln), Jeff Rzentkowski (Head Custodian – Grant), Tina Havitz (Cashier – Mead), Jessi Billington (Noon Duty Aide – Grove), Stephanie Bailey (Night Custodian, 3rd Shift – Lincoln), Jason Behrend (Relief Custodian – District), and Heather Ulbrich (Noon Duty Aide – Grant).

PS-2 Approval of the support staff resignation request of Jewel Dombek (Noon Duty Aide – Grant).

PS-3 Approval of the proposed language change regarding the *125 Flexible Spending Plan* found under the “Deferred Compensation” section of the Employee Handbook for all employee groups.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 1-3. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of October 6, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – October 6, 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 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 by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda item ES 1. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. John Benbow voted no.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- School and District Report Cards for 2013-14
- ACT Results for 2013-14
- Next Generation Technology Assessment – Spring, 2014
- Renaissance Learning Guidelines
- Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) Parent Representatives
- Charter School Reports – THINK Academy and Mead Elementary Charter School
- Schools of Recognition for 2014-15 – Howe Elementary, Mead Elementary, and Grove Elementary

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the October 6, 2014, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Ms. Rayome provided the following updates:

- At a recent regional WASB meeting, Board members were provided information concerning each Wisconsin Governor candidate's position on a number of issues. Contenders Scott Walker and Mary Burke have contrasting views on a number of topics. Ms. Rayome urged individuals to continue to stay informed about the candidates, their positions, and to get out and vote.
- A special hearing on the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) program will be held on October 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the State Capitol. No further information about the hearing is yet available.

Mr. Benbow provided an update on a recent event he attended at which he heard Todd Berry of the nonpartisan group, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, speak about the fiscal health of the state and its economy.

Mr. Davis mentioned Wisconsin Public Television as a nonpartisan resource from which accurate information may be obtained.

Ms. Lee recently had a conversation with Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink, who expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend Board meetings in the past, and to learn first-hand about the issues facing education. Mr. Krings mentioned that another Board Consortium meeting is being planned to occur sometime after January, 2015. Legislative representatives will be invited, with WRPS hosting.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note September, 2014 receipts in the amount of \$5,569,729.49 and approve September, 2014 disbursements in the amount of \$2,901,290.66. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Retirements, Resignations, and Appointments

None.

AFSCME Local 1075 Memorandum of Understanding and Collective Bargaining Agreement

Ryan Christianson, Director of Human Resources, explained that during the process of finalizing a tentative agreement reached with AFSCME Local 1075 which represents Custodians, Maintenance, and Computer Technician personnel, an additional detail came up relative to the Recognition Clause of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). A small subgroup of employees, the Computer Technicians, has requested removal and disassociation with the Local 1075 union. The AFSCME representative is agreeable to this separation. As a result, a separate Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted for signature to clarify that the computer technician employees will no longer be included in the Union, and future recognition of the Union will exclude computer technicians.

Two unions continue to exist and represent employees in the WRPS system: Wisconsin Rapids Education Association representing professional staff, and Local 1075 representing custodians and maintenance personnel. Under the provisions of Act 10, collective bargaining agreements with unions are no longer the lengthy documents they once were. Instead, a single page document has become the CBA between each respective union and the District. Legal counsel for the District has advised the annual drafting of a CBA with unionized employee groups during the bargaining process, regardless of whether or not a tentative agreement has been reached cooperatively between the parties or through the Board imposing its final offer. The single page CBA document contains four key articles:

- 1) Recognition Clause identifying represented employees
- 2) Duration of the Collective Bargaining Agreement
- 3) Identification of wage increase
- 4) A statement that both parties agree to abide by state law and regulations concerning the CBA and negotiations process

Mr. Christianson explained that the CBA being brought to the Board for approval contains language to exclude the computer technicians in the Recognition Clause, and provides for a 1.46% wage increase for the 2014-15 contract year as agreed to with the Union.

The Board took an opportunity to ask questions concerning the proposed CBA and MOU. Mr. Christianson clarified that it is the administration's intent to recommend that the computer technicians also receive a 1.46% wage increase for 2014-15. Moving forward, future wage increases for non-represented computer technicians would be at the Board's discretion.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME Local 1075 which changed the Recognition Clause to exclude computer technician employees; and approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented for AFSCME Local 1075 containing four Articles, and providing a base wage increase of 1.46%. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

2015-16 and 2016-17 Academic Calendars

Superintendent Dickmann presented two academic calendars to the Board for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. The administration recommends continuing to incorporate four days into the school calendar for staff professional development. As the calendars were developed, a number of events were considered: homecoming week, spring break in relation to Easter, athletic scheduling, and required academic testing. The Quality Educator Committee (QEC) provided input as the calendars were developed, as did the administrative team. Principal Rasmussen of Lincoln High School will work to incorporate the upcoming trimester schedule into the proposed calendars. There may be some slight variations in how days are set up in the Lincoln schedule, but they will all be scheduled within the academic calendars approved by the Board. Dr. Dickmann has also had conversation with neighboring school districts and local private schools to compare and find commonalities in the calendars where possible.

With regard to the 2016-17 calendar, there is one additional student contact day needed. Dr. Dickmann proposed either October 28, 2016; April 14, 2017; or June 2, 2017 as possible days for the Board to consider. The Board expressed interest in having June 2, 2017 be a student contact day and moving the final record keeping day of the year to June 5, 2017.

Ms. Lee questioned whether scheduling a professional development day on September 16, 2016 would affect the third Friday pupil count for that school year. It was decided that it would be best to move the professional day event to October 3, 2016 so as not to disrupt the pupil count.

State law prohibits school districts from starting school before September 1 without a waiver from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The Board discussed the possibility of an early start date, and would be interested if there is high probability for approval from the DPI. Prior attempts to receive a waiver have been unsuccessful. Dr. Dickmann will investigate the possibility of obtaining an early start date waiver from the DPI. Additional information will be provided to the Board as it becomes available. In the meantime, the Board expressed an interest in approving the proposed calendars for 2015-16 and 2016-17 so that families can begin planning.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed 2015-16 and 2016-17 school calendars with a change in 2016-17 to move the 9/16/16 professional development day to 10/3/16; and to have the last student contact day be 6/2/17 with the final record keeping day being 6/5/17. Motion carried unanimously.

Parent Representation to Council for Instructional Improvement (CII) Committee

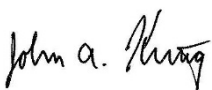
Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Instruction, explained that there are two parent representative openings on the CII Committee. While eight parents expressed an interest in serving, only three individuals submitted an application. The administration recommends the appointment of Patti Urban and Megan Follett to each serve a three-year term as parent representatives on the CII Committee.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the appointment of Patti Urban and Megan Follett to a three-year term as parent representatives on the CII Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk