



# 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

November 10, 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, Leslie Lewison, Ed Allison, Phil Bickelhaupt

MEDIA PRESENT: Jesse Austin – River Cities Community Access, Melanie Lawder – *The Daily Tribune*

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

Pledge of Allegiance

*Mr. Krings noted a special “thank you” to all veterans for their service.*

Roll Call

#### Student Representative Report

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

- Winter sports begin today
- An assembly took place at Lincoln earlier in the day – topic was not speaking bad words about other people
- National Honor Society Inductions will occur next week

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of October 13, 2014; two sets of special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of October 22, 2014; special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of October 27, 2014; and special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of October 30, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

#### Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – November 3, 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 to purchase 420 refurbished HP DC7900 desktop computers from School Tech Supply at a total cost of \$74,100.00 with funding from the Technology Referendum Funds.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Virtual program curriculum purchases and police liaison services
- Purchase of District copy paper
- Information on new requirements for adoption of a Capital Projects Fund 46 and that development of a Long-Range Facility Plan is being developed in compliance with the Fund 46 requirements

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular November 3, 2014 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Personnel Services Committee – November 3, 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 Wendy Cates (Second Cook – Grant), Dawn Thoms (Native American Program Liaison – District), and Tammy Kirk (Kitchen Helper – Lincoln). *Ms. Hett noted that the Personnel Services Committee minutes should reflect Tammy Kirk's position at Lincoln, not Washington.*

PS-2 Approval of Policy 522.8 – Cell Phone Usage for first reading.

PS-3 Approval of Policy 221.1 – Recruitment/Appointment of Superintendent for first reading.

PS-4 Approval of Policy 343.4 – Course Options Program for second reading.

PS-5 Approval of Policy 343.4 Rule – Procedures for Handling Course Applications Through Course Options Program for second reading.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-5. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Hett shared updates and reports on open enrollment information for the 2014-15 school year that was shared with the Committee.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of November 3, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Educational Services Committee – November 3, 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 323.2 – Special Observance Days for first reading, and elimination of Board Policy 323.2 Rule – Special Observance Days for first reading.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda item ES 1. Motion carried on a vote of 6-1. Larry Davis voted no.**

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Howe Elementary Spotlight School grant and upcoming Spotlight visits planned to occur at Howe.
- Curriculum proposals have been reviewed by the Council for Instructional Improvement, and will be brought forward for Board approval in December as follows:
  - Increase Lincoln High School graduation requirements to 24 beginning with the class of 2017. Lincoln's shift to a trimester schedule will allow students to earn up to 29.5 credits as compared to 28 credits currently.
  - Global Education Achievement Certificate / Diploma Endorsement – Currently 28 districts in Wisconsin have this endorsement and it is felt that students that have the endorsement will have better scholarship and college opportunities. Students must complete several rigorous requirements to earn this endorsement. Ms. Hett requested examples of service projects that would meet the requirements of this endorsement.
  - IT Fundamentals I: Graduation Requirement – Currently an elective, and a pre-requisite for many other courses. Mr. Benbow recommended that this proposal require students take the

class during their freshman or sophomore year. A test-out option will be available to students to meet the requirement.

- Engineering Design and Development (EDD) – To be certified as a Project Lead the Way school, a fourth course in the engineering course sequence must be offered. EDD would be the fourth, or capstone, course.
- Mobility, Fitness and Nutrition – Designed for students who struggle in physical education. Students would be recommended for this class by their 9<sup>th</sup> grade physical education teacher. This course could be taken in place of Phy Ed II and III.
- English 250 – This class would be an extension of English 101 and 102. Students would need to test into this course, and could receive college credit for the course. The course would be taught in a blended /on-line format.
- Exploratory Business 7 – This would be a one quarter course added to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade rotation. There would be a need for an increase in staff since the class would replace a study hall. However, this increase would be offset by the planned reduction in elementary keyboarding.
- Principles of Economics – This class would be offered in a blended/on-line format.
- English 101, 102, and 250 – These classes would be offered in a blended/on-line format.
- Math Equivalency Proposal – Digital Electronics – This course is being “cross-walked” to make it available as a math or elective credit.
- AP Psychology – This course would be expanded to two trimesters for one credit.
- AP Calculus BC – This course would be expanded to three trimesters for 1.5 credits. *Ms. Lee noted that the Educational Services Committee minutes should reflect the course as “AP Calculus BC.”*

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the November 3, 2014, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Mr. Benbow recently attended a Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Legislative Advocacy Conference along with Board members Anne Lee, Mary Rayome, and Sandra Hett. Excellent information was shared at the conference about the active role that school boards should be taking in the legislative process to be more vocal and advocate for public education. Representative Luther Olsen was a featured speaker along with Representative Steve Kestell, who will be leaving the Assembly. Emphasis was placed on the importance of attending Joint Finance Committee meetings when possible since physical presence of individuals can affect the decision making. Mr. Benbow would like the Board to consider scheduling a workshop to discuss ways to become more active in this arena. Mr. Benbow is willing to provide a written synopsis of conference highlights to use as talking points. Mr. Krings stated the Board will consider the request when the calendar is reviewed for upcoming meetings.

#### Legislative Agenda

Ms. Rayome provided the following updates:

- Ms. Rayome echoed Mr. Benbow’s sentiments concerning the excellent information provided at the Legislative Advocacy Conference recently attended. Professor Dr. Julie Mead from UW-Madison was also a strong presenter on the topic of private vouchers, independent charters, and the “Public School Advantage.” Ms. Rayome believes it would be helpful to have Mr. Benbow share his synopsis with the Board.
- Wisconsin voters decided 53 referenda in 38 school districts on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. Overall, the referenda questions were quite successful – a total of 35 of the 53 referenda passed, which represents a 66 percent success rate. There were 24 construction referendums, and 29 referendums sought to exceed revenue limits (20 non-recurring and 9 recurring). The greatest success rate was among non-recurring referenda – 16 of the 20 non-recurring questions passed. The Racine Unified School District had one of the largest referendum questions on the ballot. Voters in Racine passed a non-recurring referendum that will allow the district to exceed revenue limits by \$8.5 million per year for the next 15 years, which totals \$127.5 million.
- Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald has stated he could see enrollment in Wisconsin’s statewide private school voucher program increasing to 9,000 students, but it is unknown yet how much it will be allowed to expand. Fitzgerald spoke about Senate priorities after being re-elected as head of the Republican caucus without opposition. Current enrollment in the statewide voucher program is capped at 1,000 students, but Governor Walker and Republicans who control the Legislature want to increase it. While Fitzgerald believes that as many as 9,000 would enroll in the voucher system statewide, he doesn’t know whether the cap will be removed entirely or just increased to a certain number. Fitzgerald said an expansion would likely be funded through a DPI appropriation.

Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note October, 2014 receipts in the amount of \$331,294.55 and approve October, 2014 disbursements in the amount of \$3,770,997.67. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

New Business

2014-15 Final Budget Reported to Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, provided recommended changes to the previously approved budgeted 2014-15 amounts. Recommended changes in Funds 10, 21, 27, 29, 38, 39, 46, 50, 80, were explained. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the proposed changes to the 2014-15 budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed. The Board agreed to add the legislative advocacy topic to the regular Board of Education agenda meeting to be held on December 8, 2014, rather than hold a separate workshop meeting.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk