



## 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

January 12, 2015

#### 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, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ed Allison, Ronald Rasmussen

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:

- Sportainment Night was a huge success with \$4,382.00 collected for the Tri-City Dream Foundation.
- A recent blood drive at Lincoln was the most successful drive in LHS history.
- The annual Fire on Ice Dance will occur in February, and this year an “Ice Prince” and “Ice Princess” will be selected from the sophomore class.
- The LHS Community Candles program went very well this year, with \$2,682 raised – a \$500 increase over last year.
- The LHS Coffee Shop, which is run through the LHS work study class, collects approximately \$200 per week in sales, which primarily goes toward the cost of supplies with a small portion also being used for learning initiatives in the classroom – during second semester, work study students will learn more about how money flows in a business. Iced coffee and tea are being considered for the upcoming warmer months, and the shop may be offering smart snacks next school year.

President Krings acknowledged and thanked all school crossing guards in light of it being “Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week.” Mr. Krings also welcomed Boy Scout Troop 111 to the meeting as they came to observe and learn more about how governmental business gets conducted.

#### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of December 8, 2014 and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of December 15, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – January 5, 2015. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow reported that the audit services contract topic was tabled at the Committee meeting, and there are no consent agenda items being recommended for approval. Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Revenue Limit Energy Efficiency Exemption – more information will be shared at the full Board meeting on January 12, 2015.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular January 5, 2015 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Personnel Services Committee – January 5, 2015. 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 staff appointments of Chelsey Baeb (CDS Teacher – Lincoln), and Joe Williams (Maintenance – District).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff resignation requests of Julie Schanen (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln), and Diane Giraud (Special Ed Aide – Howe).
- PS-3 Approval of Policy 343.2 – Class Size for second reading.
- PS-4 Approval of Policy 345.11 – Procedures for Academic Excellence Scholarships for second reading.
- PS-5 Approval of Policy 345.12 – Procedures for Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarships for second reading.
- PS-6 Approval of Policy 422 – Admission for Nonresident Pupils for second reading.
- PS-7 Approval of Policy 423 – Public School Open Enrollment for second reading.
- PS-8 Approval of Policy 423 Rule – Procedures for Processing Public School Open Enrollment Applications for second reading.
- PS-9 Approval of Policy 424 – Participation of Non-Public School Students in Programs and District Services for second reading.

Sandra Hett requested that Consent Agenda Item PS-9 be held out.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve consent agenda items PS 1-8. Motion carried unanimously.**

With regard to Consent Agenda Item PS-9, Ms. Hett explained that the Personnel Services minutes need a correction to reflect that the item was not passed with unanimous approval as Ms. Hett voted “no” on this item. Ms. Hett further explained that she takes issue with the fact that part-time voucher students attending a District program would have full voucher funding allocated to their private school of attendance without a reduction in funding, even though a portion of their education is coming from a public education entity. Ms. Hett takes exception to the double expense taxpayers could experience as a result of the private voucher program.

Dr. Dickmann explained that she understands the concerns expressed by Ms. Hett. However, it behooves the District to have a policy in place in order to administer the program approved and implemented by the State Legislature. Ms. Hett believes that this is another educational topic that the legislators should hear about.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Anne Lee to approve of Policy 424 – Participation of Non-Public School Students in Programs and District Services for second reading. Motion carried on a vote of 4-3. Sandra Hett, Larry Davis, and John Krings voted no.**

Ms. Hett shared updates and reports on District class sizes and sections at the elementary and secondary levels for the 2014-15 school year.

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of January 5, 2015, with noted corrections. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Educational Services Committee – January 5, 2015. 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 class sizes, sections, special education caseloads, and new spaces available for the February, 2015 open enrollment window, per tables on DPI's PI-9422 form, "Record of Decision of Appeal of Open Enrollment Denial Due to Space," for accepting or denying open enrollment applications for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented in updated "Attachment A-1."

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda item ES 1. Motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- The Committee received an update from Secondary Literacy Supervisor Roxanne Filtz, and Elementary Literacy Supervisor Jennifer Wilhorn concerning the English/Language Arts (ELA) curriculum process. Ms. Filtz presented the phases that the ELA Curriculum & Instruction (CII) sub-committee has been working on in the eight-year CII acquisition cycle. The committee broke into secondary and elementary work groups to accomplish the necessary steps in the cycle. Secondary Language Arts will be ready to bring a curriculum and acquisition plan to the Committee for approval in the spring of this school year. Elementary Language Arts will do the same in the spring of 2015-16. Ms. Lee expressed her thanks to the sub-committee for all the hard work that was evidenced in the timeline presentation.

**Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the January 5, 2015, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Mr. Davis requested information about how long it takes to annually implement and process applications through the open enrollment program, particularly since the program is now year-round as opposed to having a set window of time for applications to be acted upon by school districts.

#### Legislative Agenda

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

- Assembly Bill 1 (AB-1) repeals current interventions for schools and replaces them with an "academic review system" that would assign letter grades to schools based on student test scores and other measures. The system would be administered by DPI, overseen by an Academic Review Board (ARB), and in effect for the 2017-18 school year. The bill gives persistently low-performing public and private schools seven years to improve before the sanctions kick in. It also would give the board authority to create charter schools. Assembly leaders had promised it would be the first bill introduced this session and it is expected to be on a fast track. The Assembly Speaker is on record saying he would like to have it passed out of the Assembly no later than the end of January. A public hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at the State Capitol.
- AB-1 establishes a state-level Academic Review Board (ARB) that would create a new system for evaluating schools beginning in the 2017-18 academic year. The ARB would be made up of members with staggered four-year terms:
  - State schools Superintendent Tony Evers and six members nominated by him – a public school principal, a charter school staffer, a private voucher administrator and school teacher, and one representative each from the state's technical colleges and University of Wisconsin system.
  - One at-large member and one technical college representative nominated by Gov. Scott Walker.
  - One nominee from Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Assembly minority Leader Peter Barca, and Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Schilling. Vos and Fitzgerald would be able to choose whomever they want. Barca would need to choose a charter school principal and Schilling a public school teacher.

Under the proposed legislation, schools would be assigned letter grades of **A, B, C, D,** or **F**. Private schools could get two grades under the bill, one for voucher student performance and one for all students. For schools receiving a **D** or **F** grade, based on multiple measures (test scores on math and reading, graduation and attendance rates, and the closure of achievement gaps between groups of students), there would be two “steps” of sanctions up to and including converting low performing schools into independent charter schools.

- AB-1 would also allow all schools to choose between alternative examinations approved by the board instead of the state standardized tests approved by DPI. Comparability data between schools would be unreliable.
- Governor Walker is scheduled to deliver his “State of the State” address on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. He will also unveil his budget on February 3, 2015, and promises to continue efforts to trim property taxes.

### Bills

**Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note December, 2014 receipts in the amount of \$8,740,913.58 and approve December, 2014 disbursements in the amount of \$3,399,984.43. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.**

### New Business

#### Action on Employee Appointments and Retirement

Director of Human Resources Ryan Christianson presented the following employment requests to the Board for approval:

#### Professional Staff Appointments

Jennifer Raatz	Location:	Lincoln High School
	Position:	World Language (1.0 FTE - .33 FTE increase)

Alyssa Hotter	Location:	Grant Elementary
	Position:	Grade 5 (1.0 FTE - Second Semester)

#### Support Staff Appointments

Melissa Wagner	Location:	Lincoln High School
	Position:	Security Aide (7.5 hours/day)

#### Early Retirement Request

Beth Thomas	Location:	THINK Academy
	Position:	Library Aide (5.4 hours/day)

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the two professional staff appointments and one support staff appointment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of the early retirement request of Beth Thomas effective January 21, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Honeywell Presentation on Potential Energy Efficiency Study

Ed Allison, Director of Buildings & Grounds, explained that the administration has researched the possibility of having the District enter into performance contracting in order to exceed the revenue limit on certain projects. Exceeding the revenue limit is a possibility as long as the District experiences enough savings to cover the cost of the projects. School districts must have an energy audit done before embarking on projects which would be paid for under the revenue limit energy efficiency exemption. The District has a long history of working with Honeywell to identify and implement energy/cost saving measures. Mr. Allison has been communicating with Honeywell to determine the feasibility of having them develop a comprehensive facility management plan for the District which would be funded by utilizing the energy efficiency exemption option.

Mr. Allison introduced Josh Hounsell, Dave Hoekstra, and Chuck Deery from Honeywell Energy Services Group (HESG). These individuals explained the company’s background regarding professional services they offer in the

areas of capital planning, project development, energy conservation, engineering, lifecycle cost analysis, and funding strategies. The group provided the Board with a *Preliminary Facility Analysis Report*, and reviewed the following:

- HESG conducted a preliminary utility and facility analysis for WRPS
  - Energy savings potential of \$100,000-\$200,000 annually was identified
  - Many facility and security upgrades were identified
- Next steps would involve authorizing a Project Development Agreement (PDA)
  - Allows HESG to perform an in-depth investment grade analysis (would take 4-6 months)
  - Outcome would be a comprehensive report detailing recommended projects with associated costs and savings
- Potential outcomes of the PDA
  - HESG fails to develop a self-funding project which meets the minimum requirements of WRPS (no cost to WRPS in this case)
  - WRPS selects a group of projects to be implemented by HESG – cost of the PDA is rolled into the overall project and funded by the savings
  - HESG develops a self-funding project which meets the minimum requirements WRPS, but decides not to implement any projects with HESG – WRPS would be billed \$42,788 for the comprehensive report (*HESG cost is much more than the \$42,788 expense*)
- Legislative rulings allowing districts to pursue funding through Wis. Stat. §66.0133 – Performance Contracting and Wis. Stat. §121.91(4)(o) – Revenue Limit Exemption (Act 32)
- Development process includes: concept introduction; preliminary building analysis (completed); approve Project Development Agreement (WRPS is currently at this stage); comprehensive analysis performed; project selection by District (Board prioritizes) and funding plan consultation; final Board approval; and implement improvements and guarantee results
- Objectives of a comprehensive plan include: support District strategic planning; positively impact District financial and operational performance; and provide the District with funding support
- Facility improvement measures were outlined
- A sample project assuming a \$5,000,000 project cost illustrating cash flow over a 15 year time span was shared
- Recent Act 32 Wisconsin K12 projects were done by HESG for Luxemburg-Casco, Shorewood, Gillett, Kaukauna, Pittsville, and Poynette
- A potential projected timeline stretching out to Summer, 2016 was shared

Mr. Weigand questioned whether security and deferred maintenance projects could be developed under the plan. HESG representatives confirmed that these types of projects are justified under State Statutes. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions about the potential energy efficiency study and revenue limit exemption funding.

President Krings thanked the HESG group for their presentation. The Board will take time to review the information provided by HESG, and possibly place the topic on a future Board agenda for further discussion and possible action.

#### 2015 Friend of Education Award

Dr. Dickmann spoke with Board President Krings and Vice President Rayome concerning a recommendation for the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department to receive the “2015 Friend of Education” award. The fire department has been involved in many initiatives over the years to help students. The firefighters have participated in “Stuff the Bus,” “Coats for Kids,” clothing drives to support the District Caring Closet, and toy collection drives and gift cards have been donated to students and families in need. The Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department has been a true community partner to the District, making a positive difference in the lives of many students and families.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of the Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department being named as the “2015 Friend of Education.” Motion carried unanimously.**

#### South Wood County Hockey Building Property Use

Dr. Dickmann explained that a year ago, the topic of potential beer sales at the South Wood County Recreation Center (SWC Rec Center) hockey facility were brought up by that group as a possible revenue generator. The land that the hockey building sits on is owned by the District, while the South Wood County Rec Center owns the building and is responsible for all upkeep and maintenance of the facility. Expenses to maintain the facility continue to increase, with no additional revenue coming in to offset the expenses.

The SWC Rec Center Board of Directors has been approached by a number of different groups such as wedding parties, curling tournament organizers, and the River Kings hockey team to potentially allow the sale of beer during these specific events in order to increase attendance and revenue at the facility. Up to this point, certain groups have

chosen not to rent the facility because of the alcohol restriction. The administration is requesting some direction from the Board to determine if the Board would be in favor or against the possibility of alcohol being served on the premises.

The SWC Rec Center Board is currently considering its options, and has not expressed a strong indication or taken a position one way or the other about alcohol being served at the facility. Should the SWC Rec Center Board wish to pursue allowing alcohol to be sold or served, an option for the District might be to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SWC Rec Center Board which allows it only during certain events. District counsel would be consulted to determine potential liability for the District, and to assist with drafting language for an MOU if that avenue is pursued. The administration made it clear that youth events and W.I.A.A. and other school-related events would be restricted from any sale or use of alcohol.

The Board discussed the topic. The need to generate additional funding to support programs which take place at the SWC Rec Center facility is understood. Local youth has benefited from the partnership shared between the District and SWC Rec Center over the years. Annexation by the city of the portion of property which the SWC Rec Center facility sits on was brought up. The administration clarified that no discussion or consideration of property annexation over to the city has been discussed – the MOU or property transfer to the SWC Rec Center have been the most appealing options that have been considered up to this point, if the SWC Rec Center wishes to pursue one of these options. Future plans for the whole plot of land which Lincoln High School sits on should also be a consideration.

**Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of further study by the administration to consider all options, including a potential MOU, for alcohol sales to be allowed at certain events which occur at the SWC Recreation facility. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### International Chinese Student Program

Dr. Dickmann explained that a meeting was recently held with Tim Urbonya, Director of International Education for the University of Wisconsin Colleges, concerning the potential for an international student program involving China to be developed at Lincoln High School. The program would serve as a gateway for Chinese students to travel to the United States to be seniors in a Wisconsin high school earning a Wisconsin high school diploma, and then enroll at a university campus to attend college in the U.S. Other districts considering the program include D.C. Everest, Marshfield, and Wausau.

Lincoln High School Principal Ronald Rasmussen explained that the program would provide Chinese students with a bilingual experience and exposure to critical thinking skills they are seeking. In order to participate, students would be required to pass an examination which would ascertain whether or not they possess strong English language skills. Students selected for the program are typically high achieving, independent, and self-disciplined. Potential negatives are that Chinese students are accustomed to attending and living independently in dorms already at high school age, and it may take some time for them to adjust to the relationships and social interactions in their new environment.

Mr. Rasmussen has spoken with a colleague from Nebraska whose district has been involved in the program for nine years. Nebraska started out with two students the first year, and has 19 students in the program this school year. In this nine year timeframe, there has only been one student who did not meet success in the program.

Some districts are looking at the program as a potential revenue source. Janesville has actively pursued this option through its partnership in the program; and Green Lake has their own dormitory to house participating Chinese students. The cost charged to students attending Janesville is approximately \$27,900 per year. The costs vary by school district, ranging anywhere from \$15,000 to \$27,900. Costs for students attending Wisconsin Rapids would need to be determined. Mr. Rasmussen is interested in starting out with 2-3 students the first year.

In order to participate, the District would need to become an exchange agent for “F-1” visas. The process involves paperwork and a site visit by the Department of Homeland Security. The total cost for obtaining the right to offer international students F-1 visas is about \$2,300.

Students in the program would not be included in the District pupil membership count. Instead, tuition costs to educate the student would be billed to the student’s family, along with living expenses. Any additional staff time required for the program would be built into the costs billed to the families. Stipends are paid to United States family sponsors. All payments for the tuition and living expenses are secured upfront, before the student arrives in the U.S. Students typically hail from wealthy families in China, so obtaining the fees upfront has not been a problem.

The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning the program.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Sandra Hett to participate in the Chinese International Student Program as presented by the administration. Motion carried unanimously.**

Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Resolutions

Board member John Benbow reviewed the 2015 WASB Resolutions which will be voted upon at the delegation meeting coming up at the January State Education Convention.

**Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Katie Medina to have John Benbow use his own discretion and vote his conscience on behalf of the Board when attending the WASB delegate assembly at the upcoming State Education Convention. Motion carried unanimously.**

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk