



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

February 9, 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, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome, John Benbow, Anne Lee, Katie Medina

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Davis

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:

- The annual Fire on Ice dance is coming up; and voting for “Ice Prince” and “Ice Princess” is taking place this week.
- A number of East and Lincoln students and teachers recently participated in the Polar Plunge event, raising nearly \$5,000 in pledges for the Special Olympics cause.
- Two Japanese language students received third place in the state “Japan Bowl” competition held at UW-Milwaukee.
- Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members will participate in regional competition this month.
- Boys Hockey won in a recent conference match-up.
- Lincoln has been recognized out of 22 other high schools for collecting the most blood in a recent blood drive.
- ACT testing is taking place, and college placement exams are coming up for seniors.

Mr. Benbow expressed congratulations to Carissa Vruwink for recently becoming a W.I.A.A. official.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of January 12, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – February 2, 2015. Report given by John Benbow.

Mr. Benbow reported that there are no consent agenda items being recommended for approval. Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Purchases from Hillyard for floor finish, the Department of Public Instruction for Teachscape, Central Wisconsin Winsupply Company for HVAC parts, and ByteSpeed for computers.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular February 2, 2015 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – February 2, 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 support staff appointments of Teani Doerrler (Night Custodian – RCHS), Dera Baccus (Special Ed Aide – Howe), Kourtney Keyzer (Office/Health Aide – Grove), and Amy Fuller (Library Aide – THINK).
- PS-2 Approval of the professional and support staff resignation requests of Louise Pease (Reading Interventionist – Howe), and Margaret Gellerman (Special Ed Aide – East Jr. High).
- PS-3 Approval of the following pay increase effective January 30, 2015 for food service substitutes to a new rate of \$9.50 for Substitute Helper; and \$10.00 for a Substitute Head Cook, Substitute Service Cook, Substitute Second Cook, Substitute Ala Carte Cook, and Substitute Baker.

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

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of February 2, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – February 2, 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 the updated Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools' Strategic Plan.
- ES-2 Approval of the revised schedule including a late start for sophomores and seniors at Lincoln High School on March 3 and March 4, 2015 in order to accommodate the administration of the ACT and the ACT WorkKeys to all juniors.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda items ES 1-2. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS)

The Committee learned about the State's changes to student assessments, how the District is implementing the changes, and how the new test results impact teachers, administrators, and the District. Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, was available to explain changes necessary to computers to enable students to use them for testing.

Fall 2014 ACT Aspire Results for Grade 9

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Instruction, explained that all grade 9 students in Wisconsin and at East Jr. High School took the ACT Aspire exam in October, 2014. Results of the testing were presented and explained to the Committee.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the February 2, 2015, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

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

- The Dept. of Public Instruction (DPI) is planning for the possibility that lawmakers may not fund the Smarter Balanced tests – the online adaptive tests that replaced the WKCE and are required by state law as the statewide assessments for English Language Arts and math in grades 3 through 8. The Smarter Balanced exam is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, which Wisconsin adopted in 2010. Costs to administer the test in Wisconsin have gone up because the number of states in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has decreased as concerns over the test implementation and Common Core have grown.

At a hearing on a Senate school accountability bill, Sen. Paul Farrow said, “there’s a good chance” the Smarter Balanced exams won’t be used next school year. Senator Farrow also requested that Supt. Evers ask the U.S. Dept. of Education to allow Wisconsin not to use test scores from the spring exams for school ratings, sanctions or teacher evaluations, saying the Smarter Balanced test may not be used after this spring.

The Board expressed frustration over the amount of staff time, effort, and money that will have been wasted on these initiatives should the State Legislature defund the exams. The Board looks forward to an upcoming conversation to be held with state legislators and other school boards at the Board Consortium meeting to be held on February 24, 2015.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note January, 2015 receipts in the amount of \$9,421,361.63 and approve January, 2015 disbursements in the amount of \$3,112,845.17. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments and Retirements

No items were brought forward for action.

Extension of Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship Deadline

Dr. Dickmann explained that Board Policy 151.4 – Suspension of Board Policies and Rules allows for the Board to suspend all or parts of Board Policy for a specified purpose and limited time.

The Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarship is a brand new program administered by the State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB). The scholarship is awarded to Wisconsin high school seniors who have the highest demonstrated level of proficiency in technical education, beginning with the class of 2015. The value of the scholarship is up to \$2,250 per year toward tuition for a student. Lincoln High School is eligible to recommend four students for the scholarship, as well as one alternate.

The first set of guidelines for school districts was released from the HEAB in October, 2014, and then revised in November, 2014. Districts had a short turn-around time to implement Board policies which were in line with the guidelines set forth by the State. WRPS implemented Board Policy 345.12 – Procedures for Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarships on January 12, 2015 after second reading.

Lincoln High School began to inform students about the Technical Excellence Scholarship in early January through daily announcements, and had three students apply and meet the eligibility criteria. Due to the lack of time needed to be able to promote the scholarship further, students may not have had the best opportunity to be made aware of the scholarship. The administration would like to extend the deadline so that one additional student may be selected for nomination, and if possible to have up to one alternate to submit with the Lincoln application as well. Students would not be singled out for the scholarship, rather the opportunity would be promoted to all Lincoln seniors and it would be up to those students to submit the proper application by the new

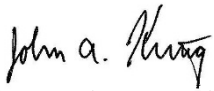
deadline being recommended for this school year only, which is February 16, 2015. The three students who have already applied have been approved, and their status would not change.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to suspend the section of Board Policy 345.12 – Procedures for Wisconsin Technical Excellence Scholarships relating to the established deadline for students to apply by January 21, 2015 for the class of 2015 in order to allow for the deadline for the class of 2015 to be extended to February 16, 2015 so that one additional candidate and up to one alternate may be selected for submission to and consideration by the HEAB. The three candidates already meeting the initial deadline set forth in Board Policy are approved and their names will be submitted to the HEAB as eligible candidates representing Lincoln High School. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk