



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

March 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, Larry Davis, Katie Medina

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Anne Lee

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson,
Trudy DeSimons, Phil Bickelhaupt, 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:

- The Fire on Ice dance recently held had the best attendance in history. Proceeds from the dance are going toward Matt Stoltz’s “Biking for Baseball” trek which promotes and empowers youth and youth mentoring programs through cycling, baseball, and coaching.
- Spring athletic seasons are beginning including baseball, softball, boys tennis, track and field, and girls soccer.
- ACT and WorkKeys tests were recently administered to juniors.
- Lincoln students are having a penny war to raise money for chemotherapy treatments of a senior classmate who has cancer.
- The Lincoln Raider wrestlers recently competed in the Wisconsin individual tournament State Finals.
- SkillsUSA students performed well at a recent competition hosted by UW-Stout in Menomonie.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of February 9, 2015 and special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of February 24, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

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

Mr. Benbow reviewed the following consent agenda item brought before the Board through the Business Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held.

- BS-1 Approval of a three year proposal from Hawkins Ash CPA, LLP to provide audit services for the 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17 school years at a cost of \$18,475.00; \$19,025.00; and \$19,575.00 respectively.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Police liaison officer billing for the fourth quarter of 2014 from the City of Wisconsin Rapids, and the purchase of janitorial supplies from CTL Company.

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

B. Personnel Services Committee – March 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 professional staff early retirement requests with early retirement benefits of Debra Kinney (Business Ed – Lincoln/Elementary), Vicki Lohr (Learning Disabilities – East Jr. High/WR Middle), Dennis Kelley (Language Arts – Lincoln), Howard Hintz (Math – WR Middle); and without early retirement benefits of Nancy Hartigan (ELL – Grove).
- PS-2 Approval of the professional staff resignation requests of Shannon Matott (Math – Lincoln) and Susan Sandow (4K – Grant).
- PS-3 Approval of the support staff resignation request of John Crombie (Special Ed Aide – Lincoln).

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 John Benbow to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of March 2, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – March 2, 2015. Report given by Mary Rayome.

Ms. Rayome 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 suggested revisions to Board Policy 345.5 – Graduation Requirements, for first reading, including the elimination of Policy 345.51 and 345.51 Exhibit.
- ES-2 Approval of the suggested revisions to Board Policy 345.52 – Early Graduation, for first reading.
- ES-3 Approval of the suggested revisions to Board Policy 420 Rule – Guidelines for Admission of Transfer Students and Board Policy 420 – School Admissions, for first reading.
- ES-4 Approval of the suggested revisions to Board Policy 343.4 – Course Options Program, for first reading.
- ES-5 Approval of the suggested revisions to Board Policy 412 – Full Time Students, for first reading.

Ms. Hett requested to have Consent Agenda Item ES-4 held out.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve consent agenda items ES 1, 2, 3, and 5. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to Consent Agenda Item ES-4, Ms. Hett explained that she is not in support of the Course Options Program, and will keep her vote consistent with prior votes on the same policy.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Katie Medina to approve of Consent Agenda Item ES-4. Motion carried on a vote of 4-2. Sandra Hett and John Benbow voted no.

Ms. Rayome provided updates and reports on:

Therapy Dogs

The Committee learned that the interest and use of therapy dogs in the District is increasing. A therapy dog is trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, nursing homes, and schools. In schools, research findings indicate that therapy dogs help build self-esteem and self-confidence in students. A. J. Miller, a special education teacher at Mead Elementary Charter School along with his wife, Melissa who teaches 2nd Grade at Mead, and their therapy dog, Driver attended both the Committee and Board meeting to demonstrate and explain how therapy dogs are used as a tool in the classroom. Mr. Miller described how Driver brings a calm feeling to the classroom and how student behaviors are positively impacted by Driver's presence. Training requirements to certify a therapy dog and handler were shared. Funding to support the necessary training and required insurance was covered by Mr. Miller personally, as well as a grant he secured through the Advocates for WRPS Fund.

Student Travel

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Instruction, updated the Committee on two opportunities for summer travel outside of the country for East Jr. High and Lincoln High World Language students. Eleven students will travel to France from June 15-29, 2015 under the supervision of teacher Mari Peterson and another chaperone. Five students will be traveling to Japan from June 11-25, 2015 under the supervision of teacher Yu Kitamura.

Youth Options

No Youth Options requests were submitted for the fall of 2015.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the March 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:

- A “data pause” bill to create a one-year delay in the use of state assessment data for school report cards and educator effectiveness will receive a public hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Senate Bill 67/Assembly Bill 78 would prohibit DPI from issuing a school accountability report for the 2014-15 school year, and delays the requirement that school boards evaluate the effectiveness of teachers and principals until the 2015-16 school year.
- Ninety-eight private nonsectarian and religious schools and school systems have registered by the February 2, 2015 deadline to accept students for the 2015-16 school year through the statewide voucher program.
- The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau analysis of the proposed 2015-17 state budget confirms that per pupil payments to private voucher schools for most students in the state's three voucher programs will increase by \$170 over the biennium, while public schools will see a net decrease of \$130 in per-pupil aid.
- Senate Bill 32 to shift the emphasis of the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) program from small class sizes to achievement gap reduction was heard in the Senate Education Committee. Under the bill, a school could meet its obligations under SAGE by using one of three strategies, or a combination of these strategies: (a) one-to-one tutoring provided by a licensed teacher; (b) instructional coaching for teachers provided by a licensed teacher; or (c) maintaining 18:1 or 30:2 classroom ratios and providing professional development on small group instruction. A school need not meet the 18:1 or 30:2 classroom ratios in all participating grades under the bill in order to receive funding.
- A revised version of the school accountability bill (AB-1) is expected soon from the state Assembly. The bill will almost certainly retain provisions that spell out certain sanctions for low-performing schools and allow for the use of multiple assessments to measure student and school performance.
- The state Budget is now in the hands of the Legislature. Contacting legislators with concerns is extremely important, as is communication with parents, community members, and the local media.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note February, 2015 receipts in the amount of \$7,264,716.29 and approve February, 2015 disbursements in the amount of \$3,053,755.88. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments and Retirements

No items were brought forward for action.

Update on Upcoming RISE Together Presentation

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that the District has been working with the Riverview Health Care Foundation and the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department to coordinate an event for students, parents, and community members in order to raise awareness about local substance abuse. During the day on March 23-24, groups of students from WRPS as well as Port Edwards, Auburndale, and Assumption will hear a presentation put on by “Rise Together.” Rise Together educates, mentors, and guides local youth to the proper resources and help that they may need to combat substance abuse. Consultation and training is provided to schools and families on the issues of substance abuse in relation to mental health issues. Problem-solving and self-management skills are promoted in order for adolescents to be successful without relying on abusive behavior. Ms. Stebbins-Hintz recently attended a presentation by Rise Together in Waupaca, and described the event as very impactful and powerful. Interested parents and community members are invited to attend the event on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

District Technology Purchase Request

Mr. Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, was present to explain that all District elementary building sites as well as the middle school and junior high school are in need of updated computers to make the final move from Windows XP to the Windows 7 operating system. To complete the process, 190 computers and 182 monitors need to be purchased. Eliminating Windows XP from the computing environment will provide a solid computing infrastructure for learning and assessment.

Bytespeed Computers, Inc. has been the District’s preferred vendor of desktop computers since 2007. Bytespeed has provided a proposal for the District to purchase 190 computers at a cost of \$95,000.00. Three quotes were received to purchase 182 - 22” computer monitors. The lowest bidder for monitors is CDW-G at a total cost of \$21,994.70. The administration recommends the purchase of 190 computers and 182 monitors as quoted, with funding to come from the District Technology budget, Common School Fund budget, East Junior High Technology Education budget, and the District Technology Referendum budget.

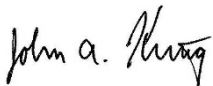
The Board took the opportunity to ask questions concerning the recommendation.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by John Benbow to approve of the purchase of 190 computers from Bytespeed Computers at a total cost of \$95,000.00 and the purchase of 182 – 22” monitors from CDW-G at a total cost of \$21,994.70 to be funded from the District Technology budget, Common School Fund budget, East Jr. High Technology Education budget, and the District Technology Referendum budget. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk