

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

October 27, 2014

John A. Krings, President John Benbow, Jr. Larry Davis Sandra K. Hett Mary E. Rayome Anne Lee Katie Medina

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

BOARD WORKSHOP

LOCATION: Thomas A. Lenk Educational Services Center, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Katie Medina, Anne Lee, John Krings, Larry Davis, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome

EXCUSED: John Benbow

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Daniel Weigand, Ryan Christianson, Phil Bickelhaupt, Ed Allison, Trudy DeSimons, Kevin Yeske, Patti Ritchay, Ronald Rasmussen, Rodney Henke, Brian Oswall, Tracy Ginter, Leslie Lewison, Paul Mann, Jen Wilhorn

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Kieckhafer, Plunkett Raysich Architects; Melanie Lawder, The Daily Tribune

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

Roll Call

President Krings stated the purpose of the meeting is to continue discussions on District facility costs, utilization, and potential restructuring options.

Dr. Dickmann requested that Director of Buildings & Grounds Ed Allison provide an overview of a summary document that he developed in July 2014 which lists facility needs currently in existence across the district. The assessment revealed the following:

East Jr. High/Board Office

- Building is in good condition.
- Steam boilers are original and need intermittent maintenance. Boilers are in good working condition, but will need fire tube replacement in near future. Five Honeywell control boards are being replaced.
- New hot water converters in 1962 addition and south end are in good condition.
- Air handlers for Board office/cafeteria are in poor condition and should be replaced in near future.
- Roof is in good condition (new 2008) and should last 20+ years with proper maintenance.
- Front entry should be rebuilt to accommodate handicap entry.
- Library and office areas need carpeting asbestos flooring under carpeting needs abatement.
- Asbestos flooring in 1930 building classrooms is in sound condition, but should be replaced in future.
- Generator needs replacement. Working fine at present time, but parts are becoming impossible to find. Needs to be moved out of tunnel.
- Building exterior needs tuck pointing and sealing.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.

East Jr. High Grounds – 5.65 acres

- Good portion of sidewalks (20%) around the school need repair.
- Main entry approach should be rebuilt to remove steps and trip hazards and to make ADA compliant.

Lincoln High School

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (new 2008). Eight Honeywell energy management control boards are in the process of being replaced.
- Roof is in good condition (new 2008). Should last 20 years with proper maintenance.
- Sump pumps in boiler room, loading dock, and pool equipment room are functional, but are original equipment and should be replaced.
- Sewer piping in boiler room is deteriorated and needs to be replaced.
- Pool is 34 years old and no longer meets depth requirement for competitive swimming.
- Carpeting needs to be replaced in several rooms. Some rooms have original carpet that is being held together with duct tape.
- Several exterior doors need replacement.
- Building should have card access system and door monitors installed.
- Ventilation in welding shop is inadequate and needs upgrading.

Lincoln Grounds - 127.2 acres

- Cell tower lease generates approximately \$10,000 per year.
- Parking lots are in fair condition, but could use patching, seal coating and crack filling.
- Several sections of sidewalk need replacement.
- Track is reaching the end of its life cycle and should be resurfaced. Patching and repainting was done in spring 2014, extending its life a few years.
- Football scoreboard is 18 years old and it is getting difficult to find parts for it.
- State Forester should be consulted about wooded areas.

Performing Arts Center (PAC)

- PAC is currently in good condition.
- House lights are being converted to LED in fall of 2014.
- Carpeting is coming loose in several areas, requiring some maintenance.

Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School (WRAMS)

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers in good condition (new 2001). Four Honeywell control boards replaced in 2014.
- Roof is in good condition (new 2008). Should last 20 years with proper maintenance.
- Emergency generator should be replaced and moved off roof.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.
- Plumbing problems continue to be an issue requiring intermittent repairs.

WRAMS Grounds - 69.554 acres

- Track needs to be seal-coated and painted.
- Football and soccer fields need reseeding and an irrigation system (well).
- Several sidewalks need replacement (5-10%)

River Cities High School (RCHS)

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers in good condition (new in 2007). Three Honeywell control panels were replaced in 2013.
- Roof is in good condition (new 1999). Should last 10+ years with proper maintenance.
- Sewer pipes are narrowing and have caused problems in the past. Septic system is operating fine with current enrollment.
- Private well with high iron count, tests out fine after conditioning.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.

<u>RCHS Grounds – 12.0 acres</u>

• Parking lot and driveway need to be repaired/replaced.

Grant Elementary School

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (four new in 1999 / two new in 2008). Four Honeywell energy management control boards were replaced in 2013.
- Roof is in good condition. Should last 10 years with proper maintenance.
- Asbestos floor tile is in solid condition, but should be removed/replaced.
- Water condition is marginal. Septic and well was replaced in 1999. State water tests come back in normal ranges, softeners help remove iron. Soda ash reduced acidity. Both water treatment systems were new in 2007, but could be upgraded. New pressure tanks were installed in 2014.
- Septic tanks/lift pumps need intermittent maintenance.
- Several areas need paint.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.

<u>Grant Grounds – 49.25 acres</u>

- Seal and crack fill blacktop parking lot and playground areas.
- State Forester should be contacted to assist in managing wooded areas.

Grove Elementary School

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (new 2007). Two Honeywell energy management control boards were replaced in 2013.
- Roof is in good condition (new 2008). Should last 20 years with proper maintenance.
- Air conditioning condensing units are 18 years old, but working fine.
- Asbestos floor tile is in solid condition, but should be removed/replaced in the future.
- Painting in several areas needs to be done.
- Carpeting is showing wear and should be replaced in several rooms.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.
- Vandalism is an ongoing problem.

<u>Grove Grounds – 13 acres</u>

• Parking lots and playground areas are in good condition, but need seal coating.

Howe Elementary School

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (new 2009). Two Honeywell energy management control boards were replaced in 2013.
- Roof is in good condition (new 2008). Should last 20 years with proper maintenance.
- Tuck pointing and sealing of exterior should be done.
- Exterior door to gym should be replaced.
- Kitchen grease trap should be replaced in near future.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.

Howe Grounds – 7.2 acres

- Parking could become an issue.
- Parking lot (owned by Immanuel Lutheran Church) is in rough condition. District continues to patch large holes as they emerge.
- Right of First Refusal and Lease Agreement for parking lot needs to be drawn up between Immanuel Lutheran (owner) and WRPS. The church is looking at a new site in the future.

Mead Elementary Charter School

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (new 2008). Six Honeywell energy management control boards were replaced in 2013.
- Roof is in good condition (new 2008) and should last 20+ years with proper maintenance.
- Asbestos flooring in parts of the building is solid, but should be replaced in the near future.
- Tuck pointing and sealing of exterior should be done.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.

Mead Grounds – 5.4 acres

• Playground area needs seal coating and crack filling.

Pitsch Elementary

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (new 1998). Four Honeywell energy management control boards were replaced in 2014.
- Lighting upgrades were completed December 2012.
- Card access should be installed.

<u>Pitsch Grounds – 7.4 acres</u>

• Good at this time.

<u>THINK Academy</u> (formerly Rudolph Elementary)

- Building is in good condition.
- Air conditioning condensers are 20 years old, but are working fine.
- Roof top gas furnaces are in good condition. Two Honeywell energy control boards were replaced in 2013.
- CO detectors should be installed in rooms, because of heating system configuration.
- Roof is in good condition (new 1995) and should last 10+ years with proper maintenance.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.
- Private well has high iron count and is slightly aggressive after treatment, causing elevated lead levels. System is continually monitored and tested.

THINK Academy Grounds – 20 acres

- Parking lot needs patching/replacement.
- Sidewalks in several areas (5%) need replacement.

Vesper Community Academy

- Building is in fair condition, but could use repairs to portions of the building.
- Boilers are in good condition (new 2007). Two Honeywell energy management control boards were replaced early 2013.
- Gym air handlers are in good shape.
- Library air handlers are in good shape.
- Original building ductwork is in floor, which makes it inaccessible and inefficient. Should be replaced with univents.
- Roof on north addition is failing. Will need replacement in next few years.
- Exterior of building is showing some signs of deterioration.
- Water from roof and playground area was eroding block on the kitchen and gym walls. Blacktop curbing was installed (fall 2012) around north end to help direct water away from the building.
- Walls should be repaired and insulated on north end (kitchen and gym area).
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.
- Water softener was rebuilt in 2014.

Vesper Grounds – 18.5 acres

- Infrared patching and some crack filling were done in fall 2012.
- Seal coating and crack filling should be done in playground and parking areas.
- North end parking lot should be replaced in 3-5 years.
- State Forester made recommendations and woods were thinned (fall 2012). Trees were removed along property line.

Washington Elementary School

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (new 2011). One Honeywell energy management control board was replaced early 2013.
- Flat roof is in good condition and should last 15+ years with proper maintenance.
- Shingled sections of the roof are showing some signs of cupping, and will need some maintenance intermittently.
- Kitchen grease trap should be replaced in near future.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.

Washington Grounds – 38.0 acres

- Sidewalks are needed on Washington Street from 32nd Street to 28th Street for walkers coming from east and south.
- Soccer Association is developing 2 practice fields on northeast corner (560' x 480').
- Parking lots and driveway need pothole repair and seal coating.

Woodside Elementary

- Building is in good condition.
- Boilers are in good condition (north new in 1999, south new in 2004). Three Honeywell energy management control boards were replaced in 2013.
- Roof is in good condition (new 2008) and should last 20 years with proper maintenance.
- Toilet partitions are delaminating with sharp edges exposed and should be replaced.
- Student lockers are rusting through and should be replaced in the future.
- Carpet in cafeteria should be replaced with tile.
- Asbestos tile in gym and classrooms are sound, but should be replaced in the future.
- Card access and security cameras should be installed.

Woodside Grounds – 8.0 acres

- Parking lots and driveways need pothole patch and seal coating.
- Pine trees west of school should be removed as they are mature and create safety issues.

Buildings & Grounds / Storeroom / Food Service – 2.17 acres

- Building is in good condition.
- Garage roof is in fair condition, requiring some maintenance. Remainder of roof is in good condition and should last 10+ years.
- Card access system should be installed.
- Concrete pad in the loading dock area should be replaced in the next few years.

County Trunk W & 64th Street Property – 40 acres

- Cell tower lease generates approximately \$10,000 annually.
- State Forester should be contacted to help manage wooded areas.

District Priorities

- Video intercom with electronic door strike should be installed at the main door at each school.
- District wide card access system integrated with our current ID badge system, and security cameras should be installed.

- Heating/cooling coils are in the process of being cleaned district wide for energy savings and indoor air quality.
- Duct work should be cleaned district wide for better indoor air quality and energy savings.
- Emergency generators at East and WRAMS are obsolete and should be replaced soon. These are checked and run biweekly and operate fine; however, parts are not available and they could become a liability in the future. East generator was down two months in 2012.
- o Roof at Vesper is being patched yearly. Roof will need to be replaced within the next few years.
- City inspector received complaints about deteriorated sidewalks at some of our schools. Issues in some problem areas have been addressed, but several areas still need attention.

Mr. Allison explained that the needs change each year, and are reprioritized as necessary. The bigger ticket items which will need replacement in the future have been identified, and a District priority list has been developed with a rating scale tied to each maintenance item. Ratings of "most urgent," "urgent," and "least urgent" were used. Rough costs have been estimated, and each building's total is as follows:

BUILDING	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST
Grant Elementary School	\$106,000.00
Grove Elementary School	\$115,000.00
Howe Elementary	\$88,950.00
Mead Elementary	\$90,000.00
THINK Academy	\$137,500.00
Vesper Community Academy	\$783,400.00
Washington Elementary	\$270,000.00
Woodside Elementary	\$435,500.00
Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School	\$315,800.00
East Jr. High School	\$1,217,400.00
Lincoln High School	\$3,353,900.00
River Cities High School	\$210,890.00
Buildings & Grounds Facility /	<u>\$535,000.00</u>
District Wide Card Access/Security Cameras	

TOTAL ALL BUILDINGS

\$7,659,340.00

(excluding painting of rooms)

Mr. Allison reviewed each building's electric, natural gas, sewer, water, storm water, security lighting, and snowplowing costs. A recent Honeywell audit performed on the buildings revealed that WRPS buildings run very efficiently, but the District does need to continue to explore energy efficient measures.

The Board discussed the building assessment presented by Mr. Allison. Dr. Dickmann pointed out that as discussions about restructuring options continue, the District's technology infrastructure and any necessary upgrades to support any movement of students will also need to be considered.

Daniel Weigand, Director of Business Services, presented a current cost estimate of staffing in each building as follows:

BUILDING	STAFF FTE	STAFF COMPENSATION
Grant Elementary School	32.17	\$2,436,000.00
Grove Elementary School	35.96	\$2,503,000.00
Howe Elementary	45.61	\$3,401,000.00
Mead Elementary	60.33	\$3,934,000.00
THINK Academy	17.91	\$1,126,000.00
Vesper Community Academy	14.60	\$969,000.00
Washington Elementary	35.27	\$2,634,000.00

Woodside Elementary	46.69	\$3,424,000.00
Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School	66.83	\$5,443,000.00
East Jr. High School	70.20	\$5,324,000.00
Lincoln High School	114.30	\$8,601,000.00
River Cities High School	7.35	\$584,000.00
4-Year Old Kindergarten	2.49	\$193,000.00
District Wide Staffing	60.84	<u>\$4,483,000.00</u>

DISTRICT TOTAL

<u>\$45,055,000.00</u>

Mr. Weigand explained that cost of staffing in buildings varies according to the number of veteran staff working at each facility. The Board had an opportunity to ask questions concerning staff costs.

Dr. Dickmann introduced Steve Kieckhafer of Plunkett Raysick Architects. Mr. Kieckhafer attended the regular Board of Education meeting on September 8, 2014 to provide an educational space analysis for Lincoln High School if the 9th grade class were to move to that facility. Mr. Kieckhafer also provided an analysis of educational space if the East Jr. High facility then housed 7th and 8th grade. Following this meeting, the Board requested to have Mr. Kieckhafer work with the administration to provide additional options and a broad, overall cost estimate associated with the options developed.

Mr. Kieckhafer developed <u>Option 1A</u>, <u>Option 1B</u>, <u>Option 2</u>, and <u>Option 3</u>. None of the options is being recommended as a "preferred" option, rather they are all presented as possibilities for the Board to consider:

Option 1A

Relocate 9 th Grade to Lincoln High School	
Relocate for 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th Grade at East Jr. High School	\$5,810,000.00

Option 1B

Option 2

Relocate 9th Grade to Lincoln High School Relocate for 5th/6th Grade at East Jr. High and 7th/8th Grade at WRAMS \$1,900,000.00

Option 3

All options have the 9th grade class moving to Lincoln High School. Mr. Kieckhafer explained that at 30 students per classroom, the 9th grade students could move to Lincoln and operate below the maximum capacity. With a 0% pupil increase or declining enrollment, the operation would be better in the future. At 26 students per classroom, the 9th grade students could move to Lincoln, and still operate below the maximum capacity.

Relocating 9th grade students to Lincoln would require further review of classroom scheduling. Mr. Kieckhafer has been involved in discussions with Principal Rasmussen concerning building capacity. Potential modifications to Lincoln to accommodate the additional student capacity are recommended as follows:

- > 1 additional science classroom by renovating existing classrooms
- ➢ staff office space by renovating existing space (to accommodate 9th grade teaching staff)
- > additional special education classroom by renovating existing space
- change utilization on 16 of 26 classrooms to 100% (remainder of rooms would operate at 80% utilization)

The cost to renovate existing space at Lincoln is estimated to be \$1,540,000.00. This cost is included in each of the restructuring Options. Other costs involved with each option include:

Option 1A - Relocate 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade at East Jr. High School

 6^{th} , 7^{th} , and 8^{th} grade students would be able to operate at East Jr. High if additional classroom space was available – a minimum of 7 classrooms.

Needs for Solution:

Renovate existing District Office (Central Office) for classroom space, and relocate District Office to a location to be determined (this would not include the Technology Department as that area would not be useful as an educational space).

Cost:

Renovation of existing space within East Jr. High for 7 classrooms	. \$1,650,000.00
Relocation of District Office	. \$2,620,000.00
Plus cost to move 9 th grade to Lincoln	. \$1,540,000.00
Option 1A TOTAL	
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Option 1B - Relocate 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade at Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School

 6^{th} , 7^{th} , and 8^{th} grade students would be able to operate at WRAMS if additional classroom space was available – a minimum of 10 classrooms.

Needs for Solution:

Build new classroom addition on to the existing building.

Cost:

New addition of 10 classrooms	\$3,710,000.00
Plus cost to move 9 th grade to Lincoln	
Option 1B TOTAL	

Option 2 – Relocate 5th and 6th at East Jr. High and 7th and 8th at Wisc. Rapids Area Middle School

 5^{th} and 6^{th} grade students would be able to operate at East Jr. High with minor renovations to accommodate classroom programs. 7^{th} and 8^{th} grade students would be able to operate at WRAMS with minor renovations to accommodate classroom function.

Needs for Solution:

Minor or no renovation at East Jr. High or WRAMS.

Cost:

Renovation of existing space within East Jr. High	\$170,000.00
Renovation of existing space within WRAMS	
Plus cost to move 9 th grade to Lincoln	
Option 2 TOTAL	
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Option 3 - Relocate 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade at East Jr. High and WRAMS

The 5th-8th grade students would be able to operate at East J.r High and WRAMS with minor renovations to accommodate classroom programs.

Needs for Solution:

Minor or no renovation at East Jr. High or WRAMS.

Cost:

Renovation of existing space within East Jr. High	. \$170,000.00
Renovation of existing space within WRAMS	. \$190,000.00

Plus cost to move 9 th grade to Lincoln	\$1,540,000.00
Option 3 TOTAL	. <u>\$1,900,000.00</u>

Mr. Weigand explained that the Department of Public Instruction has established a new Capital Projects Fund 46 which provides state aid on deposits made into the fund each year. A requirement for establishment of Fund 46 is Board approval of a long-term, 10-year facility plan. Funds deposited into Fund 46 may not be withdrawn for five years following the initial establishment of the Fund.

Mr. Kieckhafer explained that further review and a more detailed analysis would need to be done should the Board decide to focus on any of the proposed solutions. The Board and administrative team discussed the options presented. A number of questions and viewpoints were brought up:

- How would any potential growth in the community population affect the options should there be an influx of students enrolling at WRPS
- Teaching 30 students versus 26 at the secondary level may or may not impact the education of students, depending upon a number of factors
- Current class sizes at Lincoln fluctuate from 18 up to as many as 35
- Technology Education, Art, Music, and Physical Education currently have ample space at Lincoln no impact on course offerings would occur in these areas, should 9th grade move to Lincoln
- Girls locker room at Lincoln will need renovation no matter which Option, if any, is decided upon
- There would likely be some curricular impact to grade 8, should grade 9 move to Lincoln
- Other curricular impacts district wide should be reviewed, depending upon the "domino effect" of grade level realignment
- What alignment is best for students 6-7-8 / 5-6-7-8 / 5-6 and 7-8
- Impacts to technology infrastructure with student movement needs consideration
- Consideration should be given to the number of transitions for students, and what is best
- Athletic offerings at the $7^{th}/8^{th}$ grade level might be better suited at the WRAMS location
- Do not want to return to East vs. West rivalry if similar grade levels are aligned at each location, and duplication of services needs to be considered
- The LHS pool, including inadequate depth levels for hosting WIAA competitions needs to be taken into consideration during facility discussions
- Short and long range plans for the Lincoln complex should be considered the SWC track has about another 4 years of life before needing serious renovation, and plans for the entire campus space as a whole should be reviewed/developed – Mr. Rasmussen is interested in developing a strategic plan for the Lincoln facility that aligns with future District wide initiatives and planning
- Moving 9th grade to Lincoln for 2015-16 is not recommended as Lincoln will be adjusting to the trimester schedule being implemented Board prefers no rushing/hurrying the decision to move 9th grade
- A referendum at this time may not be supported by the community in light of the District's continued shrinking enrollment, particularly given the fact that a capital campaign in the community will likely begin soon for the YMCA project and Boys & Girls Club
- Relocation of Central Office costs under Option 1A account for the construction of a new building other options for the relocation of Central Office into an existing District space may be available and would need to be explored
- Consider the life expectancy of all District buildings when considering any options
- Impact of SAGE, if it were eliminated, in terms of freeing up classroom space in buildings
- What impact to elementary buildings will be, depending upon changes at the secondary level do all buildings remain open? What might be combined or closed?
- Potential use of Pitsch facility in the future, should the Boys & Girls Club not purchase the building they are to let the District know their intent to purchase no later than June 30, 2016
- Time that will be needed if facilities undergo renovation Mr. Kieckhafer explained that \$2 million worth of work can typically be done over the summer at one location
- Impact across all grade levels needs further study to be certain the District is a good steward of taxpayer dollars and resources while considering what is educationally best for all students

Special Board of Education Meeting (Board Workshop – Facility/Restructuring Options Study)

The Board thanked Mr. Kieckhafer for the expertise and knowledge he shared regarding potential options.

The Board directed the administration to concentrate on what the next best configuration would be, should grade 9 move to Lincoln. In considering the various models and options presented, what configuration is best for students at the middle school and junior high levels. Furthermore, what facility (East or WRAMS) best fits the potential reconfiguration options? In particular, Option 2 should be given further study.

From a curriculum perspective, Options 1A, 1B, or 2 seem to make a great deal of sense. While it might be best to have grades 6, 7, and 8 housed at one location, some concern was expressed in moving grade 5 out of the elementary buildings to move toward a 5-6, 7-8 or 5-6-7-8 configuration. A pros and cons list would help in determining what configuration is best. Another question to consider is what the domino effect might be at the elementary facilities for grades 4K-grade 4 if grade 5 moves out of the elementary locations.

Another Board workshop for further discussion will be scheduled to occur in mid-November or December.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

John a. Miring

John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis - Clerk