



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

October 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, Sandra Hett, Mary Rayome, John Benbow, Anne Lee, Larry Davis, Katie Medina

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson, Glenn Haupt, Phillip Bickelhaupt, Tracy Ginter

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’s Report

Drake Blossfield reported on the following:

- Recent Homecoming events at Lincoln High School (LHS) were quite successful. Over \$900 was collected for St. Jude’s Hospital through the Key Club with help from the Homecoming queen.
- The Raider “Salute to Veterans” football game is coming up on October 16, with a fundraiser planned to support veterans who participate in Honor Flights.
- The trimester mid-term has been reached.
- Fall sports are gearing up for post-season events.
- Lincoln students will be performing in “Scarlet Heart” this coming weekend at the PAC.
- Dress-up day is happening in October at Lincoln, with students expected to honor the LHS dress code.
- Student Council recently attended a conference in Wisconsin Dells to network and connect with others across the state in the hopes of sharing ideas to bring back and implement at school.

Mr. Krings acknowledged National School Lunch Week happening October 12-16, 2015 by expressing gratitude to District food service workers for the important work they do to provide healthy, nutritious meals to students.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of September 14, 2015; special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of September 14, 2015; and special Board of Education meeting minutes of September 28, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – October 5, 2015. 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 of 66.03.01 cooperative agreements for students attending the Virtual program from the school districts as listed.
- BS-2 Approval of a proposal from Sweetwater for the purchase of multi-track audio mixing and recording equipment at a total cost of \$12,837.26 with funding from the Community Service Fund 80.
- BS-3 Approval to replace two circulating pumps at Mead Elementary School at a total cost of \$20,646.00 with funding from the Building & Grounds budget.
- BS-4 Approval of a proposal to extend the current EO Johnson contract for Managed Print Services an additional five years from January, 2016 through January, 2021 at a base cost of \$10,140.22 per month plus excess per image charge as stipulated in the contract.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items BS 1-4. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Purchase of copy paper from Contract Paper Group.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular October 5, 2015 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – October 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 professional staff resignation request of Joel Kuenhold (Agriculture – Lincoln) pursuant to receipt of liquidated damages.
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff resignation request of Dana Freeman (Special Ed Aide – Woodside).
- PS-3 Approval of the professional staff early retirement request of Nina Pelo (Language Arts – Lincoln).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff appointments of Hannah Larkin (Faculty Clerk/In-House Aide – East), Karey Netz (Special Ed Aide – Woodside), Cheryl Hayes (Special Ed Aide – Woodside), Julie Lieber (Instructional Aide – WRAMS), Samantha Richardson (Special Ed Aide – East), Dana Laskowski (Special Ed Aide – Woodside), Christine Staffon (Secretary – Vesper), Jennifer Molepske (Health/Office Aide – Mead), Kristeen Ratsch (Special Ed Aide – WRAMS), Julie Olsen (Health/Office Aide – Vesper), and Yvonne Bujanowski (Library/Noon/Instructional Aide – Vesper).

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-4. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on:

- District utilization of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
- The Committee reviewed Handbook and individual contract language related to liquidated damages for breach of contract by professional staff and discussed the possibility of increasing the amounts which currently range from \$300 to \$750. The Committee endorsed having the administration work on a proposal to increase the monetary requirements for liquidated damages. A proposal will be brought back for consideration and possible action at a future meeting.

Current Professional Staff Employee Handbook language regarding the post-employment insurance benefit for professional staff was considered, particularly with regard to mid-year early retirement requests. The Committee expressed concern about potential future early retirement requests if it were to include a retirement date that would occur prior to the end of the contracted school year. The Committee requested that the administration work on a potential revision to Handbook language that would require professional staff to work the full contracted year, in the year of their retirement, in order for them to be eligible to receive the post-employment insurance benefit. A proposal for revisions will be developed and brought back for consideration and possible action at a future meeting.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of October 5, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – October 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 participation in the Constellation “Energy to Educate” Grant for approximately \$50,000.

ES-2 Approval of the suggested changes to the Supplemental Pay Plan for Professional Development.

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:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) – Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Instruction, explained that ESEA has been known for some time as “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) and incorporates Title I, II, and III. The affiliated grants are entitlement grants received from the federal government through the states, and the grants involve a tremendous amount of regulatory paperwork. Grants received by the District include:

Title I – Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

The 2015-16 allocation to the District is \$998,106 for a total of \$1,075,895 with carryover funds included. This grant covers items such as salary/benefits for reading and math interventionists, homeless programming, private/parochial required funding, professional development, parent involvement, and materials and supplies.

Title II – Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals

The 2015-16 allocation to the District is \$228,584 for a total of \$348,988 with carryover funds included. This grant covers SAGE/AGR teachers, private parochial required funding, new teacher/mentor programming, instructor compensation, and other professional development.

Title III – Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students

The 2015-16 allocation to the District is \$20,318. Title III funds cover bi-lingual instructional aide support, materials, supplies, and professional development.

- Charter School Report: THINK Academy – This item was tabled to November, 2015.
- Youth Options and Course Options – Ms. Stebbins-Hintz explained that no Youth Options course requests have been made for the 2015-16 school year. Three students are taking coursework during semester one through the Course Options program. Students enrolled in the Central Cities Health Institute (CCHI) program take classes at Mid-State Technical College through the Course Options program. Additionally, concurrent enrollment students are taking English 101 and 102 at Lincoln High School through UW-Marshfield/Wood County.
- Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) Results from 2014-15 – The embargoes set on WSAS results have been lifted for districts to begin reviewing the results of these assessments; however, districts have been told that they are not to report on results until the embargo has been lifted for the public. The WSAS includes results on the WKCE, ACT Aspire, Badger Exam, ACT, WorkKeys, PALs, and ACCESS examinations. Results will be shared as soon as possible at a future meeting.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the October 5, 2015, Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- On the national front, the House GOP leadership is currently stalled, but the NEA continues to push for Congress to finish the Budget Bill and the ESEA. A bill is circulating to reauthorize the D.C. voucher program. The effort is being led by Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson, and it would extend the voucher program until 2025 despite the fact that the District of Columbia City Council overwhelmingly opposed the voucher program. Over \$20 million per year is being siphoned from public education to private schools during a time when they already have sequestered budgets.
- Locally, the WASB Legislative Advocacy meeting is scheduled to take place on October 13, 2015 in Stevens Point.
- The Assembly Education Committee held a hearing on Assembly Bill 321 which would require each school district to post its annual report and annual audit on the district's Internet site. The bill would also require the Department of Public Instruction to create a sample budget summary form for school districts to use in the preparation of their annual budgets.
- The *Urban Task Force* scheduled hearings to occur on October 9, 2015 in Kenosha.
- A bill is being circulated by a pair of Republican lawmakers that would require public school boards to designate school restrooms and changing rooms (i.e., locker or shower rooms) accessible by multiple students as for the exclusive use of either "males" or "females." Among some concerns are that the proposal could potentially place school boards in a situation where if they comply with the bill's provisions they could be in conflict with federal authorities, including the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, which share authority to enforce Title IX and its regulations.
- House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy has dropped out of the race for House speaker. Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan is now being pushed to run for the House speaker position.
- U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan is stepping down.
- WASB opposes a bill introduced to eliminate the school district revenue limit exemption for energy efficiency projects.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note September, 2015 receipts in the amount of \$4,836,649.65 and approve September, 2015 disbursements in the amount of \$2,862,656.53. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Use of District Schools as Polling Places

Superintendent Colleen Dickmann explained that a number of security measures have been initiated in the District over the years in order to protect students and staff. The District Crisis Action Plan is reviewed and updated each year, with formal Board review of the plan occurring every three years as required by statute. In addition to continual plan review taking place, other initiatives are on-going which take time and resources for training and implementation. The District badge ID's have all been upgraded, and Aiphone systems have been installed at each building this school year. Staff are being trained in ALICE protocols, and meetings with local law enforcement, administration, and staff continue which focus on the safety and security of our buildings.

With all of the measures being taken by the district and staff to implement best practice with regard to safety and security, the practice of opening up school buildings to the general public on election days runs contrary to all of the efforts being made to secure district buildings. As a result, the administration is recommending that the Board

consider drafting a letter to the City of Wisconsin Rapids to request that locations other than school buildings be identified to hold election polling. Currently Grove, Howe, and Mead are used as election polling sites. Dr. Dickmann has had conversation with law enforcement officials, and they are not in a financial position to post an officer all day long, multiple times each year at each of the polling locations. Law enforcement has signaled approval and support for moving the elections elsewhere.

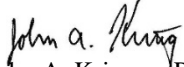
The Board acknowledged the advantages of having members of the public come into community school buildings which tax dollars support. However, given the increase in the number of school shootings taking place and considering the fact that many resources have been expended across the district to increase safety and security measures in order to reduce hazards and mitigate vulnerabilities, it seems counter intuitive to open up school doors on election days. The Board discussed the possibility of having Supt. Dickmann draft a letter to city officials requesting that they relocate election polling places to locations other than school buildings.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Anne Lee to approve of Supt. Dickmann writing a letter on the Board's behalf requesting that schools no longer be utilized as election polling places by the City of Wisconsin Rapids. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk