



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

November 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, Larry Davis,
Katie Medina

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson

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:

- Individual fall athletic student achievements.
- Winter sports events are beginning to get started.
- Sophomores recently took the required Civics Exam.
- Career Discovery Days just occurred at Lincoln with over 60 community business professionals participating.
- Seniors were recently measured for graduation gown sizes.
- DECA participated in a leadership program on the same date as the November Board meeting.
- Lincoln students in theatre are headed to the state Theatre Festival to perform "Scarlet Heart" on November 19-20.
- The Wood County Driving Coalition involving secondary students recently met to exchange ideas about distracted driving prevention.
- Lincoln students are conducting a food drive with all donations slated for SWEPS.
- The end of the first trimester term wraps up in November.

Mr. Krings expressed appreciation to the Lincoln students and staff for their recently successful fundraising campaign to support the Honor Flight program for veterans.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of October 12, 2015; and special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of October 26, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee ReportsA. Business Services Committee – November 2, 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 a 66.03.01 cooperative agreement for a student enrolling out to Nekoosa School District.

BS-2 Approval of a proposal to purchase an intercom system for use in the Performing Arts Center from Soundworks Systems, Inc. at a cost of \$16,448.70 to be funded from the Community Service Fund 80.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve consent agenda items BS 1-2. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Purchases of virtual school curriculum materials, purchasing needs for the Performing Arts Center, and the purchase of a replacement maintenance vehicle for the Buildings & Grounds Department.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular November 2, 2015 Business Services Committee meeting with one correction noting that Larry Davis called the meeting to order (not John Benbow, who was absent from the meeting.) Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – November 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 resignation request of Megan Utecht (Grade 4 – Grant).

PS-2 Approval of the support staff resignation requests of Rick Kehrberg (Custodian – Howe) and Christine Staffon (Secretary – Vesper).

PS-3 Approval of the support staff appointment of Brian McAllister (Noon Aide – Howe).

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

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on open enrollment data for the 2015-16 school year.

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

C. Educational Services Committee – November 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 4K-5 report cards set out in Attachment A for implementation to begin at the end of the first trimester of the 2015-16 school year.

ES-2 Approval of the guidelines set out in Attachment C for administration of the Civics Exam to students in WRPS.

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

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Performing Arts Center (PAC) Use – Eric Brittnacher, PAC Director, highlighted the number of events that take place at the PAC. He explained that within a year there are approximately 65-75 public events drawing 35,000 to 40,000 people. In addition, there are approximately 15-35 private events, such as District

functions. All events require set-up and for the specialized equipment to be maintained, keeping him and his trained staff of approximately 10 technicians busy.

- Charter School Report: THINK Academy and Mead Elementary Charter – Roxanne Filtz, Principal of THINK Academy, and staff members were present to update the Committee on accomplishments during the 2014-15 school year. Ms. Filtz shared a video highlighting several events. Due to the number of new staff at THINK this year, goals for 2015-16 will include sharing the vision and mission of the charter school.

Margie Dorshorst, Principal of Mead Elementary Charter School, along with representatives from the Governing Council, shared a video and reviewed highlights from the *Kids in the Kitchen* event hosted in April. This event was their primary fund raiser, bringing in almost \$10,000. Goals for this year include a focus on reading and social/emotional skills.

- Curriculum Proposals: Modifications and New Courses – Ms. Stebbins-Hintz pointed out that there are fewer proposals this year than in previous years. She reviewed the Board policy to add or modify courses. Four curriculum proposals were reviewed as follows:
 1. Physics-Force and Motion and Physics-Forms of Energy
 2. Principles of Chemistry and Chemistry Applications
 3. Grade 7-8 Mathematics
 4. Outdoor Education (Winter) & Individual and Dual Winter Lifetime

At the December Educational Services meeting, Committee members will be asked to vote on each proposal. The vote will occur after members are presented with a summary of the CII's discussion and advisory vote on these proposals.

- Grades 6-9 Trimester Schedule – Ms. Stebbins-Hintz, along with members of the 6-9 Scheduling Committee (Tracy Ginter, Principal at WRAMS, Gretchen Niedbalski, Counselor at WRAMS, and Larry Redepinning, Technology Education Teacher at WRAMS), were present to discuss the most recent schedule proposal. Since the September Educational Services Committee meeting, the schedule has been revised several times based on teacher input. A survey will be given to WRAMS and EJH teachers to share their opinion of the proposal. Results and updates will be shared with the Committee.
- Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) – The Committee was informed that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) still has testing data embargoed that was set for release in October. As stated in the release from DPI, there are many reasons for this decision, but basically DPI wants the public data to have continuity. Because of the switch in vendors, developing new dashboards is a massive effort. Further, they want to display the proficiency of all students within a district. The final step will be a careful review, once all of the data is combined.

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

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

After attending a WASB Legislative Advocacy meeting on November 9, 2015, Mr. Benbow suggested an agenda item be considered for the future concerning how the District can advocate more for public education.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- The Wisconsin Assembly passed a bill allowing all students between grades 3-12 to opt out of standardized tests required by state or federal law. Concerns exist about how the requirement may affect school district accountability reporting as well as penalties districts could experience as a result of required federal testing as stipulated in the No Child Left Behind law.
- A draft bill is circulating in the Wisconsin Legislature which would require tracking crime data within public school districts.
- A bill is also being introduced which would allow districts to implement an earlier school start date if 20% or more of the student population is taking required AP examinations.

- A public hearing related to a bill designating restrooms and changing rooms accessible by multiple students to become designated as exclusively “male” or “female” facilities has been postponed.
- A public hearing is scheduled to occur on November 18 concerning proposed DPI rules on revenue limit exemption for energy efficiency projects.
- A bill is being circulated to mandate that school districts provide CPR training to students in grades 7 to 12.
- Legislation is being introduced which would place restrictions on school district referenda ballot dates and implement a 2 year moratorium on referenda (or any other mechanism related to borrowing or raising revenue) following a failed referendum.
- Over 2,500 students are now receiving vouchers to attend private schools under the statewide voucher program, up from about 1,000 students last year. Private schools receive \$7,214 per student in grades K-8, and \$7,860 for each high school student which is a greater amount than public school districts receive for students transferring under the open enrollment program. Mr. Benbow reiterated the purpose of the statewide program initially was to give public school students in failing schools a chance at a better education. Of the 2,514 students in the statewide voucher program this school year, 81.9% were already attending private school. Each year the cap increases and more dollars will be drained away from public education.

The Board discussed the items being considered by the Legislature, expressing frustration at the continued mandates and detrimental effect that laws being passed in Madison have on public education. Mr. Benbow referenced a recent article posted in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* dated October 31, 2015 and titled “Politicians are Failing Families, Communities.” The article speaks to the continued loss of aid due to the “mismanaged state budget passed by politicians.” Details about how various districts are being negatively impacted are shared in the article.

The Board discussed the possibility of WRPS hosting another Board Consortium meeting to speak with legislators about these very concerning issues.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to note October, 2015 receipts in the amount of \$362,303.00 and approve October, 2015 disbursements in the amount of \$3,289,615.25. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Tentative Agreement Reached with Wisconsin Rapids Education Association (WREA)

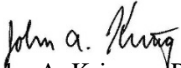
Dr. Dickmann stated that the Board Salary Committee met with WREA representatives recently. A tentative agreement to a 1.62% base wage increase was reached, with salary distribution in accordance with an inverse matrix as discussed by the parties.

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve of a 1.62% base wage increase settlement reached with the Wisconsin Rapids Education Association (WREA) for the 2015-16 contract year effective July 1, 2015 to be distributed inversely as agreed upon. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

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