



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

December 14, 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

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: 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:

- Lincoln is hosting a blood drive this week.
- The LHS swim team recently broke a 30 year school record in the 200 medley relay.
- Wood County Driving Team Coalition recently met to discuss implementation of new ideas on how to stop distracted and impaired driving in our communities.
- Student Council recently hosted and served at The Neighborhood Table, which was a huge success.
- A student leader from the student FACT anti-tobacco organization recently had an article published on the harmful effects of smoking.
- Gymnastics is doing well with many team members achieving personal records this season.
- Wrestling is doing well with a 2-0 record and moving up in the ranks.
- Tickets are available for the upcoming Madrigal Dinner scheduled for December 19-20, which is being organized and hosted by the LHS Theatre and Drama Department.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by Larry Davis to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of November 9, 2015; special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of November 9, 2015; and three special closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of November 10, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – December 7, 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 the proposal to purchase 43 projectors from Tierney at a total cost of \$20,341.15 with funding from Technology Referendum Funds.

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

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Use of the Revenue Limit Exemption for Energy Efficiency projects including an explanation of how performance contracting may be utilized to complete projects. The Legislature is currently looking at the possible elimination of performance contracting by districts.
- Auditor reports dated June 30, 2015 for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular December 7, 2015 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – December 7, 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 Erik Severson (Grade 2 – Mead); and the support staff resignation requests of Jodie Porter (Special Ed Aide – Washington), Lena Johnson (Secretary – Grant), and Jennifer Keller (Secretary – Lincoln).

PS-2 Approval of the professional staff early retirement request of Susan Reynolds-Harding (Grade 2 – Grant).

PS-3 Approval of the support staff early retirement request of Debra Bailey (Payroll – Central Office).

PS-4 Approval of the professional staff appointment of Jordan Rayburn (Teacher Intern, Business – East Jr. High).

PS-5 Approval of the support staff appointments of Mark Peterson (Head Custodian – Howe), Tania Halbersma (Secretary – Vesper), Tina Gaugert (Secretary – Grant), and Denise Provost (Special Education Aide – Washington).

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items PS 1-5. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Anne Lee to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of December 7, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – December 7, 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 changes to Board Policy 423 – Public School Open Enrollment for first reading, with the suggested change by Dr. Dickmann.

ES-2 Approval of changes to Board Policy 345.4 – Promotion/Retention; Board Policy 345.41 – Promotion of Kindergarten, Fourth, and Eight Grade Students; Board Policy 345.41 Exhibit 1 – Flow Chart for Grade 4 Advancement; and Board Policy 345.41 Exhibit 2 – Flow Chart for Grade 8 Advancement, for first reading.

- ES-3 Approval of the adoption of the 6-9 trimester schedule to be implemented at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School in 2016-17 and at East Junior High School in 2017-18.
- ES-4 Approval to have Physics – Force and Motion added as a science elective course option for students at Lincoln High School for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17.
- ES-5 Approval to have Physics – Forms of Energy added as a science elective credit for students at Lincoln High School for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17.
- ES-6 Approval of curriculum revisions proposed for Principles of Chemistry beginning in 2016-17.
- ES-7 Approval to have Chemistry Applications added as a science elective for students at Lincoln High School for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17.
- ES-8 Approval to have Math 7-8 added as a year-long math option for seventh grade students at Wisconsin Rapids Area Middle School beginning in 2016-17.
- ES-9 Approval to have Winter Outdoor Education added as a physical education elective for students at Lincoln High School for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17. To avoid potential FTE increases, the Educational Services Committee recommends that students be able to select only one of the Outdoor Education courses as an option for an elective while they are a student at Lincoln High School.
- ES-10 Approval to have Individual and Dual Winter Lifetime added as a physical education course for students at Lincoln High School for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17. To avoid potential FTE increases, the Educational Services Committee also recommends that students be able to select either PE III or Individual and Dual Winter Lifetime as their last required physical education course. Individual and Dual Winter Lifetime may not be taken for elective credit.

Ms. Lee requested that Consent Agenda Items ES-9 and ES-10 be held out.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve consent agenda items ES 1-8. Motion carried unanimously.

With regard to Consent Agenda Items ES-9 and ES-10, Ms. Lee explained that further clarification by the administration is requested. Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Director of Instruction, explained that with regard to ES-10, the proposed Individual and Dual Winter Lifetime course was presented as a possible elective course that would replace Physical Education III, giving students an option to take either course. To clarify, the intent of the Physical Education Department was to drop Phy Ed III as a *required* course. Students would still be required to take an additional .5 credit of physical education (for a total 1.5 required for graduation) with the main difference being that after students fulfill taking Phy Ed I and Phy Ed II as a requirement, they would then be able to take *any* of the elective courses offered by the Phy Ed Department to meet the final .5 graduation requirement credit. The Phy Ed III course would actually be *retitled* to Individual and Dual Lifetime, and become elective rather than required. This will provide students with an array of options to fulfill the final required .5 physical education credit. It was recommended that the wording of the ES-10 motion be revised to better reflect the intent.

Due to the clarification explained, it is recommended that Consent Agenda Item ES-9 also be revised. The intent was not to restrict Outdoor Education courses to only one elective option for students. As a result, the motion might be changed to reflect that Winter Outdoor Education be added as a physical education elective course option for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17, with the remainder of the motion eliminated.

A final clarifying motion about what is required of students to fulfill the physical education graduation requirement is also recommended.

Dr. Dickmann shared that the LHS administration will schedule Phy Ed courses within the available FTE's to accommodate the Phy Ed curriculum changes, and no additional FTE's will be added.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Larry Davis to approve the following motion in lieu of ES-9: *Approval to add "Winter Outdoor Education" as a physical education elective course option for students at Lincoln High School for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.*

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve the following motion in lieu of ES-10: Approval to have Physical Education III be re-titled to “Individual and Dual Lifetime,” and that this course be offered as a physical education elective course option for students at Lincoln High School for one-half credit beginning in 2016-17. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve for students to successfully complete the required 1.5 high school credits of physical education to include Physical Education I, Physical Education II, and beginning in the 2016-17 school year instead of Physical Education III, students must successfully complete a one-half credit physical education elective course. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Lincoln High School (LHS) Trimester Schedule – Ronald Rasmussen, Principal of LHS, along with Associate Principals Casey Drake and Rod Henke updated the Committee on how the trimester schedule is working at LHS after the completion of the first trimester. Mr. Rasmussen met with staff members and the Principal Student Advisory Committee (PSAC) frequently during the trimester to discuss how things were going. Comments shared included: increase in morale, challenges for traveling teachers, no recordkeeping day, students are more relaxed and engaged, fewer classes so students don't feel as overwhelmed, greater discussion depth, four out of five classes better than six out of seven for teachers and students, students and staff get to know each other better. Overall, the change seems positive for both staff and students.
- ALICE Introduction – Dr. Dickmann introduced the ALICE crisis planning model to the Committee. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. ALICE does not replace the District's current emergency management plan; rather it provides staff and students with options in the event of a violent intruder. Dr. Dickmann reviewed statistics from Columbine and Virginia Tech shootings, and shared a video which provided an overview of ALICE. Staff and parents of District students have received communication in the form of a letter regarding ALICE. Furthermore, all staff has been introduced to ALICE through short professional development sessions and scenario-based training. In January, the administration will begin planning the best method of presenting the ALICE model to students in accordance with their particular age level. Dr. Dickmann indicated that she could schedule training with the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department, if the Committee wishes to participate.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by John Benbow to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the regular December 7, 2015 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

Mr. Benbow reported that he received the Wisconsin Association of School Board proposed resolutions which will be discussed and acted upon at the upcoming State Education Convention. Copies of the resolutions will be provided to Board members before the regular January meeting for consideration and discussion at the January, 2016 meeting.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act has been replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A few highlights of the Act include: provides more control for state governments, momentum for Common Core Standards may be slowed down or eliminated since the Act prohibits the federal government from requiring state and local government to adopt the standards; eliminates federal involvement in teacher licensing and evaluation; eliminates the requirement for states to set up teacher evaluation systems based in significant part on students' test scores; and states will have more flexibility in how and when they administer student tests. A watchful eye should be kept on the impact of the ESSA as details and information are released in the days ahead, and to see how Wisconsin government reacts to the ESSA.
- The increase of funding for the Wisconsin voucher program is seven times that of public schools under Governor Walker's leadership.
- School boards have been adopting resolutions concerning legislative issues and sending them to legislative representatives.
- A public hearing is set for December 17 concerning AB481/SB355 which would place restrictions on school referendums and limitations on borrowing.
- A public hearing is also scheduled on December 17 concerning Assembly Bill 517, which would require public schools to track and report criminal activity and other incidents occurring on school property starting in the 2017-18 school year.
- Assembly Bill 581 would loosen requirements related to teaching technical education subjects.

- Assembly Bill 469 requiring the designation of changing rooms/restrooms for pupils continues to be a topic of discussion in the Legislature.
- According to a recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Analysis, fiscal cuts to education in Wisconsin continue to be high with Wisconsin ranked 4th behind Oklahoma, Alabama, and Arizona. Wisconsin has cut about \$1 out of every \$8 that it spends supporting students in K-12 schools. Meanwhile, Minnesota lawmakers have invested in the education of their students, increasing state general funding per student by 6.9% between 2008 and 2016. Cuts in Wisconsin cannot be made up at the local level because Wisconsin lawmakers prohibit local school districts from raising property taxes.

Bills

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to note November, 2015 receipts in the amount of \$1,206,852.97; and approve November, 2015 disbursements in the amount of \$3,047,986.05. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

No items were brought forward for Board consideration/action.

Office Clerical/Aide Support Staff Wage Increase

Ryan Christianson, Director of Human Resources, presented a recommendation to increase wages of office clerical/aide employees by 1.62% effective July 1, 2015. The District budget can accommodate the recommendation. Other groups receiving a similar increase already include teachers, custodial/maintenance, and food service employees.

Motion by Larry Davis, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of a 1.62% wage increase effective July 1, 2015 for the office clerical/aide support staff employees. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

District Van Driver Wage Increase

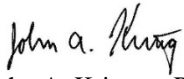
Mr. Christianson presented a recommendation to increase wages of District van driver employees by 1.62%. The District budget can accommodate the recommendation.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Larry Davis to approve of a 1.62% wage increase effective July 1, 2015 for the District van driver employees. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk