



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

January 11, 2016

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, Katie Medina

BOARD MEMBER EXCUSED: Larry Davis

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Colleen Dickmann, Daniel Weigand, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Ryan Christianson,
Glenn Haupt, 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's Report

Drake Blossfield reported on the following:

- Lincoln hosted a successful blood drive this week.
- An evening of fine dining and entertainment occurred recently at the Madrigal Dinner held in the LHS cafeteria.
- The "Variations" performance was recently held in the PAC and was well done.
- The boys swim team took first place overall in a recent match at the Lumberjack Relays in Wausau, WI.
- Gymnastics has been doing well this season.
- The annual sports and marketing "Sportainment" night is scheduled to take place on January 29, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.
- The Lincoln Drama Department will perform "Mary Poppins" for their spring show.
- Student Council is preparing for the Fire on Ice dance, and planning events and activities for "Spirit Week."
- The LHS wrestling team recently took 17th place out of 28 teams.
- DECA recently did well in regional competition with many first and second place finishes and honors awards. A number of students will now move on to the state level to compete.

John Benbow expressed thankfulness to Eric Siler, Career and Technical Education Coordinator, and Ashley Tessmer, Marketing and Business Teacher, for their leadership as advisors in the DECA organization. Eighty-five participants (the highest in DECA's history) from Lincoln were involved in the regional competition, with 28 students moving on to state.

President Krings acknowledged January 11-15, 2016 as being "Adult Crossing Guard Week," thanking the crossing guards for their service to students in our community.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Rayome, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board of Education meeting minutes of December 14, 2015; and special open and closed session Board of Education meeting minutes of December 14, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments from Citizens and Delegations

None.

Committee Reports

A. Business Services Committee – January 4, 2016. 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 proposed changes to Board Policy 443.2 – Student Conduct on School Buses; 443.2 Rule – Bus Conduct; and 751 Rule – Transportation Guidelines for first reading.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Katie Medina to approve consent agenda item BS-1. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the regular January 4, 2016 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Personnel Services Committee – January 4, 2016. 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 support staff appointment of Tammy Scharmer (Special Ed Aide – Howe).

PS-2 Approval of Board Policy 423 – Public School Open Enrollment for second reading.

PS-3 Approval of Board Policy 345.4 – Promotion/Retention for second reading.

PS-4 Approval of Board Policy 345.41 – Promotion/Retention of Kindergarten, Fourth, and Eighth Grade Students for second reading.

PS-5 Approval to delete Board Policy 345.41 – Exhibit 1 for second reading.

PS-6 Approval to delete Board Policy 345.41 – Exhibit 2 for second reading.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by John Benbow to approve consent agenda items PS 1-6. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hett provided updates and reports on class sizes and sections for elementary and secondary levels for the 2015-16 school year. The Committee reviewed and discussed class size ratios and staffing levels.

Motion by Sandra Hett, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve regular Personnel Services Committee meeting minutes of January 4, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Educational Services Committee – January 4, 2016. Report given by Anne Lee.

Ms. Lee reviewed the following consent agenda item brought before the Board through the Educational Services Committee, and asked if there were any motions to be held:

ES-1 Approval that for the 2016-17 school year, the WRPS Board of Education will not deny open enrollment applicants due to space.

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

Ms. Lee provided updates and reports on:

- Project SEARCH – Stefanie Tryba, Project SEARCH Instructor, David Akey, a student representative in the program, and Ronald Rasmussen, Principal at Lincoln High School were present to update the Committee on Project SEARCH. Mr. Akey distributed a copy of a newsletter and pamphlet for Project SEARCH. Ms. Tryba indicated this is the first year for the program with Aspirus Riverview Hospital. There are ten Lincoln High School students and two Nekoosa students in the program. Three employees from Opportunity Development Center and Ms. Tryba work with the students. She explained that the goal of Project SEARCH is to find jobs for the students that will pay equally to others in the same position, transitioning them from school to productive adult life. Mr. Akey shared what he has done on his intern rotations to date, how his work impacts the hospital, as well as opportunities for Project SEARCH students. Each student will do three rotations within a school year. Mr. Rasmussen added that the two hospital contacts through Aspirus are phenomenal to work with and shared how successful the program has been.
- Elementary Language Arts Curriculum and Acquisition – Jen Wilhorn, Elementary Literacy Supervisor, presented the Committee with a detailed timeline showing progress that the Elementary Language Arts CII Sub-Committee has made on their curriculum and acquisition. She shared work done to date, as well as future goals. Work to date includes curriculum mapping, discussion of best practice, review of materials and piloting of materials.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Katie Medina to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the regular January 4, 2016 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Benbow shared the following information:

- The National School Boards Association reported in their *Connection Daily* that the state of Washington Legislature is introducing a bill to save the charter schools. The Washington Supreme Court ruled last year that charter schools currently operating as they are in the state violates the State Constitution because they are not accountable to local school boards while receiving public funding.
- Governor Walker has announced proposals under his “College Affordability Plan” while taking no time to speak with Democrats about their plan to allow students to refinance school loan debt.
- After “Right to Work” legislation passed, Wisconsin has lost 10,000 jobs in 2015, which comes after losing 6,186 jobs in 2014.
- *Education Week* has provided rankings each year for the past 20 years on state education performance. For 2015, they’ve given Wisconsin’s education system a “B-” which places it 11th out of 50 states. Three criteria used to measure the ranking include academic performance, school financing, and the role education plays in providing positive outcomes for the children it serves. Mr. Benbow stated that while the funding aspect of the formula is where Wisconsin is failing, the ranking does prove that staff including teachers, administrators, and those involved in and who genuinely care about the lives of children are doing their jobs each day, and doing it well despite the difficult challenges and lack of support at the state level for education.
- *Wisconsin School News* has reported a 13% cut to state general fund support for the investment of education in Wisconsin between 2008 and 2016, after taking inflation into account. Only three other states (Oklahoma, Arizona, and Alabama) were making cuts during the same period of time.
- In the same edition of *Wisconsin School News*, an article reported that with the steady increase in testing and state/federal accountability system requirements, teachers reported having less freedom and autonomy in their classrooms since 2003.
- Governor Walker will provide his “State of the State” address on January 19, 2016. The governor will also speak at the State Education Convention on Friday, January 22, 2016.
- A public hearing is scheduled for January 14, 2016 concerning SB 355 related to limitations on borrowing by school districts and the use by school districts of resolutions and referenda to authorize bonding for capital projects or increase revenue limits and scheduling of school district referendums to exceed revenue limits.
- The Assembly Education Committee will hold an executive session on January 14, 2016 to discuss and recommend bills related to education, followed by a public hearing on the following items: AB 581 related to teacher licensing in vocational education subject areas; AB 517 related to reporting crimes and other incidents that occur on school property, school transportation, and at school-sanctioned events; AB 602 related to

2016 Friend of Education Award

Dr. Dickmann recently spoke with Board President Krings and Vice President Rayome concerning a recommendation for the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department (WRPD) to receive the “2016 Friend of Education” award. The WRPD has been involved in many initiatives over the years to assist both students and staff members. Through a long time partnership with the District, school resource officers have been assigned to the schools for many years. The WRPD has been very helpful and involved in the development of the District Crisis Action Plan, and in training sessions connected to the plan. There are many other ways in which the WRPD has been a true community partner to the District which, in turn, has made a positive difference in the lives of many students and families.

Motion by Anne Lee, seconded by Mary Rayome to approve of the Wisconsin Rapids Police Department being named as the “2016 Friend of Education.” Motion carried unanimously.

2016 Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) Resolutions

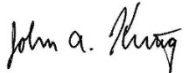
The Board reviewed and discussed proposed WASB Resolutions which will be voted upon at the delegation meeting coming up at the January, 2016 State Education Convention.

Motion by Katie Medina, seconded by Sandra Hett to approve of having John Benbow use his own discretion and vote his conscience on behalf of the Board when attending the WASB delegate assembly at the upcoming State Education Convention. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

President Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Larry Davis – Clerk