



**MINUTES**

Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Chairperson  
John Benbow, Jr.  
Troy Bier  
Christopher Inda  
John Krings, President  
Elizabeth St.Myers  
Julie Timm

July 1, 2024

LOCATION: Board of Education Office, 510 Peach Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI  
Conference Room A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Benbow, Jr., Christopher Inda, Troy Bier, John Krings, Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, Elizabeth St.Myers, Julie Timm

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Ronald Rasmussen

- I. Call to Order
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment – none.
- IV. Actionable Items

A. Pupil Academic Standards for 2024-25 School Year

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, presented WRPS Pupil Academic Standards to be in effect for the 2024-25 school year.

**ES-1 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Julie Timm, to approve of the 2024-25 Pupil Academic Standards as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Change to 2024-25 School Year Calendar

Ms. Filtz presented a recommended change for the 2024-25 school year calendar which would move the Trimester 2 end date from March 4, 2025 to March 6, 2025. The beginning of the third trimester would start on March 10, 2025. The changes are being recommended as a result of commentary made during recent Board Listening Session meetings held in May. The Board heard that it is burdensome to staff to have trimesters change in the middle of a week and since inclement weather days typically fall within second trimester timelines, it should not impact student learning to have two days added to this trimester (for a total of 60 days) while reducing the third trimester by two days (for a total of 57 days).

Ms. Filtz explained that after soliciting feedback from the Quality Educator Committee (QEC), they were overwhelmingly in favor of the recommended change.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

**ES-2 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Elizabeth St.Myers, to approve of the proposed changes to the 2024-25 school year calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

C. K-5 Special Education Math Intervention Resource Purchase: Connecting Math Concepts

Steve Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, explained that the District Curriculum and Pupil Services departments are preparing to purchase intervention materials for use in the elementary Special Education program. The materials being recommended for purchase to help students needing additional support in math are SRA's "Connecting Math Concepts." Connecting Math Concepts combines facts, procedures, conceptual understanding, applications, and the development of problem solving to provide support for students who struggle with mathematics through explicit, teacher-directed instruction.

Connecting Math Concepts materials were piloted by Andrew Miller and Shelley Moon, special education teachers at Mead Elementary, for a portion of the 2023-24 school year. Both teachers saw students succeed with the program and shared the resource with their elementary Special Education Teacher colleagues, who were also interested in utilizing the program. This program would supplement the Bridges curriculum already in place for special education students.

Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions. A question was raised around whether District math interventionists were included to also evaluate the proposed math materials. Mr. Hepp explained that a number of special education teachers were involved in reviewing materials already used by math interventionists, and the overall sentiment is that something different is needed to reach the special education students being serviced.

**ES-3 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Krings, to approve of the purchase of the Connecting Math Concepts program as a special education supplemental intervention program for grades kindergarten through 5th grade for a total cost of \$60,851.18 to be paid from the Special Education budget and the Curriculum Referendum budget and to be implemented beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

V. Updates

A. Reframing Behaviors Professional Development

Mr. Hepp updated the Committee on a plan to utilize Crisis Prevention Institute's (CPI) "Reframing Behaviors" training program platform at every school during the 2024-25 school year. The platform was designed to teach actionable skills that can be immediately practiced. Four elements of reframing behavior were defined: 1) Reframe Your Perspective, 2) Reframe Your Awareness, 3) Reframe Your Actions, and 4) Reframe Your Relationships.

Mr. Hepp explained that the District has been identified as having significant racial disproportionality in special education identification and discipline. The areas identified include: 1) Hispanic students identified with Specific Learning Disabilities; and 2) Discrepant in Discipline for Multi-Race students with disabilities being suspended and expelled. As a result, it is required to set aside 15% of IDEA formula funds to pay for activities that will address root causes of the disproportionality. *(Mr. Hepp noted that the background materials incorrectly listed the figure as 1%.)* This set-aside is called "Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services" (CCEIS). The cost of the Reframing Behaviors program is \$3,000 per school individually, or \$2,000 per school if purchased district-wide. WRPS is eligible to receive one free school since Mr. Hepp served on the customer panel during the development of the program. Total cost of implementing the program at all 12 WRPS schools will be \$22,000 which would be paid using CCEIS funds.

Committee members questioned how the District plans to identify whether or not the program is working as intended. Mr. Hepp explained that if implemented well, the District should experience less removals from the classroom to the office, reduced suspensions/expulsions or other disciplinary measures.

B. GATES Program 2023-24

Kelly Bluell, WRPS Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator, provided an update to the Committee regarding opportunities provided to District students through the GATES program during the 2023-24 school year. Numerous student success stories were shared around results from the Noetic Math Contest held, and Math 24 programming. Local vendors and some individuals have been generous in providing donations toward the Math 24 program.

Ms. Bluell shared information about the DASH Robot implementation which has students across the district very excited to learn. She shared plans are being made to expand the program. New Gifted and Talented enrichment options include a collaborative volunteer program between elementary buildings and the high school to have older students mentoring younger students; and enrichment involving these specific programs: Invention Projects, Jacob's Ladder, and Worldly Wise 3000.

Ms. Bluell has submitted a DPI Invention Projects grant, a Power Engineers Dash Mat grant, and a Women's United Jacob's Ladder grant to continue support and expansion of GATES programming. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions and thanked Ms. Bluell for the informative presentation.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 2024-25 Pupil Academic Standards**
- ES-2 2024-25 School Year Calendar Modification**
- ES-3 K-5 Special Education Math Intervention Resource Purchase: Connecting Math Concepts**

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- Achievement Gap Reduction Report (August)
- Seclusion and Restraint Report (August)
- ESSA Update (September)

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.