



MINUTES

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

August 5, 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, Ronald Rasmussen, Jennifer Wilhorn, Elizabeth VanBerkel

- I. Call to Order
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Public Comment – none.
- IV. Actionable Items
 - A. Grade Change and GPA Policy 345.13 for First Reading

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, presented Board Policy 345.13 – Grades High School Courses and Policy 345.13 Exhibit 1 – Grade Change Appeal Form for first reading. Ms. Filtz explained that this new policy was developed as a result of the recent passage of Wisconsin Act 95 which establishes a program for UW System institutions to allow guaranteed admission for students ranking within the top five or ten percent of their high school class who meet eligibility requirements. The policy defines the District’s letter-based grading scale and grade point average conversion for high school courses, and also provides for an appeal process. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-1 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm, to approve of Policy 345.13 – Grades High School Courses and Policy 345.13 Exhibit 1 – Grade Change Appeal Form for first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Grant Application
Elizabeth VanBerkel, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, provided information about the District Title VI program which is designed to address the unique cultural, language, and education needs of American Indian and Alaska native students. Ms. VanBerkel described ways in which the District collaborates with a local committee of families that are served under the Title VI program, and ways that Title VI grant funds are utilized. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-2 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Julie Timm, to approve of accepting the Title VI Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Formula Grant in the amount of \$19,759.00. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Peer Review Mentor Grant

Ms. Filtz explained that each school year the District provides a comprehensive "New Colleague Program" in consortium with the Port Edwards School District. New colleagues are provided an orientation program, monthly seminars, a mentor, and other support systems to help with their adjustment in their new position. The District received notification that it was awarded Peer Review Mentor Grant funding in an amount of \$24,464.00 for the 2024-25 school year.

ES-3 Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Elizabeth St.Myers, to approve of accepting the Peer Review Mentor Grant funding in the amount of \$24,464.00 for the 2024-25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. Seclusion and Restraint

Mr. Steven Hepp, Director of Pupil Services, provided details around the required annual Seclusion and Restraint Report. During the 2023-24 school year, the District implemented a comprehensive debrief for any second and subsequent seclusion and/or restraint on a single student. Building level teams must include an individual to act as a consultant in the incident debriefing session who must be either the Director of Pupil Services, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, or a school psychologist from outside of the building. The role of the consultant is to assist the team by providing additional thoughts and suggestions. Mr. Hepp stated that the number of incidents has been reduced from the previous year, and the goal is to continue this trend. Training initiatives were reviewed, and Mr. Hepp described areas of focus planned for the coming year. Committee members expressed their appreciation to see the numbers trending downward.

B. Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) End of Year Report

Ms. Filtz and Jennifer Wilhorn, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction, presented the End of Year Achievement Gap Reduction report for the 2023-24 school year. Ms. Filtz mentioned that this is the first year that benchmarks were changed to more closely align with State benchmarks. Ms. Wilhorn explained that in previous years, the 25th percentile and above was used when counting students who were meeting expectations. In 2023-24, that number was changed to look at the 40th percentile and above in order have scores better indicate where student performance would be on the Forward exam. This change contributed to the lower scores reflected on the AGR report.

Additionally, this is the first year of using STAR Early Literacy as a screener for grades K-2, and there was a learning curve for both teachers to administer and students to participate in a computerized assessment format. This will change again for next year as the District moves to the State screener for 2024-25. Ms. Wilhorn acknowledged that there is room for growth in both the reading and math categories. The District set the 80% goal to be met, and some grades levels grew and accomplished the goal while others did not. Third grade reading is of particular concern and is being closely monitored. A question was raised around whether the third grade results may be due to the function of the STAR testing. Ms. Wilhorn stated that it could have to do with switching test formats, and she mentioned that some third graders seem to struggle with more challenging text. When asked about how staff members feel about STAR Early Literacy and another change, Ms. Wilhorn stated that giving a computerized assessment at the early levels is not preferred, and there were some questions raised around the consistency of the results. She feels staff members are ready to move on to Aimsweb, which is the next screener the District will be using. While this screener will also be computerized, the format is very different from STAR Early Literacy. While the fall screening window is not required, as long as the District has access,

the intent will be to administer the screener because the data is very important to measure student growth and provide teachers and interventionists with the information needed to help students be successful.

C. Student Travel

Ms. Filtz provided an update on upcoming student travel being planned. Lincoln High School Spanish teacher Jake Wendtland will be taking eligible students participating in levels 3-5 during the 2024-25 school year on an 8-day trip to Costa Rica in June, 2025. The \$3,295.00 cost will be covered predominantly through families, but some fundraising will also be available.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

ES-1 Policy 345.13 – Grades High School Courses and Policy 345.13 Exhibit 1 – Grade Change Appeal Form for First Reading

ES-2 Title VI Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Formula Grant

ES-3 2024-25 Peer Review Mentor Grant

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- ESSA Update (September)
- ESSER III Final Summary (September)
- New Course/Curriculum Modifications and Proposals (October)
- Wisconsin Student Assessment System Results: 2023-2024 (October)

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.