



MINUTES

Wisconsin Rapids Board of Education
Educational Services Committee

510 Peach Street · Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 · (715) 424-6701

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

September 3, 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: Ed Allison, 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. Families and Schools Together (FAST)

Roxanne Filtz, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, explained that FAST is an internationally acclaimed parent engagement program designed to help children succeed in school by strengthening supportive relationships at home. Based on evidence-based practices and rigorously tested, FAST empowers parents as effective family leaders, connects families with schools, and fosters a community committed to children's well-being and education. FAST activities aim to strengthen family bonds, empower parents, enhance positive communication, and improve children's academic performance and emotional functioning.

In the 2022-2023 school year, Pitsch Early Learning Center and Washington Elementary successfully implemented FAST, with Grove and Howe Elementary Schools joining the program in 2023-2024. The administration recommends continuation of the program at Pitsch, Washington, Grove, and Howe at an estimated cost of \$10,120.00. Team members receive stipends based on their involvement, which totals approximately \$14,780.00. FAST expenses would be covered by the Stronger Connections and Mental Health Grants.

Ms. Filtz further explained that continuing the implementation of the FAST program at these schools for 2024-25 and beyond is recommended, as long as there are grant funds available to support it. Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions.

ES-1 Motion by John Krings, seconded by Julie Timm, to approve of continuing the implementation of FAST at Pitsch Early Learning Center, Washington Elementary, Grove Elementary, and Howe Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond, contingent upon ongoing grant funding. Motion carried unanimously.

B. FASTWORKS

Ms. Filtz explained that FASTWORKS is an extension of the FAST program, and is designed to maintain the connection between schools and families after the eight-week FAST cycle concludes. FASTWORKS involves monthly parent-led events where special play or 1:1 time from the original FAST program is incorporated. The Parent Partner and/or a School Partner from the original FAST team are required to attend these sessions to support families.

ES-2 Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Elizabeth St.Myers, to approve of funding up to eight FASTWORKS events per building each year at Pitsch Early Learning Center, Washington Elementary, Grove Elementary, and Howe Elementary at a cost of \$150.00 per night which includes a staff hourly rate of \$25.00 and other associated expenses, to be funded by the Stronger Connections and the Mental Health Grant at an estimated cost if all buildings implement FASTWORKS of \$4,800.00; funding for the 2024-25 year and beyond will continue, contingent upon the availability of grant funds for any building running a FAST Cycle. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Updates

A. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Ms. Filtz presented information concerning the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) which provides entitlement grants that states receive through the federal government. The grant allocations for the District for 2024-25 are: \$1,283,366.00 for Title I, \$175,918.00 for Title II, \$14,297.00 for Title III, and \$98,004.00 for Title IV. These amounts do not include carryover dollars from unspent 2023-24 Title funding, which is still being determined. The overall total in ESSA grant funds for 2024-15 is \$1,571,585.00 which is a decrease of \$85,018.00 from the previous year.

The District currently has four School Wide Title buildings: Grove, Howe, Mead, and River Cities. An explanation of the various expenses covered under Title funding was provided.

B. ESSER III Final Report

Ms. Filtz provided a final summary report on the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funds by the District. A total of \$7,082,465.00 was received to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and all grant funds have been expended by the required September 2024 deadline. The District has been transparent with its utilization of the funds, and the webpage area designated for ESSER III reporting will remain active throughout the end of the 2024-25 school year for reference.

C. LU Projector Software

Ms. Filtz explained that as part of its latest acquisition, the District elementary physical education program included the purchase of LU projectors to enhance student engagement in Phy Ed and to offer a stronger collaboration between academics and Phy Ed instruction. It was understood at the time that there would be an ongoing cost for program software renewal in future years. At the end of August, Physical Education Curriculum Coordinator Justin Weinhold learned that WRPS could renew its LU program software for 5 years with a \$1,900.00 per school discount if it was done before September 1, 2024. As a result, the administration secured this purchase and renewed the LU software in time to take advantage of the special pricing. A total amount of \$36,000.00 for the 5-year renewal has been paid through the Curriculum and Technology Referendum budget.

VI. Consent Agenda Items

- ES-1 FAST Program at Pitsch, Washington, Grove, and Howe**
- ES-2 FASTWORKS Program at Pitsch, Washington, Grove, and Howe**

VII. Future Agenda Items/Information Requests

The Committee reviewed the following future agenda items:

- New Course/Curriculum Modifications and Proposals - Information (October)
- Wisconsin Student Assessment System Results: 2023-2024 (October)
- Early Literacy Remediation Plan (October)
- Curriculum Proposals: New Courses and Curriculum Modifications - Approval (November)
- Early College Credit Program (ECCP) and Start College Now (SCN) Applications (November)
- 2025-26 Strategic Plan Initial Discussion with Board (November)

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.