



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

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

August 12, 2024

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

LOCATION: District Board Office, 510 Peach Street, Wisc. Rapids, WI 54494
Conf Rm A/B

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Ed Allison, Roxanne Filtz, Steve Hepp, Aaron Nelson, Brian Oswald, Ronald Rasmussen

President John Krings called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by John Benbow to approve regular Board meeting minutes of July 8, 2024; special open and closed session Board meeting minutes of July 8, 2024; special Board meeting minutes of July 22, 2024; special Board meeting minutes of July 23, 2024; special Board meeting minutes of July 31, 2024; special open and closed session Board meeting minutes of July 31, 2024; and special open and closed session Board meeting minutes of August 5, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Educational Services Committee – August 5, 2024. Report given by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz 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 Policy 345.13 – Grades High School Courses and Policy 345.13 Exhibit 1 – Grade Change Appeal Form for first reading.
- ES-2 Approval of accepting the Title VI Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Indian Education Formula Grant in the amount of \$19,759.00.
- ES-3 Approval of accepting the Peer Review Mentor Grant funding in the amount of \$24,464.00 for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Troy Bier to approve consent agenda items ES 1-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Ms. Stebbins-Hintz provided updates and reports on:

- The Committee was updated on the annual “Seclusion and Restraint” report including process changes made in 2023-24. The number of incidents has been reduced from the previous year with a goal to continue this trend. Training initiatives were reviewed along with areas of focus for the 2024-25 school year.

- The Committee was provided an update on the End-of-Year Achievement Gap Reduction report for the 2023-24 school year. This is the first year that benchmarks were changed to more closely align with State benchmarks. 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 to 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, Assistant Director of Curriculum & Instruction, 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.

- The Committee heard an update on upcoming student travel that is planned, which includes a trip for Lincoln High School students to go on an 8-day trip to Costa Rica in June, 2025. The cost is \$3,295.00 and will be covered predominantly through families with some fundraising also available.

Motion by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Educational Services Committee report and minutes of the August 5, 2024 Educational Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Business Services Committee – August 5, 2024. 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 Board Policies 610 - Fiscal Management Goals, 620 - Annual Operating Budget, 620 Rule - Budget Planning Procedures, 621 - Budget Implementation, and 621.1 - Budget Modifications for first reading.
- BS-2 Approval of proposed temperature control upgrades at THINK Academy at a cost of \$46,700.00 for the 2024-25 school year, to be funded through the District Buildings and Grounds budget.
- BS-3 Approval of proposed temperature control upgrades at Grove Elementary at a cost of \$41,560.00 for the 2024-25 school year, to be funded through the District Buildings and Grounds budget.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Julie Timm to approve consent agenda items BS 1-3. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Benbow provided updates and reports on:

- Invoices, bid specs, and purchases made was reviewed.
- The Wisconsin Retirement System rates will increase by 0.1% as of January 1, 2025 and the increase will be split between the employer and employee. The total annual cost increase for the District will be approximately \$20,000.00.
- Steen Macek Paper was award a copy paper bid totaling \$26,378.35 which will be paid through the District supply account.
- The District's most recent Moody's credit rating is Aa3, which is a high quality and very low credit risk rating.
- A proposal to consider utilizing Neola for District policy services will likely be coming to the Board for consideration in the near future.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to approve the balance of the Business Services Committee report and minutes of the August 5, 2024 Business Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Personnel Services Committee – August 5, 2024. Report given by Troy Bier.

Mr. Bier 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 appointments of Kathleen Ferguson (Teacher-Reading Interventionist – River Cities/District), Anissa Vold (Teacher-Mathematics – WRAMS), Atiya Cantarella (Teacher-Social Worker – District), and Gabrielle McNaughton (Teacher-Kindergarten – Grove).
- PS-2 Approval of the support staff appointments of Maddie Harper (Supervisory/Study Hall Aide – Lincoln), Lindsey Jennings (Security Aide – Lincoln), Mary TerMaat (Noon Duty Aide – Lincoln), Russel Blakeslee (Custodian – Mead), James Hawke (Custodian – District), Devon Zopfi (Administrative Assistant – Central Oaks), Heather Ruesch (Instructional 4K Aide – Central Oaks), and Jeffrey Walker (Cleaner – THINK).
- PS-3 Approval of the professional staff resignations of Sarah Ehleiter (Teacher-Social Worker – District) and Cheri Cetnarowski (Teacher-Math - WRAMS).
- PS-4 Approval of the support staff resignations of Tracy Kilburg (Special Ed Aide – Mead), Kami Indermuehle (Special Ed Aide – Grove), and Katie Normington (Administrative Assistant to Social Workers/Families in Transition Coordinator – District).
- PS-5 Approval of the substitute teacher bonus pay for the 2024-2025 school year as follows: \$300 bonus after 30 assignments, \$550 bonus after 50 assignments, \$900 bonus after 75 assignments, \$1,500 bonus after 100 assignments, and \$2,380 bonus after 140 assignments, \$3,300 bonus after 165 assignments and free lunch for substitute teachers on Mondays and Fridays.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Elizabeth St.Myers to approve consent agenda items PS 1-5. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Troy Bier, seconded by Julie Timm to approve the balance of the Personnel Services Committee report and minutes of the August 5, 2024 Personnel Services Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Referrals/Information Requests

None.

Legislative Agenda

Mr. Bier shared the following legislative updates:

- The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released data from the 2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Summary Report which provides information concerning the mental and physical health and emotional well-being of Wisconsin youth. A key finding indicates that students generally reported experiencing significant mental health challenges while having fewer supports at school and at home. Students reported an increase in social media and overall screen usage, with additional decreases in the amount of sleep they are getting each night. A total of 1,882 Wisconsin students in 42 public, charter and alternative high schools participated in the survey which was administered in spring, 2023. More information can be found on the DPI YRBS webpage.
- The Governor's Task Force on Workforce and Artificial Intelligence (AI) has published its final action plan after concluding its work. The plan identified a number of K-12 education policy, research, and development suggestions and has two thematic takeaways. First, the task force set out to create overall principles that should guide the development and implementation of any future state policy, and second, they collaborated with DPI to set a list of goals to pursue in the immediate future as AI technology and guidelines continue to evolve.
- Mr. Bier urged individuals to do their research and vote in the primary election scheduled for August 13, 2024.

Bills

(Note: Due to Elizabeth St.Myers serving on the Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors, she requested to have Check #110962 held out for a separate vote in order to abstain.)

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Kathi Stebbins-Hintz to note July, 2024 receipts in the amount of \$217,604.94 and approve July, 2024 disbursements from the 2023-24 fiscal year as well as July disbursements from the 2024-25 fiscal year, with the exception of Check #110962, in a total amount of \$3,851,319.60. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the disbursement of Check #110962 from the 2024-25 fiscal year in an amount of \$53,226.40 to Boys & Girls Club. Motion carried on a vote of 6-0. Elizabeth St.Myers abstained.

New Business

Employee Appointments, Resignations, and Retirement Requests

Brian Oswald, Director of Human Resources, presented the following professional staff resignations, confirming that liquidated damages have been paid by both staff members:

Heidi Goodreau	Location: Howe Elementary Position: School Counselor (1.0 FTE) Effective Date: August 8, 2024 Date of Hire: August 29, 2022
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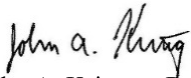
Leah Zemke	Location: Howe Elementary Position: Teacher – Special Education (1.0 FTE) Effective Date: August 9, 2024 Date of Hire: August 24, 2023
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Motion by John Benbow, seconded by Troy Bier to approve of the professional staff resignations of Heidi Goodreau and Leah Zemke. Motion carried unanimously.

Calendar

Calendar items were reviewed.

Mr. Krings adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.



John A. Krings – President

Maurine Hodgson – Secretary

Julie Timm – Clerk