

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Monday, August 21, 2017
MEETING UPDATE

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center, located at 665 Coolidge Avenue, Rhinelander, WI. Ronald Counter, Board President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Judy Conlin, Mary Peterson, Mike Roberts, David Holperin, Dennis O'Brien, Duane Frey, Ann Munninghoff Eshelman, Benjamin Roskoskey, and Ron Counter

Board Members Absent: None

Seven guests were present for this meeting, as well as Superintendent Kelli Jacobi and Jamie Taylor of the Northwoods River News.

Declaration of Public Notice

The 'Declaration of Public Notice' was printed on the meeting agenda. This notice identifies the public places at which the meeting agenda was posted and/or shared.

School Board Professional Development

No topic presented for this meeting

Report Topics

President

President Counter had nothing to report other than he is waiting for the final state budget.

Vice-President

Vice-President Conlin had nothing to report.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jacobi introduced Maggie Peterson, Director of Special Education-Pupil Services. Ms. Peterson gave the annual Seclusion and Restraint Report, which is required pursuant to the 2011 Wisconsin Act 125 Requirements. The report included the following:

- Definition of seclusion and restraint
- Notification and reporting requirements
- Staff training requirements
- Principals of seclusion and restraint
- The 2015-16 seclusion & restraint data for each school building, (i.e. the number of incidents of seclusion and physical restraint in the 2016-17 school year, number of students with disabilities involved in the incidents, and the number of students without disabilities involved in the incidents)

Student Representative Report

No report.

Professional Staff Report

No report.

Committee Reports

Instruction and Accountability Committee

Chair Conlin, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee recommended Board approval of the new Academic and Career Planning Guide for the middle school and high school, and was provided a presentation on the professional development programs that have been in place over the past three years, as well as the plan that is in place for the 2017-18 school year. Ms. Conlin reported that the professional development plan will also be presented to the Operations and Strategic Planning Committee at its September meeting.

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet in August.

Employee Relations Committee

Committee Chair Duane Frey reported that the Committee met just prior to this meeting and recommended Board approval of revisions to the professional and support personnel handbooks as proposed.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

Mike Roberts, Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet in August

CESA 9 Report

CESA 9 Board of Control Representative Duane Frey reported that the Board of Control met on August 7th for its annual meeting. The three incumbents elected for new three-year terms were seated at the table and a report was provided on the "Excellence in Teaching" program. The next meeting will be held on September 6th.

Oneida/Vilas School Supt.-Board Report

The Oneida/Vilas group did not meet in August.

Citizens/Delegations

No citizens/delegations wished to address the Board.

Action and/or Discussion Topics

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 17, 2017 Regular Board Meeting were approved.

Payment of June 2017 Claims and Services

The July 2017 payment of claims in the amount of \$710,566.99 and the July 2017 payment of contracted services in the amount of \$1,524,962.59 were approved.

Gift/Donation Acceptance

The following gifts/donations were accepted with sincere appreciation:

- Donations for the Rhinelander High School Softball Team:
 - \$100 from Northwoods Delivery of Rhinelander
 - \$100 from Jakes Tat2ing & Body Piercing of Rhinelander
 - \$112 from Metro Screenprinting & Embroidery of Rhinelander
- Donations for the 2016-17 Rhinelander High School Positive Behavior and Intervention Support Program:
 - Auto Detailing, valued at \$239, from Detail Pros of Rhinelander
 - Auto Service, valued at \$426.82, from East Side Automotive of Rhinelander
 - Four (4) large pizza, valued at \$40, from Domino's of Rhinelander
 - Two (2) \$25 gift cards from CT's Deli of Rhinelander
 - Six (6) free Blizzards, valued at \$30, from Dairy Queen of Rhinelander
 - Gift cards, valued at \$20, from Friendship House of Rhinelander
 - Gift cards, valued at \$20, from Coffee Beans of Rhinelander
 - Gift cards, valued at \$30, from Hodag Lanes of Rhinelander
 - Gift cards, valued at \$100, from Kwik Trip of Rhinelander
 - Gift cards, valued at \$30, from Café & Pub of Rhinelander
 - Gift card, valued at \$10, from the Woodpecker Bar & Grill of Rhinelander
 - Gift cards, valued at \$50, from The Brick Restaurant and Spirits of Rhinelander
 - Two rounds of golf, valued at \$100, from Pinewood Country Club of Harshaw, WI
 - Gift Card, valued at \$25, from Bucketheads Bar & Grill of Rhinelander
 - Four (4) \$5 gift cards from Wal-Mart of Rhinelander
 - Twenty (20) buy one-get one free certificates, valued at \$120, from Pizza Hut of Rhinelander
 - Drink and donut coupons, valued at \$100, from Dunkin Donuts of Rhinelander
- \$100 from Gail M. Fitzgerald of Rhinelander to be used toward the development of the Lou Berndt Active Learning Center at CAVOC

Academic and Career Planning Guide

The new Academic and Career Planning (ACP) guide was approved, as recommended by the Instruction and Accountability Committee. Pursuant to the requirement of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), beginning with the 2017-2018 school year all Wisconsin public school districts must provide academic and career planning services to students in grades 6 through 12. The School District of Rhinelander is ahead of the new requirement as it has already implemented academic and career planning for students.

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) is a student-driven, adult-supported process in which students create and cultivate their own visions/goals for post-secondary success. For the 2017-2018 school year, the District's planning services will meet the new requirements for 'Education for Employment', as well as to continue the Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling Model standards, with a focus on personalization of learning opportunities and experiences. Academic and career planning also links the requirements for a student's individualized education program and post-secondary transition plan.

Selection of an Investment Manager of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust

The investment manager of the District's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEBs) Trust has been the local Rhinelander branch of BMO Harris Bank. Early this summer, the Administration was informed that the local BMO branch no longer handles OPEB Trust investments and a new investment manager would have to be secured. In May, a 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) was sent to various investment firms seeking proposals for managing the OPEB Trust. Proposals were received from MidAmerica, PFM, and The Graystone Consulting. Based on the proposals, representatives from MidAmerica and Graystone were invited for interviews. PFM was not considered as it has little to no experience representing Wisconsin school districts and does not have offices near the Rhinelander area.

After interviewing MidAmerica and Graystone, the Administration agreed that the proposal from MidAmerica be accepted. This firm's fee is comparable to other companies and it guarantees 1.6% for the fixed investment option. The District currently has MidAmerica administering its TSAs (Tax Sheltered Annuities) and 403(b) funds for retirement benefits. MidAmerica also administers one hundred and fifty-two (152) OPEB trusts and manages \$148 million in OPEB assets.

After review of the information received, the Board accepted the proposal from MidAmerica for the management of the District's OPEB's Trust.

Revisions and an Addition to the Professional Employee Handbook

With the school board's approval in July for changes to Policy 3431, Employee Leave, the Administration recommended that the language changes also be made to the professional employee handbooks to reflect the policy changes. The leave language was changed to include staff members taking leave if they are a volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician, first responder, an ambulance driver, or an organ donor.

The Administration also requested that a new article, Children of Professional Employees in the Workplace, be added to the professional employee handbooks. The language in this article was approved by the school board in 2006; however, it was not added to the professional employee handbooks. There have been several administrative and professional employee changes since 2006, and there have recently been some questions pertaining to the approval of having a teacher's own child in the workplace during the teacher's contract day. By including the language in the handbook, all professional employees will know and be responsible for the requirements of having their own children in the workplace during their contract day. The Board approved of the language revisions and addition.

Revisions to the Support Staff Handbook

The same revisions pertaining to employee leave that were made to the professional employee handbooks were recommended to be made in the support staff handbook (i.e. leave of a volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician, first responder, an ambulance driver, or an organ donor).

Another revision that was recommended for the handbook related to a support staff member's personal leave. The change allows the Administration to deny personal leave when it has determined that the school cannot be appropriately staffed, and will eliminate the language that indicates personal leave cannot be accumulated. With this change, personal leave not used by the end of the school year will be added to a support staff employee's sick leave.

Enter Closed Session

The Board entered closed session at 6:25 p.m. to consider the hire of professional employees.