

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Monday, July 17, 2017

MEETING UPDATE

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, July 17, 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, Dennis O'Brien, Duane Frey, Ann Munninghoff Eshelman, Benjamin Roskoskey, and Ron Counter

Board Members Absent: David Holperin

Approximately 10 guests were present for this meeting, as well as Superintendent Kelli Jacobi, Jamie Taylor of the Northwoods River News, and Eileen Persike of the North Star Journal.

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

Street Smarts

Mary Rudis, School Social Worker, introduced Maria Otterholt and Megan Otto of the Oneida County Health Department and Street Smarts coordinators. Street Smarts is a program designed to help youth practice safe sex, get in touch with their feelings, get rid of thoughts that are self-defeating, to feel confident about their ability to act safe, know where to go when they are in trouble, and to have the confidence to navigate through difficult adolescent years. The program targets freshman class students and will be a part of the health curriculum. The program gives students the skills and practice they need to confidently make healthy choices as they navigate through their high school years. The program helps students understand triggers that put them at risk for dangerous situations, and provides an environment for students where they feel safe, understood, and are not judged by others for their actions.

For more information pertaining to the Street Smarts program, contact the Oneida County Health Department or Mary Rudis, School Nurse.

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

Student Representative Report

Tyler Fredrick, Student Council Representative, informed the Board that the annual overnight stay at the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) site was held in preparation for the new school year. Beginning with the new year, students will have the opportunity to attend an open forum once each month where they can voice their concerns and opinions. Students will also hold more charity and community service programs throughout the year in an effort to give back to the community.

Professional Staff Report

No report.

Committee Reports

Instruction and Accountability Committee

Chair Conlin, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet in July.

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met on July 10th and recommended Board approval of the following topics:

- Accept a donation and approval of a new active learning center with naming rights
- Approve the renaming of the Spine & Sport Spirit Shop
- Develop an additional mental health services program for students
- Approve the 2017-18 high school and middle school Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association memberships
- Approve changes to the employee leave policies for professional and support personnel.

Employee Relations Committee

No report as the Committee has not recently met.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

Mike Roberts, Chair, reported that the Committee met just prior to this Board meeting and recommended Board approval of the proposal for the correction of water drainage at the Mike Webster Stadium track/field areas and a request to solicit funds and commit District funds for the construction of new restrooms, a concession stand, and a team room at the stadium.

CESA 9 Report

Mr. Frey, CESA 9 Board of Control Representative, reported that the Board of Control did not meet in July.

Oneida/Vilas School Supt.-Board Report

No report as the Oneida/Vilas group has not met.

Citizens/Delegations

No citizens/delegations wished to address the Board.

Action and/or Discussion Topics

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 19, 2017 Regular Board Meeting were approved.

Payment of May 2017 Claims and Services

The June 2017 payment of claims in the amount of \$903,248.45 and the June 2017 payment of contracted services in the amount of \$632,910.36 were approved.

Gift/Donation Acceptance

The following gifts/donations were accepted with sincere appreciation:

- Forty (40) garden plants, valued at \$63.60, to Pelican Elementary School from CCL Gardens of Rhinelander. The plants are used during the summer school and regular school programs for student to learn about planting, harvesting, and use of harvested food received from the school garden.
- \$500 from William & Mary Padgett of Rhinelander, to be used for the Rhinelander High School band activities
- Parts and labor, valued at \$100, from Eastside Automotive, LLC of Rhinelander. The parts and labor were toward the necessary repairs needed to the vehicle awarded to the student through the Rhinelander High School Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports program.
- \$125 from Expera Specialty Solutions of Kaukauna, WI, to be used toward the costs of the Rhinelander High School FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) national competition.

Acceptance of a Donation and Development of a New Active Learning Center with Naming Rights

In early October, Mr. Hal Berndt and his daughter, Julie Berndt, met with Superintendent Jacobi to discuss a donation in the amount of \$25,000.00 that they anticipated giving to the District for the development of an active learning center. With this donation, they requested that they be given naming rights to the center in memory of Mr. Berndt's wife, Lu Berndt. Mrs. Berndt had been an elementary school teacher with the District for 23 years until her retirement in 1989.

Since the initial meeting with the Berndt's, Teri Maney, Director of Instruction, worked with the family on plans for the learning center. After review of the family's request and expectations, it was determined that an interactive classroom

would be established in the lower level of Rominsky Lodge, the original classroom building located at the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) site. Classroom activities would be aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and the Environmental Educational Standards and would be created to enhance student connection to the forest and the environment. The interactive classroom would feature interchangeable activities based on theme and season.

Along with the classroom at Rominsky Lodge, a second feature of the plan would include an area in the lower level of the School Forest Environmental Classroom (the most recently constructed building) to be dedicated to a glass enclosed museum. The glassed-in area would hold the various wildlife mounts and historical items that the District has obtained from years past. Students would acquire a deeper understanding of Wisconsin's history and the environment through the activities tied directly to the museum area. A microscope and lab area would also be established, as well as a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) building and creating center and a "classroom corner", which would allow for the traditional construction paper and clay activities.

Signage would feature the name *The Lu Berndt Active Learning Center* and would hang from the current School Forest Environmental Education Center sign. Additional signage would be placed at the side entrance to Rominsky Lodge, as well as at the entrance to the lower level staircase. Along with the name, the signage would include a set of an adult's handprint and a set of a child's handprint. The handprints would appear to be set in sand and include some 3-D carving to create a natural look rather than a finger-painted appearance.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Operations and Strategic Planning Committee, the Board accepted with sincere appreciation the generous donation of \$25,000.00 from Mr. Hal Berndt and his family to be used exclusively for the development of an active learning center and the center's activities. The center will be located at the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom/Rominsky Lodge site with approval of naming rights to the center in memory of Lu Berndt. The center will be named *The Lu Berndt Active Learning Center*.

Re-naming of the Spine & Sport Spirit Shop

In February 2012, the school board approved the naming rights for the high school spirit shop and changed the name from *Rhineland High School Hodag Spirit Shop* to *Spine and Sport Spirit Shop*. Tim Thorsen, Chief Executive Officer of Spine & Sport Physical Therapy Specialists, has partnered with the District since that time for the sponsorship and success of the shop.

Recently, Mr. Thorsen announced that the name of his business has changed from *Spine and Sport Physical Therapy Specialists* to *Health in Motion*. Mr. Thorsen would like to continue to partner with the District to sponsor the spirit shop and has requested that it be re-named to reflect the name change of his business. Mr. Thorsen would provide new signage at no cost to the District. The Board approved the request to change the name as proposed, with signage to be provided by Mr. Thorsen at no cost to the District.

Additional Mental Health Services Program for Students

A recommendation for the Board to approve a proposal to provide additional mental health services for District students through a relationship with Northwest Journey, a community-based treatment option that offers comprehensive intervention and preventative services for students and their families, was considered. In 2014-15, the District entered into a relationship with Options Counseling Services, LLC to provide outpatient mental health services. These services are currently provided to students on campus at each school building. This support to students and families provides greater access and continuity of mental health services beyond what is able to be provided by the District's Pupil Services staff.

The new program will be designed to provide a more intense therapeutic environment for those students needing additional mental health services. Northwest Journey will use evidence-informed practices to provide high quality and effective mental health treatment to those youth involved in the program. Individualized and family-centered treatment plans and approaches will be developed with a strength-based and trauma-informed perspective. The supportive and therapeutic environment, along with the treatment services employed, will enable the students and their families to develop positive relationships, learn new and healthy skills, and make positive changes. Each child will have an individualized treatment plan that will allow for tailored treatment services to meet his/her specific needs. Costs associated with this program are typically covered by MA, private insurance, or the family. On a rare occasion, a placement decision may be made without funding from one of the sources available. In that instance, the rate for placement will be \$32.57 per hour and would be paid by the school district making the placement.

The Northwest Journey therapeutic services include:

- Individual Counseling
- Family Counseling

- Group Counseling
- Family Services
- Educational Services
- Coordination of Care
- Transitional Services

Currently, the nearest day treatment program is offered in Wausau. A proposed site for our area is the former Northern Achievement Center (NAC), located behind the middle school building. This would be a convenient location and would enable youth needing the more intense level of service to get the treatment they need with the necessary educational services available close to home.

The Board approved the proposed collaborative relationship with Northwest Journey.

Notification of Academic Standards

Pursuant to Wisconsin Act 55, school boards are now required to annually be provided notice of the academic standards that will be in effect for the new school year. To meet the requirements of WI Act 55, the following instructional plan will be in place for the 2017-2018 school year:

- English/Language Arts—The Common Core Standards
- Mathematics—The Common Core Standards
- Science—Next Generation Science Standards
- Social Studies/History—Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Social Studies

The tie to the Common Core Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics has been the District’s curriculum for the past several years.

2017-18 High School and Middle School WI Association of Interscholastic Athletic Association Membership

In April 2015, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) membership fees for the high school, middle school, and secondary charter school were suspended. This suspension was to continue until the 2017-18 school year. However, at the 2017 WIAA annual meeting, action was taken for the suspension of fees to become permanent, so there will be no cost for membership with WIAA. The 2017-18 membership applications must be submitted to WIAA prior to August 1st. The Board approved the high school and middle school membership for the 2017-2018 school year.

Revisions to Policy 3431 and 4431, Employee Leave

The Board considered the proposed revisions to Policy 3431, Employee Leave (Professional Staff), and revised Policy 4431, Employee Leave (Support Staff) as recommended by NEOLA, the District’s policy consulting service. The revisions to each policy reflect the procedures for employees who may take leave for the purpose of their responsibilities as a fire fighter, emergency medical technician, first responder, or ambulance driver, and in the event a staff member becomes an organ donor. The Board approved of the revisions as proposed.

Correction of Water Drainage Issues at Mike Webster Stadium Track/Field

In 2015, the Mike Webster Stadium track area was approved for total reconstruction pursuant to plans received from Point of Beginning, a land surveying, landscape architecture and engineering firm located in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. At that time, two proposals were received from contractors for the track reconstruction, with the Board accepting the proposal from Musson Brothers, Inc. at a cost of \$442,350.00. Musson’s gave an in-kind donation of \$16,000.00 for this project, which reduced the total cost to \$426,350.00. The Hodag Schools Foundation (HSF) helped to fund the project with a generous donation in the amount of \$256,350.00, with \$41,350.00 of that donation to be paid over a five year period, and the Board committed \$170,000.00 to cover all other costs for the project.

At the time that the District was provided the Point of Beginning stadium plans, the District did not have the funds available to complete everything that the plan provided, so parts of the track reconstruction project (top soil, grading, irrigation, trench drain system, sod, etc.) were put on hold until funds would become available. Currently, due to water drainage issues at the stadium, the track’s surface is beginning to deteriorate and the problem should be addressed as soon as possible to avoid further damage to the track area. Completing the necessary projects to provide proper track/field drainage would accomplish what was put on hold with the track reconstruction project done in 2015.

The Administration recently requested proposals from contractors for correction of the drainage issues, with the project to include the following:

- Site Demolition
- Site Earthwork
- Erosion Control
- Irrigation System (i.e. control valves, lateral lines, main lines, sleeves, quick coupler, isolation valves)
- Athletic Equipment
- Trench Drain System
- Storm Sewer Inlets/Pipes
- Site Landscaping
- All other miscellaneous general items as necessary

Three proposals for completion of the drainage project were received; one from Musson Bros. Inc. of Rhinelander at a cost of \$495,375.00, one from HK Sports Fields of Egg Harbor, WI at a cost of \$385,000.00, and one from H & H Civil Engineering (offices throughout Wisconsin) at a cost of \$286,100.00. After discussion of the project and review of the proposals received, and pursuant to the recommendation of the Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee, the Board approved the proposal from H & H Civil Engineering at a cost of \$286,100.00, with funding to be covered through the maintenance budget.

Solicitation of Funds and Commitment of District Funds to Construct New Restrooms, a Concession Stand, and a Team Room at Mike Webster Stadium

The public restrooms at Mike Webster Stadium have been in need of replacement for years. Also, the stadium concession stand no longer meets the needs of those groups using the facility during the stadium activities, and a team room is needed to adequately provide space for the teams using the facility (meetings, equipment, etc.). In an effort to expedite the next phase of the 2014 HSR Architects/Point of Beginning stadium project phases, the Administration requested that the school board approve solicitation of funds from the community and to commit \$200,000.00 from the 2017-18 maintenance account for the restroom, concession stand, and team room projects.

It is anticipated that the cost of the construction projects will be between \$400,000 and \$450,000. The construction of the structures would be completed by the high school building trades classes where possible, which will offset some of the construction costs. After funding expectations have been met through solicitation and the requested funds from the maintenance budget, the Administration would have building plans prepared so the projects could begin.

Pursuant to the Capital Project Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation, the Board gave approval for the solicitation of funds to help defer the costs for this next phase of the construction projects, as well as approval to commit \$200,000.00 from the 2017-18 maintenance budget to be used toward the projects.

Enter Closed Session

The Board entered closed session at 7:10 p.m. to consider the hire of professional employees, the resignation of professional employees, and the Superintendent's 2017-2018 contract.