

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee
Monday, July 10, 2017

Meeting Notes

The meeting of the Operations and Strategic Planning Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2017 in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Center, 665 Coolidge Avenue-Suite B, Rhinelander, WI.

David Holperin, Committee Member, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Members Present: David Holperin, Benjamin Roskoskey, and Mike Roberts-Committee Chair
Committee Members Absent: None

Superintendent Jacobi was also present, as well as School Board President Ronald Counter and Jamie Taylor of the Northwoods River News.

Comments/Report by the Chairperson and/or Superintendent/Administration

No reports

Citizens/Delegations

No citizens/delegations wished to address the Committee.

Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the May 8, 2017 Committee meeting were accepted.

Discussion and/or Action Topics

Budget Status Report

Marta Kwiatkowski, Director of Business Services, reviewed the May 2017 Budget Status Report with the Committee, as well as the 2017-2018 preliminary budget.

Donation for a New Active Learning Center with Naming Rights

Mr. Hal Berndt and his family have offered the District a donation in the amount of \$25,000.00 toward the development of an active learning center. With this donation, the family has requested that naming rights be given 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.

Teri Maney, Director of Instruction, has been working with the family on plans for the learning center. After review of the family's request and expectations, it has been determined that an interactive classroom will 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 will be aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards and the Environmental Educational Standards and will be created to enhance student connection to the forest and the environment. The interactive classroom will feature interchangeable activities based on theme and season.

Along with the classroom at Rominsky Lodge, a second feature of the plan includes 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 will hold the various wildlife mounts and historical items that the District has obtained from years past. Students will 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 will also be established, as well as a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) building and creating center and a "classroom corner", which will allow for the traditional construction paper and clay activities.

Signage will feature the name *The Lu Berndt Active Learning Center* and will hang from the current School Forest Environmental Education Center sign. Additional signage will be placed at the side entrance to Rominsky Lodge, as well as at the entrance to the lower level staircase.

The Committee recommended school board acceptance of this generous donation, the creation of the learning center, and naming rights to the center as proposed.

Re-naming of the High School Spirit Shop

In February 2012, the school board approved, through a generous donation, the naming rights for the high school spirit shop and changed the name from *Rhineland High School 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 spirit 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 requested that he continue to partner with the District to sponsor the spirit shop and that the spirit shop be re-named to reflect the name change of his business. He would provide new signage at no cost to the district.

The Committee recommended school board approval of the name change as proposed, with Mr. Thorsen providing new signage at no cost to the district.

Additional Mental Health Service Program for Students

During the 2014-15 school year, the District entered into a relationship with Options Counseling Services, LLC to provide outpatient mental health services on campus for students. Hosting a community-based program to support students and families provides greater access and continuity of mental health services beyond what is provided by the Pupil Services staff.

The Administration proposed that the District enter into a second collaborative relationship designed to provide a more intense therapeutic environment for those students needing additional mental health services. This program, operated by 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 are 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 would have an individualized treatment plan which would allow for tailored treatment services to meet his/her specific needs.

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

The Northwest Journey therapeutic services include:

- Individual Counseling – Individual counseling sessions are conducted regularly with each client to work on specific identified issues.
- Family Counseling – Family counseling focuses on the specific needs of the child within the family.
- Group Counseling – Groups are conducted throughout each day targeting the issues of each client, group goals, and skill building. Groups are facilitated in discussion, educational, and experiential formats on such topic areas as living skills, errors in thinking, human development, anger management, communication, self-esteem, and alcohol and other drug issues.
- Family Services – Group sessions are conducted to target family issues such as communication, family relations, children of divorce, and drug and alcohol abuse issues within the family. Meetings with parents, families or alternative care providers are facilitated to assist families in a supportive and therapeutic manner.
- Educational Services – Educational services are provided by an Educational Coordinator in a tutorial format for approximately one hour each day. Northwest Journey works collaboratively with the school district to coordinate the educational programming and to facilitate re-integration into the school system.
- Coordination of Care – Northwest Journey works to partner with families and other providers to coordinate services. The goal is to create efficiencies and work together to increase the effectiveness of treatment.
- Transitional Services – Transitions can be difficult for children and families. Northwest Journey staff will examine the clinical needs of the child and develop an individualized transition plan to address those needs. Staff members work with schools and families to develop and implement the plan.

The Committee recommended school board approval of the proposed collaborative relationship with Northwest Journey as proposed.

2017-18 High School and Middle School WI Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Membership

The Committee was provided copies of the WIAA membership applications for the high school and middle school and was informed that WIAA has been notified that the Northwoods Community Secondary School has been dissolved and a membership will no longer be needed for that school.

In April 2015, the 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 Committee recommended school board approval of the membership application for 2017-18 as proposed.

Revisions to Policy 3431 and Policy 4431, Employee Leave

NEOLA has recommended that the district revise Policy 3431, Employee Leave (Professional Staff) and Policy 4431, Employee Leave (Support Staff) to 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 revisions were recommended due to the requirement of state statutes. The Committee recommended Board approval of the changes as proposed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.