

School District of Rhinelander  
Board of Education

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee  
Monday, October 9, 2017

**Meeting Notes**

The meeting of the Operations and Strategic Planning Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 9, 2017 in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Center, 665 Coolidge Avenue-Suite B, Rhinelander, WI.

Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Superintendent Jacobi was also present, as well as School Board President Ronald Counter and Eileen Persike of the North Star Journal.

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 July 10, 2017 Committee meeting were accepted.

Discussion and/or Action Topics

Budget Status Report

Marta Kwiatkowski, Director of Business Services, reviewed the September 2017 Budget Status Report with the Committee.

Request for Student Out-of-Country Travel and Fundraising Efforts

David Ditzler, Rhinelander High School Principal, and Rhinelander High School Foreign Language/Spanish Teacher Mara Krueger requested permission for students to travel to Spain during Spring break, March 2019, and to begin fundraising efforts to help defer the travel costs. All high school students in the classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021 are eligible for this travel experience.

Travel to Spain will give students the opportunity to discover and increase their awareness of cultural differences. Students who have traveled to foreign countries find that the experience increases their foreign language skills and personal development.

The Committee recommended Board approval of the out-of-country travel request and approval for the staff and students to move forward with fund-raising efforts to help defer travel costs.

Investment of Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Funds

At the Board's August 21st regular monthly meeting, the Board accepted the proposal from MidAmerica for managing the District's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEBs) Trust funds. Since that time, Marta Kwiatkowski, Director of Business Services, has been in contact with Mr. Ken Zastrow of MidAmerica to review options that the Board may be interested in for investment of the funds.

Mr. Zastrow and Ms. Kwiatkowski were present at this meeting to provide information regarding options for the investment of the OPEBs funds. The Committee considered the allocation options presented to them. Mr. Holperin asked that the Board look at changing the investment policy to include language that will allow the District to go from the current fixed account to a variable account if it would benefit the District to do so in the future. All Committee members suggested that the funds remain in a fixed account at this time, but consider variable accounts

of some funds in the future. Since there was no recommendation for investment change, there was no need for Board action on this topic.

New Policy 1630.01, Family and Medical Leave of Absence

Pursuant to the recommendation of NEOLA, the District's policy consulting firm, the new Family and Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) policy under the Administration section of the policy manual was proposed for adoption. This policy has already been adopted for the professional and support employee groups. The committee recommended Board adoption of this new policy.

Revised Bylaws

NEOLA also suggested some changes to Board Bylaws. Significant revisions made to some Bylaws or in some instances a change may have been made to simply correct the wording for better sentence flow, correct grammar or typographical errors, or were revised to reflect the exact wording as provided in the materials from NEOLA in an effort to update the wording that has been in the Bylaws for many years.

The Committee recommended Board approval of the revisions as proposed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.