

School District of Rhinelander - Board of Education
Operations and Strategic Planning Committee
Monday, April 7, 2025

Minutes

The Operations & Strategic Planning Committee meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025, at the Professional Development Center – Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Ave., Rhinelander, WI.

Merlin Van Buren led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Mike Roberts (virtual), Merlin Van Buren, and Patricia Townsend

Committee Members Absent: None

Others present at this meeting were Superintendent, Eric Burke; School Board President, Ron Counter; Director of Instruction, Ryan Ourada; Director of Learning Support, Richard Gretzinger; Director of Human Resources, Michele Cornelius; Director of Business Services, Robert Thom; and Secretary/Deputy Clerk, Shelley Anderson. Six other people were present.

Comments/Report by the Chairperson

- Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, had no report.

Comments/Report by Superintendent or Administration

- Eric Burke, Superintendent, had no report.

Citizens/Delegations

- No citizens/delegations wished to address the Committee.

Report, Discussion, and/or Action Topics

February 10, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION: P. Townsend, seconded by M. Van Buren.

Accept the minutes of February 10, 2025, as printed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Review of the March Budget Status Report

Director of Business Services, Robert Thom, reported that the District is currently operating within budget and that he continues to closely monitor financial performance.

Consider the 2025-2026 CESA 9 Shared Services Contract

MOTION: P. Townsend, seconded by M. Van Buren.

Recommend the Board approve the 2025-2026 CESA 9 Shared Services Contract as proposed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Consider New Policies Relating to Students and Finance

MOTION: P. Townsend, seconded by M. Van Buren.

Recommend Board approve the first reading of Policy 6630 – Cash Handling and Deposits and Policy 5411 – Third Grade Promotion and Retention: At Risk Students.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Discussion Only – Vehicle Replacement

Director of Business Services, Robert Thom, presented a proposal regarding the District's vehicle replacement plan:

- He recommended securing a loan through the Bureau of Commissioners of Public Lands to facilitate the replacement of multiple vehicles simultaneously.
- The proposed loan would have a five-year term at an interest rate of 5.50%.
- Under this plan, the District would adopt a five-year vehicle replacement cycle, with a new loan obtained at the start of each cycle to support ongoing replacements.
- The first set of vehicles slated for replacement includes four Suburbans and two maintenance vehicles - a dump truck and a box van.
- The most recent vehicle acquisitions by the District were two new vans.
- He also noted that leasing remains a potential alternative for meeting future vehicle needs.

Adjourn

MOTION: P. Townsend, seconded by M. Van Buren.

Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 5:51 p.m.