

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 14, 2025

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center at Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Avenue, Rhinelander, WI.

Judy Conlin, Board Vice-President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Judy Conlin, Mary Peterson, Mike Roberts (virtual), Doug Artus, Patricia Townsend, Ronald Lueneburg, and Merlin Van Buren

Board Members Absent: Ronald Counter

Others present at this meeting were: Superintendent, Eric Burke; Director of Business Services, Robert Thom; Director of Human Resources, Michele Cornelius; Director of Instruction, Ryan Ourada; Secretary/Deputy Clerk, Shelley Anderson, Shari Wendland, Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods Star Journal and Michael Strasburg of the Northwoods River News. Twenty-two other people were also present.

Declaration of Public Notice

Vice-President Conlin indicated that the "Declaration of Public Notice" was printed along with the meeting agenda. This notice identifies the public places where the meeting agenda was posted and/or shared.

Citizens/Delegations

- No citizens/delegations wished to address the Board.

Report Topics

President's Report

- President Ron Counter was absent – no report was given.

Vice-President's Report

- Vice-President Judy Conlin welcomed Troops 660 and 9660 members to the meeting, noting their attendance was part of the requirements for earning a merit badge. She also thanked Doug Artus for serving on the Board.

Rhinelander Education Association Representatives Report(s)

- Shari Wendland, Representative of the Rhinelander Education Association, led the group in a team-building exercise designed to strengthen collaboration, communication, and group cohesion.
- Shari also extended her congratulations to the Board on the successful referendum and recent board member election, and expressed her appreciation for their ongoing efforts, offering a special thank you to Doug Artus for his dedicated service despite the outcome of the election.

Referendum Construction Project Update on Budget Status and Funding

Robert Thom provided a summary of revenue and expenses through March 19, 2025.

Revenue:

- **Interest:** \$553,517.21
- **Bond Proceeds:** \$26,000,000.00
- **Donations:** \$315,157.68
- **Total Revenue:** \$26,868,674.89

Expenses:

- **Construction Services:** \$1,442,264.94
- **Supplies:** \$17,148.94
- **Equipment:** \$138,634.00
- **Fees, Permits, etc.:** \$22,481.23
- **Total Expenses:** \$1,620,529.11

The \$26 M of bond proceeds are invested in CD's and Treasury Bills with Ehlers Investment Services. The return has been 4.12%.

Committee Chair Reports

Instruction and Accountability Committee

- Judy Conlin, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet.

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

- Merlin Van Buren reported that the Committee recommended agenda items e and f to the Board for approval.

Employee Relations Committee

- Duane Frey, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee recommended agenda items d and g to the Board for approval.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

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

CESA 9 Representative Report

- Merlin Van Buren, the Board's Representative to CESA 9, provided an update on the Wisconsin Virtual School (WVS), highlighting new add-on services now available to districts and students.

Discussion, Reports/Updates, and/or Action Topics

Consider Approval of the Minutes from the March 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by D. Artus.

Approve the minutes of the March 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting as printed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Consider the Approval of the March 2025 Payment of Claims in the Amount of \$852,940.57 and the March 2025 Payment of Contracted Services in the amount of \$438,536.96

MOTION: M. Van Buren, seconded by R. Lueneburg.

Consider the Approval of the March 2025 Payment of Claims in the Amount of \$852,940.57 and the March 2025 Payment of Contracted Services in the amount of \$438,536.96.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Artus, D. Frey, R. Lueneburg,

P. Townsend, M. Van Buren

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0

Consider Acceptance of Various Gifts/Donations Contributed to the District

MOTION: M. Peterson, seconded by P. Townsend.

Accept with sincere gratitude the following gifts/donations:

- \$200.00 from Steve Scheuring, Scheuring Speed Sports
- \$1,000.00 from Steve and Stephanie Teclaw
- \$25.00 from Ethel Craig
- \$50.00 from Het Lands, LLC. DBA LaSalle St. Securities
- \$100.00 from Lund & Taylor Bridal Galleries, LLC.
- \$200.00 from Rhinelander Freemasons
- \$500.00 from Ripco Credit Union
- \$100.00 from O'Melia, Schiek & McEldowney S.C.
- \$200.00 from Jelinek Well Drilling, Inc.
- \$100.00 from Rouman Amusement Company
- \$100.00 from Co-Vantage Credit Union
- Office supplies valued at \$300.00 from Jeff and Marcia Barkus

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Salary Proposal for the 2025-2026 School Year

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by R. Lueneburg.

Board approve the step movement on the existing pay scale for teachers in the 2025-26 school year and a 2.95% increase for all other employees.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on the 2025-2026 CESA 9 Shared Services Contract

MOTION: M. Van Buren, seconded by M. Peterson.

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

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on First Reading of New Policies Relating to Students and Finance

MOTION: M. Van Buren, seconded by D. Artus.

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 and/or Action on Special Olympics Head and Assistant Coaches Additions to Appendix A.

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by D. Frey.

Board approve adding Special Olympic Head and Assistant Coaches to Appendix A.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Superintendent's Report – Eric Burke

- Thanked Doug Artus for his service to the district.
- Reminded the Board that the reorganizational meeting is scheduled for May 12, followed by committee meetings.
- Announced that Senior Signing Day will be held on May 1.
- Reported that graduation is scheduled for June 1.
- Noted that repairs to the Dome are expected to begin soon, with the goal of having it ready for graduation.

Enter Closed Session

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by D. Artus.

Enter closed session pursuant to

- a. Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (c), to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.
- b. Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations.

More specifically, to address matters related to staff contracts, including the hiring of staff, staff layoffs, and/or resignations, and retirements, as well as to review an agreement concerning a specific individual and/or contracted service and/or to consider the histories and/or disciplinary data of specific individuals.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, R. Lueneburg, P. Townsend,
M. Van Buren

Nay: None

Motion passed 7/0

Closed Session

Closed-session topics were discussed.

Return to Open Session

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by D. Artus.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, R. Lueneburg, P. Townsend,
M. Van Buren

Nay: None

Motion passed 7/0

Return to open session.

Open Session

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by P. Townsend.

Approve the resignation of Madalyn Sowinski and Katie Hawke as proposed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Adjournment

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by D. Artus.

Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Peterson, Board of Education Clerk