

School District of Rhinelander - Board of Education

Instruction and Accountability Committee
Monday, June 9, 2025

Minutes

The Instruction and Accountability Committee meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Professional Development Center at Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Avenue, Rhinelander, WI.

Committee Chair Judy Conlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Judy Conlin, Mary Peterson, Patricia Townsend
Committee Members Absent: None

Others present at this meeting were: Superintendent, Eric Burke; School Board President, Ron Counter; Director of Human Resources, Michele Cornelius; Director of Learning Support, Richard Gretzinger; Director of Instruction, Ryan Ourada; Director of Business Services, Robert Thom; Associate Principal, Rhinelander High School, Matt Knott, Nicole Losch, Secretary/Deputy Clerk, Shelley Anderson, and Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods Star Journal. No other people were present.

Comments/Report by the Chairperson

- Judy Conlin, Committee Chair, had no report.

Comments/Report by Superintendent

- Superintendent Eric Burke announced that the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has recognized 70 Title I schools across the state as High Impact Schools—an honor given to schools that demonstrate above-average achievement while serving a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students. Central Elementary School was proudly named among these outstanding schools.

Citizens/Delegations

- No citizens/delegations wished to address the Committee.

Report, Discussion, and/or Action Topics

March 24, 2025, Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION: M. Peterson, seconded by J. Conlin.

Accept the minutes of March 24, 2025, as printed.

P. Townsend abstained.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Achievement Gap Report (AGR) – Ryan Ourada

The 2024-2025 SDR end-of-year AGR Report focuses on the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) program in the School District of Rhinelander, summarizing its purpose, funding, and student achievement data.

Key Points:

- AGR Overview:
 - Established in 2015-2016, fully replacing SAGE in 2018-2019.
 - Schools sign 5-year contracts with DPI for funding eligibility; SDR renewed its contract this year.
- AGR in SDR Schools:
 - Applied to grades K-3 at Crescent Elementary & Pelican Elementary.
 - 2024-2025 funding: \$560,518.93 (down from \$592,273.14 in 2023-2024).
 - Schools must meet AGR requirements through one of the following:
 - Small class sizes (18:1 or 30:2) & professional development.
 - 1:1 tutoring by licensed teachers.
 - Instructional coaching for teachers, which SDR implements.

SDR meets requirements through instructional coaching at both schools.
- Student Achievement Data:
 - Reading Assessments:
 - FAST Early Reading / aimswebPlus Early Literacy – for K–1 students.
 - FAST aReading / aimswebPlus Reading – adaptive screening for key reading skills.
 - Math Assessments:
 - EarlyMath – early math skill assessment.
 - aMath – adaptive measure of broad math abilities.

Data was presented by school (Crescent and Pelican) and grade levels (K–3).
- Response to Data
 - General:
 - District specialists and principals used data to inform instruction.
 - Coaching cycles and reflective reviews were part of ongoing professional support.
 - Reading:
 - Lexia Core5 used for Tier II support; monitored for usage and progress.
 - Target-based grading aligned with key standards.
 - Reading teachers supported K–2 classrooms through Universal and Tier II interventions.
 - Math:
 - DreamBox Learning used as Tier II support; reviewed quarterly.
 - Core instruction used Illustrative Mathematics and Number Corner.
 - Number Corner interventions addressed specific skill gaps.

Consider Rhinelander High School Students Travel and Fundraising Request to Ecuador/Galapagos 2028 (Science & Spanish Classes) Spring Break 2028 – Ms. Losch

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

Recommend the Board of Education approve to allow Rhinelander High School students to travel to Ecuador/Galápagos during Spring Break 2028 and to allow students to solicit funds in an effort to help defray travel costs.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Consider Rhinelander High School Students Travel and Fundraising Request to Germany Spring Break 2027 – Mr. Knott

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

Recommend the Board of Education approve international travel for Rhinelander High School students to Germany during Spring Break 2027 and grant permission for students to engage in fundraising activities to help offset the cost of the trip.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Adjourn

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

Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 5:11 p.m.