

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, July 21, 2025

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center at Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Avenue, Rhinelander, WI.

Ronald Counter, Board President, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Judy Conlin, Mike Roberts (Arrived 6:03 p.m.), Duane Frey, Merlin Van Buren, Ronald Lueneburg, Patricia Townsend, Kurt Helke, and Ronald Counter

Board Members Absent: Mary Peterson

Others present at this meeting were: Superintendent, Eric Burke; Director of Human Resources, Michele Cornelius; Director of Learning Support, Richard Gretzinger; Director of Business Services, Bob Thom; Director of Instruction, Ryan Ourada; High School/College & Career Counselor, Lexi Allen; Instructional Coaches Lauren Beversdorf, Kelly Meyer, Jenny Prom, and Meghan Retallick; Northwoods Community Elementary School Principal, Kyle Barber, and Central Elementary School Principal, Amanda Olson. Five other people were also present.

Declaration of Public Notice

President Counter indicated that the 'Declaration of Public Notice' was printed 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/Updates

President's Report

- No report was given.

Vice-President's Report

- No report was given.

Referendum Construction Project Update on Budget Status and Funding

Director of Business Services, Bob Thom, reviewed the summary of revenue and expenses through July 14, 2025. The remodel project is currently on target.

Revenue:

- **Interest:** \$897,235.28
 - **Bond Proceeds:** \$26,000,000.00
 - **Donations:** \$414,158.00
- Total Revenue:** \$27,311,393.28

Expenses:

- **Construction Services:** \$4,417,645.69
- **Supplies:** \$17,148.94
- **Equipment:** \$330,724.03
- **Insurance:** \$34,899.00
- **Fees, Permits, etc.:** \$41,766.36

Total Expenses: \$4,842,184.02

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

Annual Review of the ACP (Academic and Career Planning)/E4E Program – Lexi Allen
The School District of Rhinelander’s Academic and Career Planning (ACP) and Education for Employment (E4E) programs meet Wisconsin’s Chapter PI-26 requirements by preparing grades 6–12 students for postsecondary success through career exploration, academic planning, and workforce readiness opportunities. Offerings include AP courses, dual credit with Nicolet College, Early College Credit, Start College Now, Youth Apprenticeships, industry credentials, internships, and nine career pathways. The district partners with Rhinelander Partners in Education, Junior Achievement, and other community organizations, with 35 students currently in youth apprenticeships across various industries. Engagement efforts include ACP conferences by grade level, family meetings, newsletters, and events such as career fairs, signing days, and industry tours. Current goals focus on expanding ACP opportunities from 4K–12, increasing student/family involvement, and strengthening community and higher education partnerships.

Update on Instructional Coaching in the District – Lauren Beversdorf, Kelly Meyer, Jenny Prom, and Meghan Retallick

The School District of Rhinelander’s instructional coaching program provides a supportive, collaborative partnership aimed at empowering both staff and students in their learning and growth. Coaches work across all district schools, aligning with the Hodag Circles of Success by enhancing high-quality instruction, fostering professional learning communities, and supporting positive culture and climate. Through job-embedded coaching cycles, curriculum and instructional support, and systems development, coaches help improve teacher efficacy and student outcomes. Staff testimonials highlight the program’s impact on classroom management, instructional strategies, confidence, collaboration, and overall school environment.

Introduction of New Principals – Kyle Barber, Northwoods Community Elementary School, and Amanda Olson, Central Elementary School

Kyle joins the School District of Rhinelander with a wealth of experience and knowledge

- 1993 Rhinelander High School graduate
- 16 years of teaching and administrative experience
- Most recently served in a Colorado school district
- Joined by his wife and son

Amanda has been with the School District of Rhinelander since 2007

- She has been an Instructional Coach for the last five years
- She began her career with SDR as a 4K teacher, then taught kindergarten until 2020
- Her husband is the Project Search Instructor for the District

Committee Chair Reports

Instruction and Accountability Committee

- The Committee did not meet in July.

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

- The Committee did not meet in July.

Employee Relations Committee

- The Committee did not meet in July.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

- The Committee did not meet in July.

CESA 9 Representative Report

- No report was given.

Discussion, Reports/Updates, and/or Action Topics

Consider Approval of the Minutes from the June 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

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

Approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting as printed.

M. Roberts abstained.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

Consider the Approval of the June 2025 Payment of Claims in the Amount of \$2,378,876.53 and the June 2025 Payment of Contracted Services in the Amount of \$462,744.20

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

Consider the Approval of the June 2025 Payment of Claims in the Amount of \$2,378,876.53 and the June 2025 Payment of Contracted Services in the Amount of \$462,744.20.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Roberts, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, R. Lueneburg, P. Townsend, K. Helke, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0

Review of the June Budget Status Report

Director of Business Services, Bob Thom, reported that the District's budget is tracking closely to projections, with some grant funds still pending receipt.

Consider Acceptance of Various Gifts/Donations Contributed to the District

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

Accept with sincere gratitude the following gifts/donations:

- \$500.00 from Airpro Fan & Blower Company
- \$25.00 from Andrew F. Davis, CPA
- \$200.00 from David Holperin

The motion passed with a voice vote.

Required Notification of Academic Standards for the 2025-2026 School Year – Ryan Ourada. Pursuant to the requirements of Wisconsin State Statute 120.12(13), Ryan Ourada, Director of Instruction, informed the Board that the instructional plan for the 2025-2026 school year is as follows:

- English/Language Arts - Wisconsin Standards for English Language Arts
- Mathematics - Wisconsin Standards for Mathematics
- Science - Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)
- Social Studies/History - Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies

Discussion and/or Action on Oneida County Sheriff's Office School Resources Officer Proposal for the 2025-2026 School Year

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

The School District of Rhinelander approve a nine-month agreement for school resource officers at high school, middle school, and elementary schools for the 2025-26 school year at an estimated increased cost of \$12,257.00 to be paid from the Fund 80.

Community Service Fund.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Roberts, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, R. Lueneburg, P. Townsend, K. Helke, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0

Discussion and/or Action on Suburban/Truck Replacement

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

Approve the School District of Rhinelander to purchase two 2025 K2500 pickup trucks, four 2026 Chevrolet Suburban LS's and one 2025/2026 GMC Savanna Commercial Cutaway truck for a total of \$375,017 with proceeds to come from the Fund 38 loan.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Roberts, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, R. Lueneburg, P. Townsend, K. Helke, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0

Discussion and/or Action on Board Members Receiving Laptops or Chromebooks for Meetings (District-issued Devices) and Board Packet Distribution

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by M. Roberts.

The Board to receive an email of the whole packet in two separate PDFs, one with the financial information and one with all other materials. A hard copy of the packet, minus financial information to be handed out at the meetings.

Aye: J. Conlin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, P. Townsend

Nay: M. Roberts, R. Lueneburg, K. Helke, R. Counter

Motion failed.

J. Conlin laid on the table the discussion and/or action on Board Members receiving laptops or Chromebooks for meetings (District-issued devices) and board packet distribution.

Seconded by D. Frey.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Roberts, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, P. Townsend, K. Helke, R.

Counter

Nay: R. Lueneburg

Motion passed 7/1

Information Only – Wisconsin Act 12 Crime Statistic Report

Pursuant to 2023 Wisconsin Act 12, Wisconsin Statutes Section 118.124 requires all public schools operating high school grades (9–12) to annually collect, maintain, and report data on specified criminal incidents. The types of incidents to be reported are outlined within the statute.

Rhineland High, reported the following:

Homicide: 0

Sexual Assault: 0

Burglary, Robbery, or Theft: 1

Battery, Substantial Battery, or Aggravated Battery: 0

Arson: 0

Use or Possession of Alcohol, a Controlled Substance, or a Controlled Substance Analog:
18

Possession of a Firearm in Violation of Statute: 0

Violation of a Municipal Ordinance Relating to Disorderly Conduct: 18

Update/Information Only on the 2025-2026 Employee Health Insurance Premiums

Superintendent Burke reported that the District experienced a couple of months with unusually high claims. Based on claims data, the insurance carrier recommended a 5.27% premium increase for the upcoming year, which is lower than the increases seen in other districts. Pharmacy rebates contributed to reducing the increase to 5.27%.

Full-time employees, pay 4.53% of the premium, which equates to an increase of \$3–\$6 per month. Part-time employees pay 25% of the premium, which equates to an increase of \$6–\$18 per month for single coverage and \$10–\$42 per month for family coverage, depending on which plan is chosen. The average cost share for neighboring districts is approximately 12%.

Superintendent's Report – Eric Burke

- Mr. Burke announced that Patricia Townsend was honored as the Wisconsin School Bus Driver of the Year, recognizing her outstanding service and dedication to student safety.

Enter Closed Session

MOTION: R. Counter, seconded by J. Conlin.

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. Roberts, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, R. Lueneburg, P. Townsend, K. Helke, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0

Closed Session

The Board moved to closed session and discussed hires.

Return to Open Session

MOTION: R. Counter, seconded by M. Roberts.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Roberts, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, R. Lueneburg, P. Townsend, K. Helke, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0

Return to open session.

Open Session

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

Approve the hire of Julie Breivogel, Peg Billing, Abigail Davis, Taylor Siegmeier, and Jess Gaedtke as proposed.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

Adjournment

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

Move to adjourn.

The motion passed with a voice vote at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Anderson, Secretary/Deputy Clerk