

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee
Monday, October 8, 2018

Meeting Notes

The meeting of the Operations and Strategic Planning Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 8, 2018 in the Professional Development Center of the Administration Center, 665 Coolidge Avenue-Suite B, Rhinelander.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by

Committee Members Present: David Holperin and Mike Roberts

Committee Members Absent: Benjamin Roskoskey

Also present were School Board President Ronald Counter, Superintendent Kelli Jacobi, Jamie Taylor of the Northwoods River News, and Eileen Persike of the North Star Journal.

Comments/Report by the Chairperson and/or Superintendent/Administration

No comments/reports

Citizens/Delegations

No citizens/delegations wished to address the Committee.

Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the August 13, 2018 Committee meeting were accepted.

Discussion and/or Action Topics

Budget Status Report

Marta Kwiatkowski, Director of Business Services reviews the August and September budget status reports with the Committee, informing the Committee that the District will continue with a deficit until the taxes are received in January 2019.

Student Travel to Germany and Fundraising Request

In 2016, the Board approved high school students to travel to Germany during Spring Break 2018 and allowed them to solicit funds from businesses and community members to help defray the costs of the trip. During this trip, students experienced Berlin's history and culture, post-war Dresden, and the Prague skyline at night. They also experienced the remaining scars of World War II in Nürnberg and Munich. The high school German program once again requested permission to travel to Germany; this trip to be during Spring Break 2020.

The 2020 trip would be open to high school junior and senior students who are enrolled in the German program and who are in good academic and behavioral standing leading up to and at the time of travel. During the 10 day trip, students will use their language skills to navigate German society, participate in modern German culture, and experience the marks made by history on the hearts and minds of the German people. The trip will be contracted through a reputable student travel specialist. Currently being pursued is ACIS, which has been handling student trips for the District up to this point.

During travel, students will be accompanied by high school teacher Herr Geiger, who has prior experience in leading student groups in Germany. One or more other chaperones will accompany the students if needed due to the group size.

Upon approval by the Board, students will be provided with fundraising opportunities to defray their personal expenses, but will also be required to commit to covering any remaining costs.

The Committee recommended Board approval for the requested student travel to Germany and recommended approval to allow the students to hold fundraising events and solicit funds from businesses and community members in an effort to help defray travel costs.

Banking Services for 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021

In mid-July, a 'Request for Proposal' (RFP) was sent to eight local financial institutions requesting proposals for the District's banking services for the next three years. Currently, the District does most of its local banking with BMO Harris.

Proposals were received from Associated Bank, BMO Harris Bank, CoVantage Credit Union, Nicolet National Bank, and People's State Bank. Administration evaluated the proposals based on fees, investment income, collateral, and the financial institution meeting all requests listed in the RFP and proposed that Associated Bank be approved as the District's local banking institution for the 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021 school years. The Committee recommended Board approval as proposed.

First Reading of New Policy 5720, Student Activism

New policy 5720, Student Activism, was recommended for a first reading. The wording for this policy was recommended by NEOLA, the District's policy consulting firm. The policy would respond to the behavior of students expressing their opinions and ideas, taking stands, and supporting policies publicly or privately, orally and in writing. The development of this policy came from a request by a Board member who had concern pertaining to student demonstrations and/or walkouts.

After review of the policy as written, and due to the wording of the policy as proposed, Committee Chair Roberts directed Superintendent Jacobi to obtain additional information and policies relating to student demonstrations/walkouts and bring information to the full school board membership for discussion at a future meeting. After all school board members have an opportunity to share their comments, the policy will once again be presented to the Committee for a recommendation.

Revised and Deleted Board Bylaws

NEOLA also recommended revisions to Bylaw 0144.1, Compensation and Bylaw 0164.2, Special Meetings, and deletion of Bylaw 0165.3, Special Meetings. Bylaw 0144.01 was revised to reflect recent statutory modifications allowing Board members to refuse an annual salary, Bylaw 1064.2 was revised pursuant to the requirements of Wis. Stats pertaining to notice of school board meetings, and Bylaw 0165.3 was deleted with portions of its language added to revised Bylaw 0164.2.

The Committee recommended approval of the revised and deleted bylaws as proposed.

Revised and New Administrative Policies

The following Administrative policies were recommended for revision:

- ◇ Policy 1213, Student Supervision and Welfare - Revised to clearly indicate that it pertains exclusively to administrators rather than the inclusion of professional and/or support staff members. More specific standards were also added for clarity of administrative responsibilities regarding student supervision and welfare.
- ◇ Policy 1422, Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity - Revised to clearly state the requirements (state and federal) for addressing inquiries or complaints pertaining to discrimination, retaliation, or denial of equal access.
- ◇ Policy 1461, Unrequested Medical Leaves of Absence/Fitness for Duty - Revised to make it specific to administrators and not all employees in general who may be unable to perform their duties.
- ◇ Policy 1630.01, Family and Medical Leave of Absence (FMLA) - Revised to make it specific to administrators and not all employees in general who may be unable to perform their duties.

The following new Administrative policies were recommended for a first reading:

- ◇ Policy 1460, Physical Examination - This policy requires that an administrator who has been offered employment will undergo a tuberculosis screening questionnaire or other tests in accordance with applicable law. Further, the policy requires that any non-employment recommendations should be directly related to the defined job responsibilities and a reasonable accommodation will not allow the employee or prospective employee to adequately fulfill those responsibilities.
- ◇ Policy 1623, Section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination to Employment - This new policy has been recommended for adoption as it relates to administrative staff.

The Committee recommended Board acceptance of the revised policies and approval of a first reading for the two new policies.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.