

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

BOARD MEETING UPDATE

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, September 17, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center of Rhinelander High School; located at 665 Coolidge Avenue, Rhinelander, WI.

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Judy Conlin, Mary Peterson, Mike Roberts, David Holperin, Dennis O'Brien, Duane Frey,
Ann Munninghoff Eshelman, Benjamin Roskoskey, and Ron Counter

Board Members Absent: None

Approximately ten guests were present for this meeting, as well as Superintendent Kelli Jacobi and Kayla Thomason of the Northwoods River News.

Declaration of Public Notice

The 'Declaration of Public Notice' was printed on the meeting agenda. This notice identifies the public places at which the meeting agenda was posted and/or shared.

School Board Professional Development

Shane Dornfeld, Rhinelander High School Principal, shared the history of *ACT* (American College Testing) and reported on the ACT student scores from the past 5 years. The *ACT* test is a curriculum-based education and career planning tool for high school students, which assesses a mastery of college readiness standards. Other ACT-related tests given to students in grades 9th-11th include *ACT College Ready*, which is a student success tool that identifies knowledge and skill gaps in math and English and creates a personalized learning path that empowers students to address their individual academic needs; and, *ACT Aspire*, which assesses student readiness in English, math, reading, science, and writing.

The next ACT test date is February 20, 2019. For more information regarding the *ACT* testing that is given to grade 9-11 students, parents are encouraged to contact the Student Services Office at Rhinelander High School.

Report Topics

President's Report

President Counter's had nothing to report

Vice-President's Report

Vice-President Conlin reported that she and school board member Duane Frey attended an expulsion webinar hosted by the WI Association of School Boards (WASB). Each Board member received a copy of the expulsion booklet provided by WASB after the webinar.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Jacobi reminded the Board members of the September 22nd, 11:30 a.m. Playscape Dedication being held at the Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom (CAVOC) site. She also reminded the Board of the October 4th WASB Region 2 meeting being held at Norwood Pines in Minocqua. Board members interested in attending are to contact the Superintendent's Office.

Marta Kwiatkowski, Director of Business Services, was very pleased to inform the Board that the District has received an increase in its financial rating. Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the District's general obligation unlimited tax bonds from an Aa3 to an Aa2. The Aa2 rating reflects the District's very healthy and growing reserves supported by a strong management team, and its low debt and pension burdens.

The District has built up a strong reserve base, preventing the need to borrow funds to pay for expenditures prior to receiving the annual state aid and property tax receipts. Moody's acknowledged that the District has managed to be financially stable despite challenges it has faced such as below average resident income levels, decreased enrollment, and reliance on referenda for operations. To offset these challenges, the District implemented policies to reduce health insurance obligations, implemented a tiered "Other Post-Employment Benefits" (OPEB) plan based on years of service, and created an in-house health clinic for employees and their dependents who are covered under the District's insurance.

To learn more about the District's financial status, please contact Ms. Kwiatkowski at (715) 365-9700.

Student Representative Report

Ben Kubisiak, Student Council Representative, reported that the Council is busy with the plans for the October 6th Homecoming event. The Council is also preparing for the development of a student Referendum Ad Hoc Committee to help with providing information to the staff, students, and community regarding the upcoming November 6th referendum election.

Professional Staff Report

There was no report at this meeting.

Committee Reports

Judy Conlin, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee met on September 10th. Rhinelander High School Principal Shane Dornfeld and High School Teacher Linda Goldsworthy provided the Committee with information on the new 'Global Education Achievement Certificate Program' for high school students. With completion of the program and upon graduation, students will be awarded with a special certificate showing they have demonstrated a strong interest in global citizenship by successfully completing a rather intense global education curriculum and engagement in co-curricular activities and experiences, including global travel opportunities. Students may be awarded the distinction if they have completed the following requirements:

- Four (4) credits in one world language
- Four (4) credits in courses with global content
- Written reflections on eight books (fiction or non-fiction) with global content, with an alternative reflection on art, music, or film.
- Participation in school-wide global activities.
- A minimum of twenty (20) hours of global service learning.

Completion of the program will be noted on a student's transcripts and a special seal will be added to the student's graduation diploma.

Teri Maney, Director of Instruction, Maggie Peterson, Director of Special Education-Pupil Services, Shane Dornfeld, Rhinelander High School Principal, and Richard Gretzinger, James Williams Middle School Principal, also shared information on the outcome of the staff training sessions held during the summer months. Continuing with Dr. Anthony Mohammad's belief that "*In a healthy school culture, data is information, not condemnation*", through the sessions, the team carefully and honestly shared their thoughts on what the current culture is throughout our own school district and determined that for our schools to be positive environments for staff, students, parents and the community, the school culture needed to change.

With consideration of the current culture and academic data, and discussions as to how to make improvements, each school set goals for the 2018-19 school year. Following are the overall goals for the school year:

- ✓ *Re-focus attention on students of poverty*
- ✓ *Provide equal accessibility for learning to all students (academic success)*
- ✓ *Raise expectations and increase rigor*
- ✓ *Break down barriers that may hinder student success and change current practices in an effort to improve student achievement (i.e. scheduling, planning time, interventions and enrichments, family engagement, attendance, behavior, gender differences, etc.)*
- ✓ *Improve communication and collaboration amongst staff and with students, parents, and the community*
- ✓ *Create even more welcoming, trusting, and safe school environments*
- ✓ *Create a better sense of pride in our schools and our community*

Implementation of each school's action plan was shared with the staff and the plan began with the start of the school year. Data will continue to be collected, reviewed and analyzed as the year progresses to determine the effect that the changes have on student success.

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet in September; however two topics, a request for the high school dance team to solicit funds for the national competition and acceptance of a proposal for the District's banking services for 2018-19 through 2020-21 were brought forth to the full board for consideration. President Counter reported that the banking services proposal would not be considered at this meeting, but be reviewed at the October Operations and Strategic Planning Committee meeting prior to full board consideration.

Employee Relations Committee

Committee Chair Duane Frey reported that the Committee did not meet prior to this school board meeting.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, reported that the stadium project is moving forward. All concerns regarding the lights have been corrected and the field drainage issue will be resolved after the fall sports season.

CESA 9 Report

Mr. Holperin, the school board's representative to the CESA 9 Board of Control, reported that at the September meeting, the Board was provided a presentation on "Project SEARCH". Project SEARCH is a transition-to-work program which is a unique, business-led, one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace and culminates in individualized job development. The goal for each program participant is competitive employment. To reach that goal, the program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent-living skills to help young people with significant disabilities make successful transitions to productive adult life.

Oneida/Vilas School Supt.-Board Report

Superintendent Jacobi reported that the Oneida/Vilas group has not recently met.

Citizens/Delegations

No citizens/delegations wished to address the Board.

Action and/or Discussion Topics

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the August 20, 2018 regular monthly meeting were approved.

Payment of August Payment Claims and Services

The Board approved the August 2018 Payment of Claims in the Amount of \$919,866.68 and the August 2018 Payment of Contracted Services in the Amount of \$493,449.34 as printed.

Gift/Donation Acceptance

The following gifts/donations were accepted with sincere appreciation:

- ◇ \$500.00 in funds have been collected and donated to the District for the tennis court resurfacing project
- ◇ Donations given for providing school supplies to students as needed:
 - Various school supplies valued at \$20 from Debra Durchslag of Rhinelander
 - \$150 from the Military Support Group of Rhinelander (for James Williams Middle School students)
 - Various school supplies valued at \$50 from the employees at Foster & Smith of Rhinelander (for Central Intermediate School students)
 - Two donations of various school supplies; one valued at \$50 and another at \$500 from the Park City Credit Union of Rhinelander (for Crescent and Pelican Elementary School students)
 - Various school supplies valued at \$2,272.02 from the Northwoods United Way (Stuff the Bus Program) (for students as needed throughout the school district)
 - Various school supplies valued at \$500 from Office Max of Rhinelander
 - Various school supplies valued at \$300 from Northland Orthopedic Associates of Rhinelander
- ◇ Donations given to help defer the cost of travel competitions, etc. for the Rhinelander High School FBLA/DECA program:
 - \$250 from Borel auto Body of Rhinelander
 - \$250 from Finlan Law Firm, S.C. of Rhinelander
 - \$250 from CoVantage Credit Union of Antigo, WI

- \$250 from Boyd Financial Services LLC of Rhinelander
- \$150 from Wiplfi CPAs and Consultants of Wausau, WI
- \$150 from WJJQ Radio of Tomahawk, WI
- \$150 from Musson Bros., Inc. of Rhinelander

Request for Rhinelander High School Dance Team to Solicit Funds

The Rhinelander High School Dance Team once again requested permission to proceed with fund-raising efforts to help defer the costs of the team's annual travel to national competition, which is being held in February of 2019 in Minneapolis, MN. At least \$250 is needed per team member. There are currently sixteen girls on the team. The \$250 will help cover the cost of travel, accommodations, and the entry fee. The team would once again ask community businesses to make contributions. For a minimum contribution of \$100, businesses will have their name put on the t-shirts that team members will wear to the National competition.

In 2018, the team tied for 4th place in Varsity High School Hip Hop at the DX AmeriCup Nationals. They had also placed 8th out of 12 teams in Division 2 Hip Hop at the WACPC Western Regionals Dance Competition, and although the team did not make it to State in that Division, it was less than 10 points away from qualifying.

The Board unanimously approved the fund-raising request.

Sale of a .24 Acre of District Land

Superintendent Jacobi worked the Board's legal firm to resolve an issue regarding a business's structure that is encroaching on District property. The District owns land situated east of and adjacent to the premises located at 41 East Pearl Street (hereafter referred to as the "adjoining property"). The adjoining property is owned by Vital Properties LLC, with business operations conducted from the premises by Rhinelander Collision Center, Inc.

Improvements constructed in the past on the adjoining property crossed over the common boundary line that separates it and the District's property. These improvements encroach upon the parcel owned by the District. In an effort to satisfy the encroachment concerns, Vital Properties LLC (hereinafter referred to as "Buyer") was willing to purchase the District's property (.24 acre parcel) for \$1,000 plus \$2,000 to cover costs incurred by the District (survey and legal fees).

Working with the Board's legal firm, it has arranged with Buyer that the sale would be subject to the following terms:

1. Approval of the sale by the school board.
2. Conveyance of the property would be by Quit Claim Deed. *If Buyer should wish evidence of title (i.e., title insurance, a title search, etc.), that would be at Buyer's expense.*
3. Property would be sold in its "as is" condition.
4. Preparation of the deed and Wisconsin real estate transfer return will be completed by the Board's attorney with Buyer being responsible for recording the deed with the Oneida County Register of Deeds and paying the recording fee.
5. Preparation of the deed would be done using the legal description. Survey monuments have not been set by the surveyor and if Buyer wishes property monuments be set, it would be at Buyer's expense.
6. Sale would occur as soon as authorized by the Board.

The Buyer had agreed to the terms as set above and the Board approved the property sale at a price of \$3,000.

Revisions to Policy 2260 and Policy 5517

In 2015-16, a complaint was submitted against the District to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR). The process that is involved with these complaints takes some time for OCR to finalize, and the District was just recently provided a summary, findings, and resolution requirements.

During the OCR review process, two of policies, Policy 2260, Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity, and Policy 5517, Student Anti-Harassment were reviewed with recommendations for revisions to both policies. Maggie Peterson, Director of Special Education-Pupil Services, worked on the revisions to ensure that they were stated in such a way that satisfied OCR requirements, and to assure students as well as their parents that the Board will not allow for students to be subjected to a hostile environment.

The Board approved the revisions to both policies as proposed.

Enter Closed Session

The Board entered closed session at approximately 6:45 p.m. to consider the hire and/or resignation of professional employees, personal histories and/or disciplinary data of specific persons, and to consider the Superintendent's 2017-2018 evaluation and 2018-2019 contract.