

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2024

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center – Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Ave., Rhinelander, WI.

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Judy Conlin, Mary Peterson, Mike Roberts, David Holperin, Duane Frey, Ronald Lueneburg, Merlin Van Buren, and Ronald Counter

Board Members Absent: Ben Roskoskey

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; Director of Learning Support, Richard Gretzinger, RHS Principal, Shane Dornfeld, Crescent Principal, Alex Bontz, JWMS Principal, Kyle Raleigh, JWMS Associate Principal, Ingrid Bodensteiner, Gayle Daniel, Northwood Community Elementary School Principal, Shari Wendland, Gen Luebke, Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods River News and Eileen Persike of the Northwoods Star Journal. Seventeen 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

President’s Report

- President Ron Counter announced that this was the last official meeting of 2023-2024.

Vice-President’s Report

- No report was given.

Rhinelander Education Association Report

- Shari Wendland expressed appreciation to the Board of Education for all they do. She is encouraging employees to come to meetings.

Student Council and National Honor Society Representative Report(s)

- No report was given.

2023-2024 Budget and Projections for 2024-2025

- Bob Thom, Director of Business Services, and Eric Burke, Superintendent shared the following:
 - State revenue not increasing
 - The State budget is not up for renewal until 2025-2026
 - They shared that challenges will continue for the next few years
 - Fund balance will need to be used, but will not be a long-term strategy
 - Encouraged involvement with legislators as it relates to the state budget

Committee Chair Reports

Instruction and Accountability Committee

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

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

- David Holperin, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee recommended agenda items d and e to the Board for approval.

Employee Relations Committee

- Duane Frey, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee recommended agenda item f to the Board for approval.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

- Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, thanked all for supporting the referendum.

CESA 9 Representative Report

- Merlin Van Buren, the Board's Representative to CESA 9, reported that the Excellence in Teaching Program has 54 students. Rhinelander has had 18 participants year-to-date.

Oneida/Vilas School Superintendent-Board Representative Report

- Eric Burke, Superintendent, had no report.

Discussion, Reports/Updates, and/or Action Topics

Minutes of March 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

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

Approve the minutes of the

March 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as printed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

March 2024 Payment of Claims and Contracted Services

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

Approve the March 2024

payment of Claims in the amount of \$1,010,258.16 and the March 2024 Payment of Contracted Services in the amount of \$1,452,979.59 as printed.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, R. Lueneburg, R. Counter

Nay: None
Motion passed 8/0

Consider Acceptance of Various Gifts/Donations Contributed to the District

MOTION: M. Peterson, seconded by D. Holperin. Accept with sincere gratitude
the following gifts/donations:

- \$100.00 from TJ DeWitt Company Inc.
- \$500.00 from Nicolet National Bank
- \$50.00 from Conditioned Water by Schoppe Inc.
- \$100.00 from Framers' Insurance - Daniel Meyer
- \$500.00 from Gremban & Gremban Dental
- \$250.00 from Pleasure Point Group, Inc.- Culver's of Rhinelander
- \$150.00 from Professional Automotive North, LLC
- \$100.00 from Plane Parts, Inc.
- \$100.00 from Michael and Patricia Harvey
- \$100.00 from Quilters Haven Ltd.
- \$50.00 from Dahlquist Heating & Cooling Inc.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Janitorial/Custodial Contract

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by M. Roberts. Board approve the District to
contract for janitorial services with Vonachen Group for the next three years at the hourly
rates in their proposal.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren,
R. Lueneburg, R. Counter

Nay: None
Motion passed 8/0

Discussion and/or Action on Hodag Connections Learning Center (HCLC) Lease Agreement.

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by M. Roberts. Board approve the lease
agreement with F&D Properties beginning June 1, 2024, for the HCLC program.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren,
R. Lueneburg, R. Counter

Nay: None
Motion passed 8/0

Discussion and/or the Staff Salary Proposal for the 2024-25 School Year – Non-Instructional
Staff.

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by J. Conlin. Board approve a 3.41%
increase in pay for Other Professional Employees and Support Staff (except administrators) in
the 2024-25 school year at a projected cost of \$152,444. Approve a 3% increase for
administrators at a cost of \$56,071 in 2024-25.

AMENDMENT: R. Lueneburg, seconded by D. Holperin Board approve a 3.41%
increase in pay for Other Professional Employees and Support Staff (except administrators) in

the 2024-25 school year at a projected cost of \$152,444. Approve a \$2,500 increase for each administrator in place of a 3% increase.

Aye: R. Lueneburg

Nay: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren,
R. Counter

Motion failed 1/7

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by J. Conlin. Board approve a 3.41% increase in pay for Other Professional Employees and Support Staff (except administrators) in the 2024-25 school year at a projected cost of \$152,444. Approve a 3% increase for administrators at a cost of \$56,071 in 2024-25.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren,
R. Counter

Abstain: R. Lueneburg

Motion passed 7/0

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Eric Burke stated important upcoming meeting dates are as follows:
 - May 6th Operations Committee at 5 p.m. Bus contract with Bowen's Bus representatives in attendance. Learning Support program 4K-8 grade.
 - May 13th Capital Projects (4-7 tentatively) Bond process for Capital Project, Interviews with construction manager positions.
 - May 20th Committee meetings: 5:15 p.m. Instruction and Accountability Committee, 5:30 p.m. Employee Relations Committee SDR handbook revisions, 6 p.m. Reorganization and Regular Board Meeting.

Enter Closed Session

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

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.
- c. Wis. Stats 19.85 (1) (g) to confer with legal counsel as may be necessary with respect to litigation in which the District is involved or is likely to become involved.

More specifically, to consider staff contracts, the hire of staff, staff layoffs, and/or staff resignations/retirements, and to consider an agreement regarding a specific individual and/or contracted service, and/or the histories and/or disciplinary data of specific persons.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren, R. Lueneburg, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0 at 6:40 p.m.

Closed Session

Closed-session topics were discussed.

Return to Open Session

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by D. Frey. Return to open session.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, M. Van Buren,
R. Lueneburg, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 8/0

Open Session

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by M. Roberts. Approve the hire of Kelli

Kubacki, Adrianna Mohr and Nicole Losch as proposed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Adjournment

MOTION: J. Conlin, second by M. Roberts. Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Peterson, Board of Education Clerk