

School District of Rhinelander - Board of Education

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee
Monday, May 6, 2024

Minutes

The Operations & Strategic Planning Committee meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2024, in the Professional Development Center – Rhinelander High School, 665 Coolidge Avenue, Rhinelander, WI.

David Holperin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Mike Roberts, David Holperin, and Ronald Lueneburg
Committee Members Absent: None

Others present at this meeting were: Superintendent, Eric Burke; School Board President, Ron Counter, Director of Learning Support, Richard Gretzinger; Director of Business Services, Robert Thom; Director of Human Resources, Michele Cornelius; Director of Instruction, Ryan Ourada; Secretary/Deputy Clerk, Shelley Anderson, Jeff and Wendy Bowen from Bowen’s Bus Service, Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods River News, and Eileen Persike of the Northwoods Star Journal. Seven other people were also present.

Comments/Report by the Chairperson

- David Holperin, Committee Chair, had no report.

Comments/Report by Superintendent or Administration

- Eric Burke, Superintendent, had no report.

Citizens/Delegations

- No citizens/delegations wished to address the Committee.

Report, Discussion, and/or Action Topics

April 8, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by M. Roberts. Accept the minutes of April 8, 2024, as printed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Review of the April Budget Status Report

Robert Thom, Director of Business Services, reported the following:

- The District continues to track over budget this year.
- April is complete. We will continue to monitor May and June costs.

Consider Bowen’s Bus Service Bid

MOTION: M. Roberts, seconded by R. Lueneburg. Recommend Board accept the proposal for a new five-year rolling contract with Bowen’s Bus Service to provide transportation for the School District of Rhinelander with a 20.9% increase in 2024-2025, 10% in 2025-2026, 8% in 2026-2027, and the greater of CPI or 4% thereafter.

- The District only received one bid and that was from Bowen’s Bus Service.
- The initial bid was 32% higher than what is being proposed today.
- Jeff and Wendy Bowen stated that in the past they have lost money and are looking to recoup so they can stay in business.
- The District pays for the fuel for the buses.
- There isn’t comparable pricing from other districts available.

D. Holperin abstained.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Consider Expanded Programming for Elementary and Middle School Students

MOTION: M. Roberts, seconded by R. Lueneburg. Recommend Board approval of a lead teacher position to oversee and instruct students within both the expanded elementary and middle school programs and a special education teacher to instruct within the elementary special education expanded programming starting in the 2024-2025 school year.

Consider 2024-2025 Open Enrollment Applications for Student Enrollment Into and Out of the District

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by D. Holperin. Recommend Board approval of the ‘Full-Time Public School Open Enrollment’ applications for students requesting enrollment into and out of the School District of Rhinelander for the 2024-25 school year and authorize Superintendent Burke to deny any applications as he finds appropriate after review of non-resident student records. Motion passed with voice vote.

Consider Standard and Poors Bond Rating

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by M. Roberts. Recommend Board accept the proposal for a bond rating from Standard and Poors in the amount of \$31,000. Motion passed with voice vote.

Consider Audit Bids

No bids were received prior to the committee meeting. No action was taken.

Adjourn

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by M. Roberts. Move to adjourn. Motion passed with a voice vote at 5:58 p.m.