

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 20, 2024

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, May 20, 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, Patricia Townsend, Ronald Lueneburg, Merlin Van Buren, and Ronald Counter

Board Members Absent: None

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; Jeff and Wendy Bowen, Bowen's Bus Service, and Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods River News. Three 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.

Ceremonial Oath of Office

Mary Peterson, School Board Clerk, administered the ceremonial Oath of Office to the following newly elected school board members: Ron Counter, David Holperin, and Patricia Townsend. All newly elected school board members took seats as school board members.

Election of School Board Officers

President

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for President.
- Mary Peterson nominated Ron Counter as the Board of Education President.
- David Holperin nominated himself as Board of Education President.
- There were no other nominations.
- President Counter called for a third time for nominations for President.

- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted out loud the votes. Ron Counter received six votes and David Holperin received three votes.
- The Board President for the 2024-2025 term is Ron Counter.

Vice President

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Vice President.
- David Holperin nominated himself for Vice President.
- Duane Frey nominated Judy Conlin for Vice President.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no further nominations.
- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted out loud the votes. Judy Conlin received five votes and David Holperin received four votes.
- Vice President for the 2024-2025 term is Judy Conlin.

Clerk

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Clerk.
- Ron Counter nominated Mary Peterson for Clerk.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no further nominations.
- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted the votes out loud. Mary Peterson received eight votes and David Holperin received one vote.
- The clerk for the 2024-2025 term is Mary Peterson.

Treasurer

- President Counter opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.
- Ron Counter nominated Mike Roberts for Treasurer.
- President Counter asked three times for any other nominations.
- There were no further nominations.
- The vote was conducted by paper ballot. Shelley Anderson collected and counted out loud the votes. Mike Roberts received all nine votes.
- Treasurer for the 2024-2025 term is Mike Roberts.

Secretary/Deputy Clerk

- President Counter nominated Shelley Anderson for Secretary/Deputy Clerk.
- There were no further nominations.
- A voice vote was conducted. Shelley Anderson received all nine votes.
- Secretary/Clerk for the 2024-2025 term is Shelley Anderson.

Discussion/Selection of Committee Assignments

President Counter asked all Board Members to contact him regarding committee assignments. David Holperin and Ronald Lueneburg said they wished to change their committee assignments.

Report Topics

President's Report

- President Ron Counter had no report.

Vice-President's Report

- Vice-President Judy Conlin shared the following:
 - Scholarship night was amazing
 - Congratulated the FBLA/DECA students
 - The first senior signing day was a success
 - Educators Rising had a great ceremony

Rhineland Education Association Report

- No report was given.

Student Council and National Honor Society Representative Report(s)

- No report was given.

Committee Chair Reports

Instruction and Accountability Committee

- Judy Conlin, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee recommended agenda items k, l, and m to the Board for approval

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

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

Employee Relations Committee

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

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

- Mike Roberts, Committee Chair, stated that construction manager interviews would be held during closed session.

CESA 9 Representative Report

- Merlin Van Buren, the Board's Representative to CESA 9, reported the change in virtual schooling since COVID-19.

Oneida/Vilas School Superintendent-Board Representative Report

- Eric Burke, Superintendent, had no report.

Discussion, Reports/Updates, and/or Action Topics

Minutes of April 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

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

April 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as printed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Approve the minutes of the

April 2024 Payment of Claims and Contracted Services

MOTION: M. Roberts, seconded by D. Holperin. Approve the April 2024 payment of Claims in the amount of \$818,833.67 and the April 2024 Payment of Contracted Services in the amount of \$1,078,671.35 as printed.

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

Nay: None

Motion passed 9/0

Consider Acceptance of Various Gifts/Donations Contributed to the District

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

- \$100.00 from CoVantage Credit Union
- \$150.00 from Finlan Law Firm
- \$100.00 from Driscoll Property Management & Home Improvements, LLC
- \$200.00 from Stifel - Dave Holperin
- \$250.00 from Timber Land Chiropractic - Dr. Wendy Henrichs
- \$500.00 from RIPCO Credit Union
- \$100.00 from Eagle River Cabinets, Inc.
- \$250.00 from Superior Diesel
- \$1,000.00 from Rhinelander Lodging LLC – Rhinelander AmericInn
- \$200.00 from Laser Pros International
- \$675.00 from Mary King
- \$500.00 from CT's Deli
- \$250.00 from Fiebke Dental
- \$100.00 from Helgeson Landscaping, Inc.
- Art supplies valued at \$223.00 from Rhinelander Brewing Company - Georgie Karl
- School card donation valued at \$130.00 from Park City Credit Union
- Rough sawn oak and pine lumber valued at \$2,000.00 from Grefe Enterprises - Robert Grefe
- \$6,547.15 from the Rhinelander Community Foundation, Inc.
- \$1,000.00 from The Hodags 10S, Inc. Facebook Group

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Bowen's Bus Service Bid.

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by M. Roberts. 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% increase in 2024-25, 10% in 2025-26, 8% in 2026-27, and the greater of CPI or 4% thereafter.

Primary Amendment: D. Holperin, seconded by M. Roberts. 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 **20.6%** increase in 2024-25, 10% in 2025-26, 8% in 2026-27, and the greater of CPI or 4% thereafter.

Discussion was held.

Primary Amendment passed with voice vote.

Amended Motion: 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

20.6% increase in 2024-25, 10% in 2025-26, 8% in 2026-27, and the greater of CPI or 4% thereafter.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: D. Holperin, P. Townsend

Motion passed 7/0

Discussion and/or Action on expanded programming for Elementary and Middle School Students.

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by R. Lueneburg. Board approve 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.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on 2024-2025 Open Enrollment Applications for Student Enrollment Into and Out of the District.

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

Discussion and/or Action on Standard and Poors Bond Rating.

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by R. Lueneburg. Board accept the proposal for a bond rating from Standard and Poors in the amount of \$31,000.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Audit Bids.

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by R. Lueneburg. Board approve the three-year audit proposal from Lauterbach & Amen at a cost of \$26,350 in 2024 \$27,700 in 2025, and \$29,100 in 2026.

Primary Amendment: M. Roberts, seconded by D. Holperin. Board accept the proposal from Kerber Rose for a one (1) year contract at a cost of \$27,500.

Aye: M. Roberts

Nay: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, D. Holperin, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter

Primary Amendment failed 1/8

Motion as Originally Stated:

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

Nay: M. Roberts

Motion passed 8/1

Discussion and/or Action on 2024-2025 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Membership.

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by R. Lueneburg. Board approve the Rhinelander High School Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association membership for the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Appointment of the 2024 CESA #9 Annual Convention Representative.

MOTION: D. Holperin, seconded by D. Frey. Appoint Merlin Van Buren as the District's representative to the 2024 CESA 9 Annual Convention being held on Wednesday, August 5, 2024, at the CESA 9 office in Tomahawk, WI.

Merlin Van Buren accepted the appointment to be the CESA 9 representative and will attend the convention.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on High School TEAM Trip to Belize – Spring Break 2026.

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by M. Peterson. Board approve to allow the Rhinelander High School STEM Trip to Belize over Spring Break 2026 and to allow students to solicit funds and fundraise in an effort to help defray travel costs.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Start College Now – 2024 Fall Semester.

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by M. Peterson. Board approve the expenditure of up to \$60,000 for dual credit course work for the 2024 fall semester at a technical college level as part of the Start College Now program.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Early College Credit Program – 2024 Fall Semester.

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by M. Peterson. Board of Education approve the expenditure of up to \$8,500 for dual credit course work for the 2024 Fall semester at a UW, private, or Tribal College located in Wisconsin as part of the Early College Credit program.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Staff Handbook Revisions – Professional Employee Handbook and Support Staff Handbook.

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by J. Conlin. Board approve the revisions to the Professional Employee Handbook as proposed and with suggested revisions to clarify terminology and language.

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

Nay: None

Motion passed 9/0

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by M. Van Buren Board approve the revisions to the Support Staff Handbook as proposed and with suggested revisions to clarify terminology and language.

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

Nay: None

Motion passed 9/0

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Eric Burke stated important events are as follows:
 - June 28th Retirement Dinner at Holiday Acres.
 - May 31st Graduation – all Board members attending should meet in the administration area at 6:30.

Enter Closed Session

MOTION: R. Counter, seconded by D. Holperin. 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)(e) to consider deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session
- c. 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.
- d. 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, consider staff contracts and/or contract renewals or non-renewals for professional personnel; staff hires, layoffs, and/or resignations/retirements; an agreement regarding a specific individual and/or contracted service; and/or the histories and/or disciplinary data of specific persons. Also, consider a Construction Manager for the 2024 Referendum Projects.

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

Nay: None

Motion passed 9/0 at 7:12 p.m.

Closed Session

Closed-session topics were discussed.

Return to Open Session

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

Return to open session.

Aye: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, D. Holperin, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter
Nay: None

Open Session

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by M. Van Buren. Approve the hiring of C. D. Smith as the construction manager for the school building and facility improvement projects.

Aye: D. Holperin, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren

Nay: J. Conlin, M. Peterson, M. Roberts, R. Counter

Motion passed 5/4

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by D. Frey. Approve the hire of Clint Rogers, Lexi Morrison, Logan Rudis, Alison Flores, Shelby Sanderfoot, Joanie Whitaker, and Hayley Lenz, as proposed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

MOTION: J. Conlin, seconded by D. Frey. Approve the resignation of Megan Overfelt, James Povolito, Eric Wills, and Peggy Sanderfoot, as proposed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

Adjournment

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, second by M. Roberts.

Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Peterson, Board of Education Clerk