

School District of Rhinelander
Board of Education

Regular Monthly Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order on Monday, June 17, 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: Mary Peterson, Duane Frey, Patricia Townsend, Ronald Lueneburg, Merlin Van Buren, and Ronald Counter

Board Members Absent: Judy Conlin and Mike Roberts

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; 6-12 Activities Director, Brian Paulson; Jeff Seeley from Ehlers Public Finance Advisors; Secretary/Deputy Clerk, Shelley Anderson, Doug Artus, Bill Freudenberg, Debra Straus, Joe Salzer, Jeremy Mayo and Heather Schaefer of the Northwoods River News. Thirty-one 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.

Interview and Appointment of a School Board Member

School Board Member David Holperin resigned from his position on the Board. Therefore, a school board vacancy notice was published in the Northwoods River News to announce the appointment process. Electors interested in the position were notified to file a ‘Declaration of Candidacy’ with the School Board or Deputy Clerk no later than 3:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, 2024. Four electors officially filed a “Declaration of Candidacy”. Candidates for the vacancy are citizens (in alphabetical order): Doug Artus, Bill Freudenberg, Debra Straus, and Joe Salzer.

The appointment process was followed, with Doug Artus receiving four votes, Debra Straus receiving one vote, and Joe Salzer receiving one vote. Doug Artus received the majority of the voters from the Board members present. Mary Peterson administered the “Oath of Office” to Doug Artus, and he then took his seat at the Board table.

Citizens/Delegations

- Wil Losch addressed the Board concerning coaches and communication with them.
- Joe Schneider addressed the Board in support of coaches and all they do for students.
- Stefani Patrone addressed the Board in support of the baseball program/coaches and the importance of communication protocol.

Report Topics

President's Report

- President Ron Counter had no report.

Vice-President's Report

- No report was given.

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

- Mary Peterson, a Committee member, recapped the AGR (Achievement Gap Reduction) Report.

Operations and Strategic Planning Committee

- Merlin Van Buren, Committee member, reported that the Committee recommended agenda items e, f, and g to the Board for approval.

Employee Relations Committee

- Duane Frey, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee did not meet.

Capital Projects Ad Hoc Committee

- Ron Counter reported that the Committee did not meet.

CESA 9 Representative Report

- Merlin Van Buren, the Board's Representative to CESA 9, reported that business was conducted, followed by a dinner to honor retiring CESA 9 board members.

Discussion, Reports/Updates, and/or Action Topics

Minutes of May 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, seconded by M. Van Buren.

Approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting as printed.

Motion passed with a voice vote.

May 2024 Payment of Claims and Contracted Services

MOTION: M. Van Buren, seconded by M. Peterson.

Approve the May 2024 payment of Claims in the amount of \$1,204,416.57 and the May 2024 Payment of Contracted Services in the amount of \$1,361,010.17 as printed.

Aye: M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 7/0

Consider Acceptance of Various Gifts/Donations Contributed to the District

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

Accept with sincere gratitude the following gifts/donations:

- \$100.00 from Bradley Chiropractic Office
- \$200 from Janet Cleveland
- \$50.00 from Kelly Smith, Know Just Hair
- \$100.00 from Boyd Financial Services, LLC
- \$35.00 from Steinmetz Landscape Design
- Two transceivers valued at \$400.00 from Kirby Giampa
- Four sets of golf clubs and bags valued at \$650.00 from Keith Staron, Northwood Golf Club

Motion passed with voice vote.

Discussion and/or Action on Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$26,000,000 General Obligation School Building and Facility Improvement Bonds, Series 2024A

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

Approve the 'Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$26,000,000 General Obligation School Building and Facility Improvement Bonds, Series 2024A.'

Jeff Seeley, Senior Municipal Advisor from Ehlers Public Finance Advisors, explained the sale day report for the School District of Rhinelander \$26,000,000 General Obligation School Building and Facility Improvement Bonds, Series 2024A.'

Aye: M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 7/0

Discussion and/or Action on 2023-2024 Budget Revisions

MOTION: M. Van Buren, seconded by R. Lueneburg.

Board approve the budget revisions as presented for the 2023-24 school year as of May 28, 2024.

Aye: M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 7/0

Discussion and/or Action on 2024-2025 Chromebook Replacements

MOTION: M. Van Buren, seconded by M. Peterson.

Board approve the purchase of 370 Chromebooks and 190 Touch Chromebooks with licenses from BDJ Tech at a cost of \$160,850.

Aye: M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter
Nay: None
Motion passed 7/0

Discussion and/or Action on 2024-2025 Breakfast and Lunch Prices

MOTION: M. Van Buren, seconded by R. Lueneburg.

Board approve the increase of breakfast and lunch meals by \$0.10 for the 2024-25 school year.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Eric Burke reported the following:
 - Planning for the construction project continues over the summer, with teams meeting every Wednesday.
 - The final contract from C.D. Smith reflects lower fees than the original bid, placing them below the Miron fees. The attorney for the District is currently reviewing the contract.
 - On July 15, 2024, there will be an Operations and Strategic Planning Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Full Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Superior Diesel Advanced Learning Center – Rhinelander High School.
 - Superintendent Burke stated that to create great experiences for all students, the work coaches do is often behind the scenes.
 - Brian Paulson is a fantastic Athletic Director who works hard to improve things.

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, 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.

Aye: M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter

Nay: None
Motion passed 7/0 at 6:55 p.m.

Closed Session

Closed-session topics were discussed.

Return to Open Session

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by D. Artus.

Return to open session.

Aye: M. Peterson, D. Artus, D. Frey, P. Townsend, R. Lueneburg, M. Van Buren, R. Counter

Nay: None

Motion passed 7/0

Open Session

MOTION: D. Frey, seconded by M. Van Buren.

Approve the resignation of Kristy Smith.

Motion passed with voice vote.

Adjournment

MOTION: R. Lueneburg, second by M. Van Buren.

Move to adjourn.

Motion passed with a voice vote at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Peterson, Board of Education Clerk