

**WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
Education Committee Minutes**

Submitted by: Julie Mieska

The EDUCATION COMMITTEE met at approximately 6:45 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2009, in the Professional Development Center at the Longfellow Administration Center. The meeting had been properly posted in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

PRESENT: John Ostertag, Chairperson; Jane Rusch and Michelle Schaefer

ALSO PRESENT: Donald Viegut, Deputy Superintendent of Education; Karen Wendorf-Heldt, Director of Education; Ann Wicklund, Director of Special Education; Jeff Joyce, Director of Pupil Services; Thom Hahn, Coordinator of Education; and Julie Mieska, Recording Secretary

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ostertag called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Schaefer moved to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2009 Education Committee meeting. Rusch seconded. Motion carried.

III. UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH PRIORITY WORK

Viegut reported that in most cases the Innovation Council priority work teams have been successful, with good collaboration and a strong plan of work evident throughout the year. A meeting of the priority work team co-chairs is scheduled on May 20, 2009, to share ideas to improve the structure, plan for next year, and look at capacity building opportunities for co-chairs.

IV. DEAF/HARD OF HEARING PROGRAM REPORT

In response to the April, 2009, Board of Education referral to review the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Program and the impact of the proposed budget cuts in this area over the next two years, Wicklund was present to share information and answer questions. Her report included information regarding educational options for students who are DHH, considerations when making placement decisions for these students, factors to consider when allocating resources, state caseload recommendations, DHH student enrollments in the Wausau School District, and staffing needs. Current information projects that there will be 35 DHH students serviced next year. This is an increase of 8 students since the initial staffing decisions were made in January, 2009. Wicklund explained the complexity of teacher responsibilities and schedules to meet the varied needs of DHH students. As decisions are made regarding staffing needs for this program based on enrollment numbers, Administration will keep the Board of Education informed.

V. UPDATE ON KENNEDY CENTER *PARTNERS IN EDUCATION* PROGRAM

Wendorf-Heldt reported that the Wausau School District again participated in the Kennedy Center *Partners In Education* program during the 2008-09 school year. This collaboration with the Performing Arts Foundation, D. C. Everest School District, and Merrill Area Public Schools, allows the District to offer high quality Fine Arts professional development to our educators. Wendorf-Heldt described *The Outsider Project* with Rosalind Flynn, who worked with both teachers and students in the use of dramatic techniques to enhance reading comprehension. Hahn described the *Assessment in the Arts* workshop with Deb Brzoska. Ms. Brzoska worked with teachers of visual, dramatic and musical arts to enhance their knowledge in assessing the arts.

VI. UPDATE ON READING FIRST DISSEMINATION GRANT

Wendorf-Heldt announced that Wausau School District is planning to accept the invitation from the Department of Public Instruction to apply for a one-year Reading First dissemination grant. If approved, this grant will provide an opportunity to showcase our Reading First program to other school districts throughout the state, and validate the powerful work being done in our District. The application deadline is June 1, 2009, with a decision from the DPI expected by mid-June.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Rusch moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Schaefer seconded. Motion carried.