

**WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT
Education Committee Minutes**

Submitted by: Julie Mieska

The EDUCATION COMMITTEE met at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2011, 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: Theresa Miles, Jane Rusch and Robb Shepherd

ALSO PRESENT: Michelle Schaefer, President, Board of Education; Dr. Kathleen Williams, Superintendent of Schools; Nell Anderson, Director of Education; Tammy Fruik, Director of Special Education; Thom Hahn, Coordinator of Education; Dr. Karen Wendorf-Heldt, Director of Education; and Julie Mieska, Recording Secretary

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Jane Rusch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Miles moved to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2011 Education Committee meeting. Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.

III. DISTRICT WRITING ASSESSMENT REPORT

Andrea Sheridan, District Assessment Coordinator, reported on the history, current structure, administration, and scoring process of the District writing assessments. The writing assessment is administered to students in grades 3, 6 and 9 in the fall of the year so that the test results can be used to inform instruction for the current academic year, and intervention can begin early if necessary. Writing assessment scores from the past several years were shared for all three grade levels. The assessment informs teaching and provides students with information about their individual writing skills through a 6-trait scoring model. The assessments are aligned with District work on Common Core State Standards, scope and sequence for writing, professional growth and development on writing, and school improvement goals.

IV. PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

A. WISCONSIN ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM INSTITUTE UPDATE

Andrea Sheridan, District Assessment Coordinator, spoke about the purpose, structure, educational framework, and key concepts of the Wisconsin Assessment Consortium institute. A total of 18 administrators and 54 teachers attended a series of four, full-day sessions sponsored by the Wisconsin Assessment Consortium entitled *Classroom Assessment for Learning*. The purpose of the training was to create a level of understanding and shared knowledge about common formative assessments, and to build capacity in teachers and administrators concerning classroom assessments.

Schaefer arrived at 6:25 p.m.

B. LITERACY ESSENTIALS UPDATE

Karen Wentz, Literacy Coach, shared information regarding the *Literacy Essentials* workshops. Over the course of the 2010-11 school year, 184 District elementary teachers each attended a series of five all-day sessions. Topics covered included structures that support learning; assessments; phonological awareness, phonics and fluency; vocabulary and word walls; and comprehension. District Literacy Coaches Karen Wentz, Cathy Veldhuizen and Lynne Strehlow, along with Barbara Connaughty, Consultant, were the workshop facilitators. Participant evaluations reflected a high overall rating.

Miles left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

C. CORE CONTENT TEAM SURVEY RESULTS

Core Content Team survey results regarding input on the structure and content of professional growth and development days were shared by Nell Anderson, Director of Education. Survey results from the 255 respondents indicated a strong preference for professional growth and development activities to be facilitated through a Professional Learning Community delivery model. Anderson noted that further review of the survey results will be done this summer when planning for future professional growth and development days.

V. PK-12 MATHEMATICS UPDATE

Dr. Karen Wendorf-Heldt, Director of Education, reported on the progress of the District mathematics work. Guided by the PK-12 Mathematics Leadership Team, along with the expertise of consultants Dr. Billie Sparks and Dr. Paula DeHart, work has been completed on identifying key concepts, key skills, and critical vocabulary linked to the new Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. The next steps in the process will be to identify enduring understandings and essential questions to guide further development of curriculum and instructional practices in PK-12 mathematics, and to review how current resources align with the standards.

VI. SUMMER SCHOOL 2011 PREVIEW

Nell Anderson, Director of Education, reported that the 2011 Summer School Program will begin on Monday, June 13. Elementary sites will include Hawthorn Hills, Jefferson, Riverview, G. D. Jones, and Lincoln. Middle school courses will be offered at John Muir Middle School this year, and Wausau West High School will accommodate students participating in grades 9-12 summer courses. Free breakfast will be available at each of the Summer School sites, and a free sack lunch will be served for elementary students. During the afternoon hours at four of the elementary sites, a Community Connections program will offer elementary students options to be involved in various structured activities. An additional two weeks will be added to the six-week elementary schedule offering activities with a literacy emphasis and the Community Connections program.

VII: CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT RENEWALS: WAUSAU AREA MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL AND ENRICH, EXCEL, ACHIEVE LEARNING ACADEMY

Thom Hahn, Coordinator of Education, presented the Wausau Area Montessori Charter School contract for renewal. The Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governance Council did a comprehensive review of the contract, and the 5-year renewal reflects the

most recent charter school contract language. Hahn noted that there is a change in the duration from a 2-year to a 5-year contract; Governance Council membership will be increased from 7 members to 9 members; new language will allow for more flexibility in teacher certification; and the admissions language encourages more parent and student involvement in the interview and observation process.

Shepherd moved to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the Wausau Area Montessori Charter School contract renewal. Schaefer seconded. Motion carried.

Hahn presented the Enrich, Excel, Achieve Learning Academy charter school contract for renewal. The Enrich, Excel, Achieve Learning Academy Governance Board did a comprehensive review of the contract, and the 5-year renewal reflects the most recent charter school contract language. Hahn noted that there is a change in the duration from a 2-year to 5-year contract; the New Horizons Charter School and Enrich, Excel, Achieve Learning Academy are now merged; and there is language allowing an exemption from District Policy 5515 pertaining to students who have successfully completed middle school curriculum to begin working toward high school credits.

Schaefer moved to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the Enrich, Excel, Achieve Learning Academy charter school contract renewal. Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.

VIII: FOREIGN AND EXTENDED STUDENT TRAVEL UPDATE

Thom Hahn, Coordinator of Education, submitted a list of foreign and extended student travel requests that have been approved to date.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Schaefer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.