

**RICE LAKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
30 PHIPPS AVENUE  
RICE LAKE, WI 54868**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR SESSION  
Monday, January 8, 2024  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**MINUTES**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Board of Education of the Rice Lake Area School District met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2024 in the Board Room of the Rice Lake Area School District Administration Building, 30 Phipps Avenue, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, with Keven Jensen, President presiding.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present - Board Members: Steve Bowman, Don Cuskey, Phil Henkel, Keven Jensen, Doug Kucko, Bert Richard, Nellie Scheurer, Miriam Vavra  
Absent- Dianne Koser  
Others Present- Randy Drost, District Administrator  
Student Representatives: Brendyn Otradovec, Breleigh Vavra
- III. **NOTICE OF POSTING:** President, Keven Jensen announced the Board hereby finds communication and public notice of the open meeting, as required by section 19.84 of the Wisconsin Statutes, had been properly given by the presiding officer's designee, Randy Drost. Such a notice and agenda to the official newspaper, the Rice Lake Chronotype, to the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, and to radio stations WJMC and WAQE, indicating the date, time, and place of the meeting and such notice was given more than 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- V. **APPEARANCES:** Gina Sookiayak made a public appearance.
- VI. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES [action]:** Miriam Vavra and Doug Kucko motioned to approve the regular session meeting minutes from Monday, December 11, 2023. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
- VII. **CONSENT AGENDA [action]:** Steve Bowman and Doug Kucko motioned to approve the consent agenda. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
  - A. **Monthly Budget Report**
  - B. **Monthly Board Bills**
  - C. **Employment Resignations:**
    1. Steve Hoersten, Technology Education Teacher at RLMS, for retirement purposes, 30 years of service, effective the end of the 23-24 contract year
    2. Kelly Stephens, Kindergarten Teacher at Tainter Elementary, for retirement purposes, 31 years of service, effective the end of the 23-24 contact year
    3. Amanda Brown, Mental Health Coordinator, effective January 5, 2024
    4. Cassandra Clark, Elementary Attendance Coordinator, effective January 12, 2024
    5. Jim Zelek, District Maintenance I, effective January 12, 2024
    6. Payton Sevals, Health and Physical Education Teacher at RLMS, effective June 6, 2024
    7. Ariel Runge, Paraprofessional and Shuttle Driver at RLMS, effective January 2, 2024
    8. Tate Nordback, Paraprofessional at RLHS, effective December 27, 2023
    9. Kimberly Prevost, Assistant Gymnastics Coach at RLHS

**D. Employment Recommendations:**

1. Payton Sevals, Health and Physical Education Teacher at RLMS, for the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year
2. Scott Lindow, Paraprofessional at RLHS
3. Theresa Dostal, Kitchen Assistant 1 at RLHS
4. Alicia Wessman, Paraprofessional at RLMS
5. Ashley Gagner, Cook-Kitchen Assistant 1 at RLMS
6. Jerud Udelhofen, Shuttle Driver

**VIII. COMMENDATIONS:**

- A. RLASD Student Recognition:** Building principals and staff commended the following students and identified their areas of achievement for the month of January 2024.

Student	School	Grade	Parent(s)
Luna Cunningham	Tainter Elementary	K	Casey and Kate Cunningham
Ella Weimert	RL Middle School	8	Dan and Jessie Weimert
Adrianne Phillips	Hilltop Elementary	3	Jonathan and Amanda Phillips
Khiah Manzo-Haynie	Haugen Elementary	1	Autumn Haynie and Omar Manzo
Bailey Gagner	RL High School	12	Chad and Shabree Paulson

**IX. REPORTS:**

- A. Rice Lake High School Attendance, Behaviors and Redefining Ready Update-Curt Pacholke, Mark Beise, Stacia Cross:** Rice Lake High School staff provided an update on school attendance, behaviors and Redefining Ready.

- B. Open Enrollment Space Limits Approval-Randy Drost [action]:** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction asks school boards to designate the number of available open enrollment spaces in each grade for the district on an annual basis. The Board reviewed the recommendations by administration.

Miriam Vavra and Nellie Scheurer motioned to approve the recommendations of administration as provided. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

- C. Notice of non-renewal of contract with Everside Health-Randy Drost [action]:** District Administrator Randy Drost recommended a notice of non-renewal of a contract with Everside Health. Don Cuskey and Bert Richard motioned to approve Randy, as the district representative, give Everside Health notice that the District plans to end our contract with Everside Health at the end of this fiscal year. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

- D. Resolution Authorizing Execution of FEMA sub-grant Agreement-Randy Drost [action]:** The Board reviewed a resolution authorizing the execution of a FEMA sub-grant agreement. This resolution would authorize District Administrator Randy Drost and Director of Finance and Operations Victor Drost to execute and sign such sub-grant agreements and any amendments as needed.

Doug Kucko and Miriam Vavra motioned to approve the resolution authorizing execution of FEMA sub-grant agreement. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

- E. BOE Finance Committee Meeting Update-Steve Bowman:** The BOE Finance Committee met on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from December 7, 2023. The committee also discussed the following items: employee clinic, enrollment and revenue limit projections for 2024-2025, and the Aquatics and Recreation Center/Boys and Girls Club/Lease. The committee also reviewed

and approved the bills. Steve Bowman provided an update from the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024.

**F. BOE Curriculum Committee Meeting Update-Keven Jensen:** The BOE Curriculum Committee met on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from Tuesday, October 17, 2023. The committee also received an update on the high school resource time, the middle school ILA time and the elementary schools WIN time. Keven Jensen provided an update from the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

**G. BOE Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting Update-Keven Jensen:** The BOE Buildings and Grounds Committee met on Thursday, December 21, 2023. The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from October 23, 2023. The committee also discussed the following items:

- Deed for the current swimming pool
- Field replacement
- High School history wing roof
- Administration Building second floor
- Pool project update
- Community Center/Boys and Girls Club project
- Conservancy update
- Hilltop Elementary needs
- Potential FEMA grant
- Energy Plant re-piping

Keven Jensen provided an update from the meeting.

**H. BOE Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting Update-second reading-Keven Jensen [action]:** The full Board reviewed the following policies as a first reading on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Miriam Vavra and Don Cuskey motioned to approve the policies as reviewed. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

- Policy #524.1, Staff Involvement in Political Activities (revise)
- Policy #525, Personnel Records (revise)
- Rule #525, Personnel Records Guidelines (recommend delete)
- Policy #531, Certified Staff Positions (review)
- Policy #532.2, Unauthorized Leave (review)
- Policy #533.1, Recruiting/Hiring Summer School Teachers (review)
- Policy #534, Substitute Teachers (review)
- Policy #535, Certified Staff Assignments and Transfers (review)
- Policy #536.1, Resignation of Certified Staff (revise)
- Policy #536.2, Dismissal of Certified Staff (review)
- Policy #537.1, Certified Staff Orientation (review)
- Rule #537.1, New Teacher Orientation Procedures (review)
- Policy #539.1, Outside Employment of Certified Staff Members (review)
- Policy #539.2, Tutoring (review)
- Rule #539.2, Tutoring Guidelines (review)
- Policy #541, Non-Certified Staff Positions (review)
- Policy #542.1, Non-Certified Staff Contracts and Compensation (recommend delete)

- Policy #542.2, Non-Certified Staff Leaves and Absences (recommend delete)
- Policy #542.3, Non-Certified Staff Unauthorized Leave (recommend delete)
- Policy #543, Non-Certified Staff Recruiting/Hiring (review)
- Policy #544, Substitute/Part-time Non-Certified Staff Employment (review)
- Policy #545, Non-Certified Staff Assignments/Transfers (review)
- Policy #549.1, Non-school Employment of Non-certified Staff (review)
- Policy #751.1, Use of Alternative Vehicles to Transport Students (review)
- Rule #751.1, Authorization of Alternative Vehicles and Drivers to Transport Students (review)
- Exhibit (1) #751.1, Alternative Driver/Vehicle Authorization Checklist (Employee driver using a privately owned vehicle for student transportation) (review)
- Exhibit (2) #751.1, Alternative Driver/Vehicle Authorization Checklist (Employee driver using a vehicle owned or leased by the District for student transportation) (review)
- Exhibit (3) #751.1, Alternative Driver/Vehicle Authorization Checklist (Volunteer driver using a privately owned vehicle for no compensation) (review)
- Exhibit (4) #751.1, Medical Opinion Verification of Fitness to Drive Vehicle to Transport Students (review)
- Policy #752, Use of District-Owned Vehicles (revise)

**X. INFORMATION:**

**A. Communications Committee Meeting Minutes-December 19, 2023:** The Board reviewed the draft Communications Committee meeting minutes from Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

**B. WASB Delegate Assembly Information and Convention Resolutions:** The Board reviewed the WASB Delegate Assembly meeting information.

**C. Determine any change to the March 11, 2024 Board of Education Meeting (due to spring break):** By consensus, the Board agreed to cancel the March 11, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting. The Board also agreed that the Monday, March 25, 2024 regular Board of Education meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

**D. Upcoming Meeting Schedule:** The Board reviewed a schedule of upcoming meetings/events.

**XI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON PROGRAMS AND**

**ACTIVITIES:** RLHS Student Representatives Brendyn Otradovec and Breleigh Vavra shared the following:

- The blood drive held at Rice Lake High School was a success and exceeded the quota of 60 pints.
- There was \$575 raised for the secret Santa event at Rice Lake High School.
- The Warrior Leadership Team at Rice Lake High School hosted a homeroom competition, Kahoot!, which was a success.
- There is a winter dance scheduled at Rice Lake High School on January 26, 2024 from 8:00-10:00 p.m.

**XII. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

- **Upcoming District Events:** District Administrator Randy Drost shared the following information:
  - Parent/Teacher conferences are being held at Rice Lake Middle School tomorrow.
  - The WASB Education Convention is next week.

- Please check the district calendar and Facebook page for upcoming events.
- There is no school for all building levels on Friday, January 19, 2024, as it is a teacher in-service day.

**XIII. CLOSED SESSION:** Doug Kucko and Miriam Vavra motioned to move into Closed Session. By roll call vote, all present voting yes. Motion approved. The meeting was moved into Closed Session at 8:20 p.m.

**XIV. OPEN SESSION:** Don Cuskey and Steve Bowman motioned to reconvene into Open Session. All present voting yes. Approved. The meeting was moved into open session at 9:12 p.m.

**XV.** Resolution accepting the Real Estate Swap Agreement and fully authorizing the actions required to close the transaction described in this Agreement and authorizing the Rice Lake Area School District's signatory to execute all documents necessary to effectuate these transactions-Randy Drost [action]:

Bert Richard and Don Cuskey motioned to approve the Resolution accepting the Real Estate Swap Agreement and fully authorizing the actions required to close the transaction described in this Agreement and authorizing the Rice Lake Area School District's signatory to execute all documents necessary to effectuate these transactions. Keven Jensen, Steve Bowman, Miriam Vavra, Nellie Scheurer, Phil Henkel, Bert Richard, and Don Cuskey voting yes. Doug Kucko voting no. Motion approved.

**XVI. MEETING ADJOURNED:** Steve Bowman and Phil Henkel motioned to adjourn the meeting. All present voting yes. Motion Approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Miriam Vavra, Clerk