

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

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR SESSION  
Monday, April 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, April 8, 2024 in the Boardroom 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, Keven Jensen, Dianne Koser, Doug Kucko, Bert Richard (virtual), Nellie Scheurer  
Absent- Phil Henkel, Miriam Vavra  
Others Present- Randy Drost, District Administrator  
Student Representatives: Kate Stinson, Miranda Garcia-Rodriguez
- 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:**
- Joshua Morey made a public appearance.
  - Erika Spear made a public appearance.
  - Abbey Fischer made a public appearance.
- (Miriam Vavra entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.)  
(Phil Henkel entered the meeting at 7:03 p.m.)
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [action]:** Steve Bowman and Dianne Koser motioned to approve the regular session and closed session meeting minutes from Monday, March 25, 2024. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA [action]:** Doug Kucko and Dianne Koser motioned to approve the consent agenda. All present voting yes. Motion approved.
- A. Monthly Budget and Cash Reconciliation Report**
- B. Monthly Board Bills**
- C. Employment Resignations:**
1. Michael Brown, Assistant Track Coach at RLMS
- D. Employment Recommendations:**
1. Eliana Sookiayak, Lifeguard at Swimming Pool

## **VIII. REPORTS:**

**A. Child Development Day and 4K Enrollment Update-Marsha Scherz/Laurie Johnson:** Director of Instruction and Learning Marsha Scherz along with Director of Special Education and Pupil Services Laurie Johnson provided an update from Child Development Day and provided an update on 4 year old Kindergarten enrollment.

**B. Military Child Month Proclamation-April 2024-Keven Jensen [action]:** The Board reviewed a proclamation for Military Child Month, which is the month of April. Miriam Vavra and Doug Kucko motioned to approve the month of April as Military Child Month. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

**C. 2024 Academic Excellence Scholarship and Technical Excellence Scholarship-Keven Jensen [action]:** The Board of Education reviewed the criteria for the Academic Excellence Scholarship and the Technical Excellence Scholarship.

Don Cuskey and Phil Henkel motioned to approve the following:

- Ayumi Dennis and Djanko Shuler-Masci as primary recipients of the Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Daniel Cluppert, Ben Drost, Madison Gilbert, Ellie Strand and Ayla Zuzek as alternate recipients of the Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Brayden Young and Tristen Hays as primary recipients of the Technical Excellence Scholarship
- Ava Gargulak, Rebecca Greisen and Samantha Greisen as alternate recipients of the Technical Excellence Scholarship

All present voting yes. Motion approved.

**D. 2024-2025 Preliminary Staffing Report-second reading-Randy Drost [action]:** On Monday, March 25, 2024 the Board reviewed the 2024-2025 preliminary staffing report as a first reading. A few revisions were made to the 2024-2025 preliminary staffing report. Don Cuskey and Phil Henkel motioned to approve the 2024-2025 Preliminary Staffing Report subject to review by the BOE Finance Committee for possible funding for the social worker and/or school counselor position. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

**E. BOE Finance Committee Meeting Update-Steve Bowman:** The BOE Finance Committee met on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. The committee discussed the FEMA grant, the Hilltop Elementary addition, and the 2023-2024 budget. The committee also reviewed/approved the monthly bills. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Steve Bowman provided an update from the meeting.

**F. BOE Curriculum Committee Meeting Update-Dianne Koser:**

- **2024-2025 Rice Lake High School Academic and Career Planning Guide Amendment-second reading [action]:** On Monday, March 25, 2024, the Board reviewed the proposed amended 2024-2025 Rice Lake High School Academic and Career Planning Guide eliminating French 1. Doug Kucko and Don Cuskey motioned to approve the amended 2024-2025 Rice Lake High School Academic and Career Planning Guide as proposed. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

**G. BOE Policy and Legislative Advocacy Committee Meeting Update-Keven Jensen:**

**Second Reading [action]:** On Monday, March 25, 2024, the Board reviewed the following policies as a first reading. Doug Kucko and Nellie Scheurer motioned to approve the following policies as reviewed. All present voting yes. Motion approved.

- Policy #167, Board of Education Member Protection (Liability Insurance)(revise)
- Policy #332, Research Projects and Pilot Programs (revise)
- Policy #334, Ownership of Curriculum Materials (revise)
- Policy #343.1, Lesson Plans (revise)
- Policy #346, Student Assessment (revise)
- Policy #352, Community Resources (recommend delete)
- Policy #352.1, School Volunteers (revise)
- Rule #352.1, Volunteer Coaches and Activity Advisors/Supervisors (revise)
- Exhibit (1) #352.1, Volunteer Commitment and Confidentiality Statement (revise)
- Exhibit (2) #352.1, Volunteer Emergency Information Sheet and Service Commitment (revise)
- Policy #674, Expense Reimbursements (Employees) (revise)
- Policy #812, Parent/Guardian Involvement (revise)
- Policy #831, Tobacco Use on School Premises (revise)
- Rule #831, Enforcement Procedures (revise)

**IX. INFORMATION:**

**A. April 2, 2024 School Board Election Results:** The Board reviewed the canvassed school board election results from the April 2, 2024 spring election.

**B. WASB Public Policy Correspondent Update-Phil Henkel:** Phil Henkel provided an update from the Legislative Update blog.

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

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

**ACTIVITIES:** Student Representatives Kate Stinson and Miranda Garcia-Rodriguez shared the following:

- In March the high school held a March Madness tournament between the staff and students.
- The HS held a fundraiser for Mrs. Heldstad's daughter.
- The HS conducted a school-wide rock, paper, scissors game with all students.
- Spring sports are beginning.
- On Saturday the high school hosted solo and ensemble with multiple people advancing to the state festival.
- Prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Turtleback and post prom will be hosted at the high school.
- The Warrior Leadership Team is planning a bonfire for students as well as a game night.

**XI. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

- **Upcoming District Events:** District Administrator Randy Drost shared the following information:
  - Hilltop Elementary spring concert for grades 1 and 3 will be held tomorrow in the auditorium at RLHS.
  - Tainter Elementary spring concert for grades 1 and 3 will be held Thursday in the auditorium at RLHS.

- Summer Academy sign-ups start on April 15<sup>th</sup>. More information is available on the district website and the district Facebook page.
- MS Jazz band concerts are on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium.
- The district retirement party is Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Lehman's Supper Club. Contact Jen Burish if you are interested in attending.
- RLHS Drama Club will be hosting an event, *Mystery in the Winery*, on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. in the UW Eau Claire Barron County Campus Library.
- Continue to check the district website and social media for upcoming events.

**XII. CLOSED SESSION:** Don Cuskey and Doug Kucko motioned to move into Closed Session. By roll call vote, all present voting yes. Motion approved. The meeting was moved into Closed Session at 7:59 p.m.

**XIII. OPEN SESSION:** Steve Bowman and Miriam Vavra motioned to reconvene into Open Session. All present voting yes. Approved. The meeting was moved into open session at 8:25 p.m.

**XIV. ACTION:** No action was taken following closed session.

**XV. MEETING ADJOURNED:** Phil Henkel and Miriam Vavra motioned to adjourn the meeting. All present voting yes. Motion Approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Miriam Vavra, Clerk