

**RITZVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #160-67 and LIND SCHOOL DISTRICT #158
JOINT BOARD MEETING
February 26, 2024**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Ritzville School District #160-67 and Lind School District #158 was held in the Lind-Ritzville High School Commons on February 26, 2024. The following members were in attendance:

Lind School Board Members:	Adam Labes	Greg Schmunk
	Jim Weidemann	Kevin Starring
	Breanne Williamson	

Ritzville School Board Members:	Erin Repp	Tia Kubik
	Reid Phillips	Scott Carruth

Ritzville Chair Repp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ritzville Chair Repp called the Ritzville School Board meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved to approve the January 22,2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Carruth moved to approve the agenda. Ritzville Director Kubik seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Phillips moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$233,807.64; Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$49,975.00; Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$18,480.80; Payroll for February 29,2024 - \$406,448.23; Accept Resignation of RGS 2nd Grade Teacher - Jack Welker; Accept Resignation of RGS Title 1 Teacher - Diane Leffel; Accept Resignation of LRCS Nurse - Aimee Schell; Accept Recommendation for RGS 1:1 Para - Terrie Swartz; Ritzville Director Carruth seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Chair Labes called the Lind School Board meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

Lind Director Schmunk moved to approve the January 22,2024 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Director Weidemann seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Starring moved to approve the agenda. Lind Director Williamson seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Williamson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: General Fund Accounts Payable - \$83,148.15; Transportation Cooperative Accounts Payable - \$49,975.00; Associated Student Body Fund Accounts Payable - \$713.03; Payroll for January 31, 2024 - \$380,743.94; Accept Resignation of LRCS Nurse - Aimee Schell; Accept Recommendation of LES 3rd Grade Teacher - Samantha Davey; Lind Director Weidemann seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Joint Items

Legislative Update

Superintendent Vanderholm shared that he submitted a letter in opposition to ESHB 2331 and ESB 5462, stating that important educational decisions should be made at the local level. The Legislature passed SHB 2180, which increased special education funding for the 2024-25 school year. Also passed was ESHB 2494, increasing MSOC funding by \$21 per student. Mr. Vanderholm wrote a letter to senators Wellman and Billig stating the increase in MSOC funding is appreciated, but it is still not enough to fully fund the increasing operating costs that school districts are facing. In the past 5 years liability insurance has increased 100% for Ritzville and 62% for Lind, fuel increased by 77% and utilities in Ritzville have had a 49% rate increase.

Reports to the Board

Students & School Programs

Student Representatives Report

Student Representative Addy Colbert gave an update about LRHS current and upcoming events, including State Wrestling, Spring Sports, Bi-County Honor Band, FCCLA State Conference and Prom. She reported that for National FFA week, FFA members visited the middle school for an activity.

Principals' Report

RGS teachers, Amy Wellsandt and Diane Leffel, gave a presentation of the UFLI curriculum. They explained that the curriculum uses phonics to teach students reading and writing through the association of sounds with letters. They shared how they have seen growth in their students reading and writing and that students are excited about the hands-on lessons.

Principal reports from RGS Principal Cindy Deska, LES Principal Sarah Dinkins, LRMS Principal Don Walker and LRHS Principal Kevin Terris were distributed to the Board of Directors in the board packets this month. Each report gave a snapshot of the activities in their building during the month of February.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Vanderholm shared that the district will be pausing comprehensive sexual health education this year. School Nurse, Aimee Schell, declined to present the curriculum during the board meeting and asked to be excused from teaching the classes this year. Letters will be sent to update families and the district will post parent information on the district website.

Superintendent Vanderholm shared grant news, since January's meeting the district has received a total of \$10,800 in grants. This includes the ADA Award for Lind- \$99,990; \$4800 for Soils Chemistry Curriculum, \$8500 for Farm to Table course at LRMS, \$4000 for CTSO leadership fees and activities, \$1500 for FFA and FCCLA competition jackets and clothing.

Mr. Vanderholm updated the boards on facilities, sharing that there will be a stakeholders meeting in March and will begin work on a child care needs assessment for the Lind and Ritzville communities.

Superintendent Vanderholm shared that he recently met with a funding specialist that has experience working with smaller school districts and municipalities that could help with writing larger state and federal grants. He explained that this person would not be a new hire but instead would be a contractual employee and they would work as much or as little as the district needs. Contract would not exceed \$10,000.

Mr. Vanderholm announced that the levies in both Lind and Ritzville passed and thanked both communities for their support.

Superintendent Vanderholm gave an update on the continuing work on Standards Based Learning and he has met with high school staff to get their feedback. Next phase will be putting proficiency scales in place.

Other items shared, the February Coffee with the Superintendent, at the WSU Extension office, went well and nine attendees asked great questions and had positive feedback. The Cooperative Site Team meeting had a good discussion on the Comprehensive Sexual Health curriculum. So far, there are seven applicants for the new Principal at Ritzville Grade School and interviews will take place on March 12.

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Policy Review & Emerging Issues

There was an Annual Review of Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Agreements, with a revision to update language for sharing costs of academic counselors.

Prior to the vote of the 2024-25 school calendar, Superintendent Vanderholm explained a change that was made. Spring break was moved to the week of April 7-11 in order to line-up other districts in our athletics league. This will help reduce the need for scheduling contests over Spring break. He would also like the option to possibly move the October Teacher In-Service Day from October 4 to October 11, explaining this will not affect the number of school days. The reason for this is to allow for LRCS to participate in a potential Bi-County learning day.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved for Approval of the School Calendar. Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Schmunk moved for Approval of the School Calendar. Director Weidemann seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Carruth moved for Approval of Outdoor Heat Exposure Plan. Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Weidemann moved for Approval of Outdoor Heat Exposure Plan. Director Starring seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Phillips moved for Approval of Wildfire Smoke Plan. Director Kubik seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Starring moved for Approval of Wildfire Smoke Plan. Director Williamson seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved for Approval of Voluntary Use of Filtering Face-Piece Respirators Plan. Director Carruth seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Williamson moved for Approval of Voluntary Use of Filtering Face-Piece Respirators Plan. Director Starring seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

There was a first reading of Policy 2403 Math - Mastery Based Learning and Credit

There was a first reading of Policy 2404 Science - Mastery Based Learning and Credit

There was a first reading of Policy 2405 Social Studies - Mastery Based Learning and Credit

There was a first reading of Policy 2406 The Arts - Mastery Based Learning and Credit

There was a first reading of Policy 2407 Health & Physical Education - Mastery Based Learning and Credit

There was a first reading of Policy 2408 Integrated Environmental & Sustainability Education - Mastery Based Learning and Credit

There was a first reading of Policy 2409 World Language-Mastery Based Learning and Credit

There was a first reading of Policy 2413 Equivalency Credit Opportunities

There was a first reading of Policy 2195 Academic Acceleration

There was a first reading of Policy 6610 Video Surveillance

There was a first reading of Policy 5281 Disciplinary Action and Discharge

There was a first reading of Policy 5280 Separation from Employment

Ritzville Director Carruth moved for Approval of Highly Capable Plan. Director Kubik seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Schmunk moved for Approval of Highly Capable Plan. Director Weidemann seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Ritzville Director Kubik moved for Approval of Resolution #2023-005 - Cancellation of State Warrants. Director Phillips seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Lind Director Weidemann moved for Approval of Resolution #23-24-03 - Cancellation of State Warrants. Director Starring seconded the motion. A voice vote was heard, with all present members voting aye. The motion carried.

Financial Reports

LRCS Business Manager, Kris Robbins, updated the board on finances. She reported that last month the apportionment was updated. Prior to January, apportionment is based on budgeted enrollment and from January on it is based on actual enrollment. Lind is down due to a decrease in enrollment and Ritzville is up from what was budgeted. She also reported that the Transportation allocation should be increasing, but we have yet to receive an increase. The difference between the state allocation and our expenses are running about \$300,000 more. Cash flow documents are in the financial file for board review.

Other Reports - There was nothing to report.

Board Member Reports

Mr. Vanderholm reminded the board to do their required Professional Development training courses.

There being no further business, the Lind and Ritzville School Board meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

 3-25-24
Chairman/Date

 3/25/2024
Chairman/Date


Secretary to the Board

