



Board of Education

Racine Unified School District
3109 Mt. Pleasant Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53404

WORK SESSION MINUTES

Robert Wittke, Jr., President

Dennis Wiser, Vice President

Racine, Wisconsin

May 23, 2017

On Tuesday, May 23, 2017, the Board of Education of the Racine Unified School District of Racine County, Wisconsin, called to order a Board Work Session at 5:25 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Michael Frontier, John Heckenlively, Steven Hooper, Julie McKenna, Brian O'Connell, Dennis Wiser, and Robert Wittke, Jr. Absent: Michelle Duchow and Matthew Hanser.

Also present: Dennis Cheesebrow, Founder, TeamWorks International; Lolli Haws, Superintendent; and Elizabeth Tobias, Executive Assistant.

Welcome

Mr. Wittke welcomed everyone to the work session and provided opening comments regarding utilizing the professional development sessions with Mr. Cheesebrow as a way to improve the Board's effectiveness and efficiency.

Review of Past Six Months

Mr. Cheesebrow facilitated a discussion of what has worked well within the last six months and what could be better by reviewing with the Board Governance Culture Policies (GC-1 through GC-5).

During the review, the following points were made:

- Maximize work sessions to allow for proper discussion of issues and opportunities as well as Board member differences in viewpoint and opinion
- Utilize the committee structure to maximize communication flow and readiness for Board action at the Business Meeting
- Review Board recognition criteria of individuals and groups
- Manage public comments to allow a variety of interests to be heard within a reasonable timeframe. A reminder was provided that these are Board Works Sessions and Meetings in the public, not meetings of the public
- A good work session question to ask: Is the topic/agenda item ready to move to the Board business agenda?
- Individual Board members need to contact the Superintendent if there are remaining questions after a work session; ask to go through details because of the importance of Board members being prepared. Do not come to the Business Meeting with "surprises" such as questions not submitted according to Board Policy and practice.

- If a Board member is not properly prepared for a Business Meeting agenda item vote, the member may abstain from the vote, and the Board should move forward.
- Articulate the Board's governance roles, responsibilities, and relationship to the Superintendent to increase awareness of future Board members, staff, and community; include this on the RUSD website
- Continue communication of what will be on future agendas (work session and business meeting) to assist Board preparation
- Redraft the board referral process for both policy development as well as proposing agenda items

Board Committee Structure

Mr. Cheesebrow facilitated a discussion on the Board committee structure, including utilizing a Committee of the Whole or developing a mixed design of committees. Highlights from the discussion include:

- Suggestion of Long- Range Finance and Facilities Planning Committees meet every other month. This would be an additional meeting once a month focusing on those topics only.
- Committees should only meet in order to prepare for a work session; need to link committees to work flow, not status.
- Develop a draft of possible committees and what it may look like. Include Public Engagement and Legislative Agenda Committee, Long-Range Finance and Facilities Planning Committee, and Governance Committee as potential committees.

Guiding Change Documents

Mr. Cheesebrow led the Board's discussion in reviewing the Guiding Change documents already developed as well as others that could be of use to the Board.

Adjourn

The session ended at 9:00 p.m.