

Bipartisan bill will keep state's virtual schools online

Frederic, WI - February 6, 2008 -

A bipartisan compromise bill on Wisconsin's virtual schools was adopted unanimously by both the Senate and Assembly Education Committees in Madison last week and will be scheduled for full Senate and Assembly vote when the new session begins later in February.

Grantsburg Schools Superintendent Joni Burgin gave Grantsburg School Board members an update on the pending legislation for virtual schools at the board's regular meeting last week. Burgin, who testified in Madison at the Legislative hearings on the future of virtual schools, reported the compromise bill from Senate and Assembly Education Committees had been drafted by members after hearing testimony in support of the state's 12 virtual schools. Burgin expressed confidence the bill could reach Gov. Doyle's desk by March for the governor's signature.

The board also listened to Insight School of Wisconsin's Quarterly report. Executive director Jeff Bush, Principal, Billy Beesley and operations manager, John Jacobs presented information on the upcoming open enrollment recruiting efforts happening in February. Recruitment will include direct mailings and information sessions in high schools around the state by Insight staff. The virtual school hopes to enroll 700 to 800 new students through these efforts. The school board also received the virtual school's truancy policy draft which they will review before adopting at the board's Feb. 11 meeting.

In other business:

The board heard the report on the second official January student count which was down four students from the September count.

The board voted to approve spending approximately \$11,600 on a new Internet filter subscription. Jesse Byers, the district's technology director, says the new system will have better filters to catch bad Internet sites students may try to access. Byers said the system also has better reporting features. "We will be able to go back in the logs and see if a student really was on an inappropriate site," said Byers.

Elementary Principal Katie Oppenbarger told the board the district's summer school dates will be June 11 through July 9.

The board also received the 2006-2007 School Financial Report Audit from Larry Stotz.

By Priscilla Bauer
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