

Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes**March 2, 2015***Generated by Patrice Iverson***Members present:**

Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, and Chue Xiong

Members absent:

Kathryn Duax and Trish Cummins

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Spindler called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Board Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No one signed up to address the Board.

2. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**2.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Hardebeck reviewed the Board's calendar of upcoming events. She also shared a list of student accomplishments during state tournament competitions. She highlighted the Special Angel's concert performed at North High and invited Board members to attend a similar concert at Memorial High on March 13, 2015.

Dr. Hardebeck said that the Eau Claire Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 100th Anniversary recently. Last month the Chamber recognized 33 different organizations that have been in existence in the Chippewa Valley for at least 100 years. The ECASD was one of those organizations and has been a continuous school district since July 1889. The commemorative plaque that was given to the District was shown and will be displayed in the Board Room.

2.2 Communications to Superintendent/Board President

President Spindler thanked Blythe Wachter who has been the Leader Telegram reporter covering ECASD Board Meetings for her coverage of meetings. She will be moving to a different department and the Board wished her well.

The WPEN group will meet on March 6 at noon at the Chippewa Valley Museum. March 18 will be WASB's Day at the Capitol. Board members were encouraged to attend either of these events.

The Compensation Committees will be convening soon. The entire committee will meet first and then each of the three committees will meet thereafter. The three Board members participating in these committees are Charles Vue, Kathryn Duax and Chris Hambuch-Boyle.

3. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**3.1 Student Representative Report**

Hannah Winegarden talked to club leaders at North High. Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) had an activism about dating violence noting that 1 in 3 students have experienced a violent relationship. Only 20% of these issues are reported. SADD encouraged students to come forward if they experience a traumatic event. SADD is also preparing for the mock car crash before prom week to advise students about the dangers of drinking/driving and making unhealthy choices. A Ping Pong Group was formed at North and there are 54 kids participating. The North Math Team competed at UWEC and finished in 2nd place. Several students competed in the state competition for math. Key Club reported that they have more than 80 active students participating in volunteer work across the community. Each student must complete at least 10 hours per semester and most have well over that already.

Jonah Giese was not present during the report. He arrived at 7:45 p.m.

4. OTHER REPORTS**4.1 Board Committee Reports**

The Policy & Governance Committee discussed the following policies: graduation requirements, voting and conflict of interest.

The Charter/Choice Committee looked at realigning charter contracts with the benchmarks DPI uses for public charter schools. The group has been learning about the planning grant process, different charter/choice options and creating a process to move forward. They also had a discussion about members of the committee attending a STEM Conference in

Cleveland and the Innovative Schools Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

4.2 Budget Update

Dan Van De Water shared an update on budget planning for the 2015-2016 school year and the impact of the Governor's proposed biennium budget on the District. He shared various scenarios based on allowable per pupil increases in revenue limits, per pupil aid, and enrollments. These options included a 1.62% contract salary increase, adjustments to benefit rates, and no increase in all other costs. The District continues to be under the state and comparably-sized districts' averages for administration, direct instruction and total instruction costs per student.

4.3 Legislative Update

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared a handout from WASB that compared state budget provisions between DPI's proposal and the Governor's proposal. WASB also shared its position on key issues in this document. A copy of the WASB Legislative Alert related to vouchers was also distributed. Citizens were urged to contact their local legislators about these matters.

5. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, seconded by Chue Xiong, to approve the following consent resolution agenda items:

- Minutes of Board Meeting – February 16, 2015
- Closed Session minutes from February 16, 2015.
- Human Resources-Employment Report for March 2, 2015.

Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

Abstain: Wendy Sue Johnson

Dr. Hardebeck recognized Kris Dimock who will be retiring at the end of the school year. She thanked Kris for her dedication and exemplary service.

6. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

6.1 Resolution Regarding Governor's Budget Proposal

A copy of a proposed resolution regarding the Governor's Budget Proposal and its impact on the District was shared. President Spindler said that many districts in the state have passed a similar resolution. It was recommended that if adopted, it be sent to the Governor and area legislators. The resolution was read.

Motion by Wendy Sue Johnson, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to adopt resolution regarding Governor's Budget Proposal as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

6.2 WPEN Membership

The Board discussed the potential membership in the Wisconsin Public Education Network at the last meeting. Several questions were asked and answers were shared with the Board.

Motion by Wendy Sue Johnson, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to approve Wisconsin Public Education Network Membership for one year.

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

7. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Post-Secondary Data Report

Jim Schmitt, Director of Assessment & Technology, shared graduate data from the National School Clearinghouse. This is a nationwide source of college enrollment and degree data. More than 3,000 colleges and universities enrolling over 96% of all students in public and private U.S. institutions participate in the Clearinghouse. The District has a four-year graduation rate of 86% and six-year graduation rate of 94%.

Mr. Schmitt shared data comparisons from the class of 2005-06 and the class of 2013-2014. During the 2005-2006 school year the District had an enrollment of 10,809 with a graduating class enrollment of 1,140. The percentage of white students was 85.5%, students with disabilities was 13.6%, economically disadvantaged was 28.2% and English

proficient was 95.3%. The District enrollment in 2013-2014 was 11,032 with a graduating class enrollment of 879. The percentage of white students was 80.3%, students with disabilities was 12.4%, economically disadvantaged was 41.8% and English proficient was 96.7%.

Mr. Schmitt also shared data on the students who went on to post-secondary enrollment and the percentages of students who graduated with an initial degree, those that were retained and those who were no longer enrolled in college nor graduated. This data was broken down by race/ethnicity, gender, disabilities, English proficiency and by performing trends in reading and mathematics. Trends from the Class of 2006 showed that over half of ECASD students earned a post-secondary degree/certification within eight years and at least 87% of the graduates had some sort of post-secondary experience. The percentage of students who graduated with a post-secondary degree was 56.6%, 7.8% of these graduates are still engaged in earning their first degree/certification, and 35.4% are not enrolled nor graduated. Demographic groups tend to show at least a 10% increase in post-secondary enrollment from the first fall through the second year after high school. Performance on grade 8 state assessments predict the likelihood of attending a post-secondary institution, in both reading and mathematics. Students who take at least four credits of high school math are 2.5 times more likely to attend a post-secondary institution than those with less credits.

It was noted that there are some results that are predictable and similar to data across the state, but there are also some challenges that the District needs to overcome. There was discussion about how this information is used to inform decisions that are made about District programs. Some Board members expressed concerns about some of the factors that stood out such as minority students not meeting the national average in participation in post-secondary education.

The Board talked about ways to engage these students after they graduate to answer questions such as: What prepared you for college? How do you define success? Social media may be a way to reach out to students.

8.2 Discussion & Possible 1st Reading of Policy 345.6 - Graduation Requirements

Dr. Hardebeck explained that since there have been changes in legislation related to graduation requirements, it was a good time to update the policy and administrative rules. The rules will be rather extensive and will be developed by administration and staff.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared the first reading of Policy 345.6 - Graduation Requirements:

The School Board awards diplomas to recognize those students who have met District established requirements for high school graduation. The Superintendent and High School Principal(s) shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the graduation of students under this policy. The District's general student nondiscrimination policy applies in all respects to the methods, practices, and materials used for determining the graduation status of students. The administration will promulgate Administrative Rules and Regulations to implement this policy.

This policy will be brought forward for approval on the consent agenda at the next meeting.

8.3 School Day Start Times Report

James Martin and Kay Marks presented on behalf of the Calendar Committee in regards to the Board's charge to the committee to make a preliminary recommendation to commission a study of school day start times. The committee sought input from the Parent Advisory Council, Principals and DLT members and had multiple meetings to review research. In addition, Student Transit reported that start time modifications were possible; however, there would be additional expenses.

Kay Marks shared the research and literature that was reviewed by the Committee. Studies show that running schools at developmentally appropriate hours improves health, academic performance and results in teenagers getting more sleep. There were positive findings that included reduction in car crashes, less absenteeism and improved academic performance. There were also clear benefits with students' health, depression, use of caffeine and other substances. Schools also showed significant increases in student GPA's and found that more students participated in athletics and teams performed better. Studies focused on the social/emotional advantages for students in addition to the academic advantages.

James Martin reviewed lessons learned from other districts that included the importance of leadership, education of the entire community, consensus building of stakeholders, and the impact on athletics and community use of recreational facilities. Other considerations were that one size does not necessarily fit all, adjustments take time, and anticipation is often worse than the reality. Transportation is a major logistical cost factor. There should be a prioritization that sleep health is an important corollary to school start time change. Sometimes parents/students may not take advantage of this additional time and the district may sabotage the effects by having early practice times or early bird classes.

The Committee felt that the District should continue to pursue the investigation of school start times in part due to the research findings and the potential to create positive change for students academically, emotionally and physically.

Using the lessons learned from other districts that have successfully implemented a change in school start times, the Committee believes that to be respectful to all the individuals involved, the Board should consider other obligations of key stakeholders and the complexity of the work proposed when determining the implementation date. The Committee recommended a timeframe with implementation in September 2018. This would include 6-8 months of study, 7-9 months of planning and 7-9 months of preparation to carry out an action plan. An alternate timeframe would move

quicker and be implemented in September 2017.

There was a discussion about the number of initiatives/studies the District has going on right now including the Compensation Committee Study and planning for a referendum. Dr. Hardebeck will talk with the agenda setting team about the logistics of moving forward with a school day start time study. Dr. Hardebeck was asked to give a recommendation on who could be on this committee. This topic will be discussed again at an upcoming Board meeting.

9. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9.1 There were no requests for future agenda items.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 There were no other matters brought before the Board.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Chue Xiong, second by Charles Vue, to adjourn meeting.

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.