

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, APRIL 5, 2010
PRESIDENT CRAIG PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Craig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed and was in compliance with the open meeting law.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: Bollinger. Student Representatives Marcus Liddell and Brittany Landorf were also present.

NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION

President Craig announced that the Board would go into closed session following the committee meeting under 19.85 (1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, and 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one signed up to address the Board.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann said the Race to the Top Winners were recently announced and Delaware and Tennessee received the funding. Wisconsin was eliminated in the first round. States that did not win Phase I funding can reapply for the remaining \$3.4 billion in Phase II. Dr. Heilmann said he has been asked to work with DPI to assist with those planning efforts. The Obama administration is seeking an additional \$1.35 billion in the fiscal year 2011 federal budget, which will permit individual school districts and not-for-profits to compete.

The ECASD received \$1.056 million as part of a settlement agreement with Microsoft. The funds were directed to 800 low-income schools to secure new technology. These schools may begin using their vouchers immediately to be reimbursed for certain hardware and software purchases made since last June or the vouchers can be used to

fund new technology purchases. The district has up to four years to use the vouchers but it was noted that they must supplement but not supplant technology.

Dr. Heilmann reminded everyone to vote on April 6th. He said that many schools serve as voting precincts, and the district welcomes the community into the schools. He reminded the public that school will be in session and if anyone wishes to go to places in the school buildings other than where voting occurs, they should sign in at the office area as a visitor.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig received information for the WASB Spring Academy, which will be held in Wisconsin Dells on May 8th. The event is devoted to effective governance strategies and all Board members were encouraged to attend.

Board members were asked to sign up to attend the district's Years of Service Recognition events.

Board members received several packets of letters from Memorial High School students that were written in their civic classes. She said the Board appreciates the thoughts and civic mindedness of the students, and although they can't all be answered the Board appreciates the feedback. The letters seemed to center on four categories: cell phone usage, grading system and plus/minus grades, security cameras, and advanced placement courses.

Student Representative Report

Brittany Landorf said a group of Memorial students are working on a presentation for the Board regarding a composting project.

Marcus Liddell said he is looking forward to discussions about changes in the cell phone policy.

Other Reports

State of the Schools Report – Northwoods Elementary School

Northwoods Principal Lynn McNish said that Northwoods is 16 years young! Their mission statement is: We promise to be a team that shows respect, acts safely and responsibly while learning together. Enrollments have gone from 367 in 2006-07 to 387 in 2008-09. Northwoods is a special education cluster site and about 9% of the population are students with special needs. The free/reduced percentages have increased slightly in the past three years from 32% to 37%, and the percentage of Caucasians at Northwoods is 90%.

Northwoods staff worked on a five-year goal focused on the areas of knowing and telling in math. They also have a behavior goal so that student aggression will be

reduced. Northwoods will have a PBIS goal for next year. Ms. McNish reviewed the attainment of these goals. There has been growth on math constructed responses and when staff work on specific targeted areas, students do show progress. In the area of reduction of aggression, there has been success in lowering the number of incidents. All grade levels have completed the behavior scope and sequence instruction for restitution in classrooms, and 85% of the teachers completed 100% of the second step lessons, which is a violence prevention program.

Ms. McNish talked about two very successful partnerships with UW-Stout and UW-Eau Claire. Kindergarten students are targeted in the program with UW-Stout to provide students with six more hours of language arts exposure. This also gives the university students hands-on experience. The program is offered in the fall and spring and serves 30 to 40 children each semester. There have been 425 kindergarten served in this program since 2004. The UW-Eau Claire partnership targets children in grades 1-5 and more recently in grades 1-2. This gives Northwoods students about 16 additional hours of language arts experience. Over 1,690 students have received these services in the last ten years.

Northwoods has a very successful Chess Club that was formed in 2002 for fourth and fifth graders. Over 30-40 children attend this program weekly.

Update on Health Insurance Renewal Rates & Wellness Activities

Dr. Weissenburger said the district has placed more emphasis on employee wellness as the cost of health insurance has continued to rise. A Wellness Committee of interested staff members has been formed and James Martin, Michele Wiberg and Connie Wislinsky have lead the group.

James Martin said that health insurance increases averaged 30 percent over the previous year. Group Health required that 90% of insured staff and their spouses be involved in a health risk assessment process by taking an online survey, biometric assessment, and following up with a Group Health wellness coach to review results and suggest behavioral changes in order to cap rates at 14%. The district was pleased to note that 97% of staff participated and the goal was achieved. The forecast for next year's renewals rates shows increases in the single digits. It is recommended that the health risk assessment process should be continued because it is felt it helped promote healthier lifestyles and assisted with proactively identifying health concerns.

Michele Wiberg said the District Insurance Committee recognized the serious impact of insurance premium increases on both the employees and the district. Studies have shown that the annual return on investment for worksite wellness programs has been \$3 to \$6 saved in health care costs for every \$1 spent. It was recommended that the District Wellness Committee be re-established. Members of the District Insurance Committee, Associated Financial and Group Health met to facilitate the creation of a wellness task force and volunteers were solicited from throughout the district.

The Wellness Committee began monthly meetings in January. They researched and studied wellness programs; brainstormed branding, slogan and logo; discussed Wellness Committee representation and recruitment; and initiated planning for a district wellness kickoff. Two surveys were developed and administered: a district culture survey and a staff needs/interest survey. Results showed that district employees want to be healthy and they have co-workers that support their efforts.

Potential district wellness activities could be a fall kickoff, educational campaigns, site-based stress/time management seminars, site-based organized physical activities, holiday bake and take, healthy cooking seminars, and district-wide fitness programs. Moving forward the focus will be on more than just physical activity. There will be an emphasis on employee's mental, social, emotional, and nutritional needs. The overall goal is to have happy and healthy employees.

Policy and Governance Committee

The committee will meet on April 6th to consider priority orders for policies based on feedback obtained from Board members.

Budget Development Committee

There was no update.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 5 & 7 from the consent agenda.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to approve the consent resolution agenda consisting of the following items:

- ◆ The minutes of closed session of March 9, 2010.
- ◆ Board meeting minutes of March 15, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of March 15, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The matters of employment of April 5, 2010, as presented.
- ◆ §66.0301 Cooperative Agreement Between the Eau Claire Area School District, McKinley Charter School Governance Board and the Altoona School District

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #5 – Inter-district State Open Enrollment Requests

Com. Duax asked why so many students leave the district through open enrollment. Mr. Leibham explained that although there were 300 requests, that is not necessarily the number of students who will leave the district. Students can apply to open enroll in three other districts. Many of these students are home schooled.

Mr. Leibham noted that there has also been an increase in the number of students requesting to come into the district. He attributes that to the fact that some schools that had been closed to open enrollment in the past are now allowing students to enroll if there is space available.

Com. Duax suggested that the district consider starting a virtual school to provide students more options and thus prevent some of them from open enrolling to other districts that offer virtual schools.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to approve inter-district state open enrollment requests as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #7 -- Revisions to *ECASD Policy 830 – Use of School Facilities*

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to approve revisions to *ECASD Policy 830 – Use of Facilities*. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Abstained: Faanes.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
APRIL 5, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Members present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: Bollinger. Student Representatives Brittany Landorf and Marcus Liddell were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

President Craig said Committee Report #3 will be amended and the topic of reductions in elementary art will be postponed.

A. Impact of Increase of Athletic Fees and Other Factors Influencing Student Participation in Athletics

Memorial Assistant Principal Sue Steffes shared data with the Board comparing student participation in athletics after an increase in athletic fees was implemented in 2009-10. The number of students participating in athletics at North increased and Memorial went down slightly, thus they came to the conclusion that overall the increase in fees didn't have an impact on participation. In the future comparisons will be made looking at free/reduced numbers but that data wasn't available in 2008-09. Ms. Steffes said that in reviewing participation in the past five years there really hasn't been a large decrease since fees were implemented.

The financial impact (taking into consideration the salaries, other athletic costs, participation fees and money provided by the Booster Clubs) showed a positive budget impact of about \$200,000 from the previous year. It was noted that there was a fairly substantial decrease in salary/benefits for high school athletics in 2009-10. This was due to the elimination of the athletic director positions.

Gate receipts were not included in the budget figures. Mr. Van De Water said the budget for this year's co-curricular admissions is \$168,000 and as of February, \$146,000 has been collected. Board members asked that gate receipts be included on public documents regarding athletic costs.

Booster Club contributions were discussed. For next year, North Booster Club allocated \$34,000 to assist the athletic department and Memorial Booster Club typically contributes between \$50,000 and \$60,000 for uniforms and equipment. Mr. Van De Water said the Booster Club monies go into Fund 21. He said those contributions could be foot noted.

Marcus Liddell said that coaches have expressed a desire to get more free/reduced kids participating in their sports. He said from the students' standpoint, just about everyone he talks to would rather pay more to be in sports than to eliminate them. Brittany Landorf agreed with incorporating free/reduced students into the athletic program.

President Craig reviewed information regarding the number of athletes that qualified for free/reduced meals. She said the district should continue to promote the idea that families that qualify for free/reduced meals should complete the application so the fees can be lowered or waived. The Board asked to see additional data on the number of athletes that qualify for free/reduced meals. There was also discussion about having students complete a survey to determine what other information might be relevant to students' participation in extracurricular activities. Along the same lines, did some two- or three-sport athletes only go out for one sport because of the costs?

The Board was satisfied with leaving the existing fee structure in place.

B. Recommended Revisions to *ECASD Policy 672--Purchasing*

President Craig said the Policy & Governance Committee reviewed and updated *Policy 672 – Purchasing*. She said the committee feels that the updates fit community values, reflect the philosophy of the district and are workable from an administrative point of view. She discussed the updated language in the policy.

Mr. Van De Water said the committee worked with Mr. Kramer, Mr. Noffke and him; it was felt that the updates give more definition of how the district goes about the procurement process and gives administration sufficient detail to base the rules around it. He said some work needs to be done to update the procurement manual but feels the policy does a good job of outlining the process.

Com. Shiel asked to add the following sentence to the sixth paragraph: "The district will publish how to become prequalified on the website." Mr. Kramer noted that businesses can currently access the information on the website or by calling the Buildings & Grounds Department. It has the instructions for getting prequalified, which has to be done for all contractors the district accepts bids from.

It was asked that the sentence that says, "Competitive bids or quotations shall be sought on purchases where quantity or costs involved warrant such handling" have the words, 'as found in procurement manual' added.

There was some concern about stating that purchasing shall be in accordance with the procurement manual without the Board approving that

manual. The Policy & Governance Committee will discuss options for resolving this matter and bring it back the full Board.

C. The Impact of Budget Reductions in Elementary Art & Field Trips

President Craig said the topic of reductions in elementary art will be postponed.

Ms. Kris Dimock, Director of Pre-K/Elementary Education, said that a year ago the Board put a moratorium on district funded field trips. Through the diligent work of Eau Claire United PTA/PTO many of the field trips were funded during the year. She said that field trips are developed as part of the curriculum revision process to extend classroom learning. Approximately 4,500 students participate in field trips each year.

Ms. Dimock shared a budget sheet that Eau Claire United PTA/PTO developed that showed projections compared to actualities. Some of the field trips were reworked to be more cost effective. For instance, they worked collaboratively with the public library so first and second graders participated in a trip to the public library where many received library cards so they could access books there. Some other changes included the Blugold Beginnings program, which is a partnership with UW-Eau Claire to provide kids with the opportunity to be mentored by college students and for all fifth graders to visit the university and find out what college looks like. This program inspires students to believe that higher education is important and possible for them.

The grades four and five UW-Eau Claire concerts were not held due to the elimination of the music coordinator positions. The fifth grade Jogathon was also not held due to the elimination of the physical education coordinator positions. United PTA/PTO did raise funding for the fifth grade track/field day and the physical education teachers agreed to coordinate that through their regular work day.

Ms. Dimock said it is difficult to look at field trips through the lens of transformational readiness standards because there isn't a formal assessment to judge whether they are helping students in the areas of social emotional learning. She said it's difficult to measure the impact a trip to the public library has to a child who has never been there and now has access to books, resources, etc. The Blugold Beginnings is an example of helping many students whose parents might not have access to post secondary opportunities to know what's out there. Ms. Dimock said it is important to recognize that even though there is no formal assessment tool, you have to put some sort of value on community partnerships. She said even though field trips might not directly connect to TRS, it may be possible

to make changes with the current field trips to increase their value and connection to TRS. Some changes could be made to be more cost effective.

It was pointed out that secondary field trips were not included in this report. Ann Franke, Director of Secondary Education, explained that field trips at the secondary level are not as tightly coordinated as elementary field trips. There are parameters in budgeting instructions at the secondary level, but each building makes its own decisions. And oftentimes students also provide input into what those trips are. It was suggested that conversations take place with secondary principals so field trips have a specific purpose in mind.

After discussions the Board leaned towards the probability of exploring options to add back some field trips. There were some concerns about what would have to be cut from the budget to fund them, however.

The Board wanted to address all field trips, not just those at the elementary level. The Board asked that administration use criteria to determine field trips that have the most benefit to students, increase the value and connections to TRS goals, and have the most long-term impact on student development. They should also eliminate potential duplication. The rationale should reflect community values and educational decision making.

Diane Willer from United PTA/PTO said that field trips are very important and it is hard to measure the value on what kids get from them. She said the hands-on experience and classroom coordination is a good learning experience and they are also important community partnerships. Ms. Willer said their group asked for and received reduced fees with several organizations. She strongly encouraged the Board to keep field trips in place.

Leslie Stahl said that not all families have the resources to take kids to places like the Museum or Ice Age Trail. She said because the Board chose to put a moratorium on field trips for one year, there would be a way to re-establish them. She felt the community spoke by making donations and people want field trips for kids.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Johnson asked how to begin the concept of the community “buying” naming rights. Dr. Heilmann said he could address this at the next Community Communication meeting and come up with a list of possible options.

Com. Shiel asked for another update on Transformational Readiness Standards.

Com. Duax asked if the development of a policy to address distribution of materials could be moved up on the Futures Agenda. Dr. Heilmann said he could do that. Mr. Leibham added that the district now has a process in place that complies with the Equal Access Act where four times a year all community agencies are allowed to distribute age-appropriate materials to families through the students. Groups are still able to communicate information through the partnership coordinators or newsletters.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to go into closed session under 19.85 (1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations, and 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

7. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 pm.