

## **Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes Monday, November 2, 2015**

*Generated by Patti Iverson*

### **Members present**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong, and Wendy Sue Johnson (arrived at 7:55 pm).

### **Member absent**

Kathryn P Duax.

## **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**

Heidi James and several of her colleagues from North spoke about the things that staff do to help students reach their full potential so they can thrive. She said that educators are inspiring a new kind of learning and making sure that students' human needs are being met.

Liz Krieg and Teri Van Dyke work in the English Department and shared samples of the work they do with students to help them read. They use Socratic Seminars to help students determine deeper meaning in the text.

Spanish teacher, Pam Bunge, talks to students about communicating with people of diverse cultures and to discourage prejudice. To facilitate communication they practice reading, writing, and speaking skills.

Carrie Carlson shared how staff collaborated on a project with Feed My People to help meet the basic needs of students. Food is sent home with students on the weekend.

Jan Bowe from the technology engineering department spoke about ways to support innovative ideas of students by offering over 30 classes, which prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students have an opportunity to earn transcribed credit and undergraduate credit.

Mark Goings was accompanied by three Boy Scouts who were at the meeting to learn about government. Two of those boys shared the following thoughts:

*Isaac said he used to go to Montessori but it was too far of a drive so he transferred to Robbins. He said they introduced him to his teacher who was nice and showed him around the school. He made a friend at recess. Isaac said he likes Robbins.*

*Nathan explained that he had trouble multiplying by 9, and when he told his teacher, she showed him a trick that really helped him remember.*

### **3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **3.1 Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Hardebeck shared a list of upcoming Board of Education events.

#### **3.2 Board President's Report**

President Spindler thanked those who attended the community forums that were held. He reminded Board members to complete the WASB Board Development Tool. If Board members want to attend any upcoming School Board conferences, they should contact Patti Iverson.

Mr. Spindler recognized Rachel Hedberg, a parent in the District who was active in Northwoods PTO and the Parent Advisory Council, who passed away unexpectedly. He sent condolences to the family from the Board.

### **4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

#### **4.1 Student Representative Report**

Jason Lin apologized for comments he made at the last Board meeting that may have shed a negative light on a few teachers at Memorial. He said they are amazing teachers who love to teach and care about the ECASD. Jason went on to share highlights of events that have taken place at Memorial. Emily Surges also shared highlights of events that have taken place at North.

### **5. OTHER REPORTS**

#### **5.1 Board Committee Reports**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle reviewed the work of the Policy & Governance Committee. The following policies have been discussed and will be brought forward for Board discussion: Policies 460, 840, 154, 230, 225, 655.1 and 411. On November 16<sup>th</sup> they will discuss a new policy on innovation zones and filling vacant Board positions in addition to Policies 224, 221, and 222. On December 7<sup>th</sup> the committee will look at new Policies 447.11, 342.7, 342.8, and 343.2. On December 21<sup>st</sup> they will look at policies for course options and fraud prevention.

The committee also took action to look at an exit interview policy as part of an upcoming Work Session.

## **5.2 Legislative Update**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared an update from WASB regarding the statewide voucher program. There are 2,514 students who are receiving vouchers to attend private schools. Of the 1,640 new students enrolled in the statewide program for 2015-16, 19.1% had attended a Wisconsin public school the previous year, while 74.8% had already attended a private school. Private schools taking part in the voucher programs this year receive \$7,214 per student in grades K-8 and \$7,860 for each high school student. The 142 districts affected by the program stand to lose \$11.9 million in state aid this year.

A bill was passed in the Assembly that will allow a parent or guardian to opt their child out of taking any examination that is required by state or federal law.

## **6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Motion by Chue Xiong, second by Joe Luginbill, to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of special closed session of October 12, 2015
- Minutes of closed session of October 19, 2015
- Minutes of special meeting of October 26, 2015.
- Human Resources – Employment Report of November 2, 2015

Final Resolution: Motion carried

Yes: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Chue Xiong

Abstain: Charles Vue

## **7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)**

### **Minutes of October 19, 2015**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle said that Kathryn Duax also attended the WASB Regional meeting and asked that the minutes be amended.

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, seconded by Joe Luginbill, to approve the minutes of October 19, 2015 as amended.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

## **Approve Quit Claim Deed**

Larry Sommerfeld said the parcel in question was part of the DeLong property. It was a street right-of-way that was never turned into a street. In 1989 the Board approved the sale to the owners. There was an error by the City of Eau Claire in recording the deed and this action would correct that.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Chue Xiong, to approve Quit Claim Deed as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

## **8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE**

### **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **9.1 Collaborative Effort with Eau Claire Water Safety Task Force**

Kari Winker and David Whitehouse are members of the Eau Claire Water Safety Task Force and were present to discuss this organization and share the history of how it was formed. The task force consists of people from the Eau Claire area from 16 different organizations that are working to help prevent drowning or water-related fatalities through proactive efforts to educate citizens about water safety and by learning from past tragedies. A way to do this is by developing an educational program geared toward water safety.

David shared some of the different projects that have already been undertaken to promote water safety. He also reviewed the statistics linked to the number of water-related deaths since 2002. There have been 24 deaths and 50% of those deaths were alcohol related. One-third of the deaths were young adults aged 20-24 and 92% were males.

Surveys have been conducted with fourth graders and at the high school level. Kari shared results of those surveys noting that students' confidence as swimmers is far higher than their self-described ability at the elementary level, and high school students tend to overemphasize their ability to swim safely as compared to their inability to perform basic survival swimming functions.

Wendy Sue Johnson arrived at 7:55 p.m.

The task force has been working to develop action steps in the community

and is looking at the role the School District could play in educating students about water safety. The high school curriculum has been revamped over the last three years. They asked for support from the District in terms of resources, manpower, a screening process and targeted interventions.

The Board discussed ways to connect with the Hmong community. In addition, they talked about ways to provide services for families with little financial resources. Being able to provide resources during the school day through physical education classes could be beneficial.

## **9.2 Start-Time Committee Update**

Kay Marks, Executive Director of Human Resources, said the Start-Time Committee consists of 15 employees from all levels as well as students, parents, business partners and community members. Mark Goings and Heather Grant are the co-chairs.

Mr. Goings reviewed the charge of the committee and research that was reviewed by the committee related to school start times. He shared a sample of the start times from other districts in the state as well as the current bell schedules in Eau Claire. Transportation considerations play a big factor in all options; to maximum efficiencies there needs to be a difference in start times by level because the buses run double routes.

The committee came up with four options for the Board to consider:

Option A – Flip elementary and secondary start times so that elementary schools start first and then secondary schools start later. It was estimated there would be a minimum cost of \$750,000 for additional transportation costs annually with this option. It would not take into account the potential impact of Prairie Ridge and private schools start/end times.

Option B – Have every school start later. There would be no additional transportation costs for this option but Student Transit would have to monitor driver retention issues due to the later work day.

Option C – Keep elementary start times the same and secondary schools start later than they currently do. Additional costs of \$5-\$6 million annually above current transportation budget. There would also be transition costs for the first year of additional equipment and staff costs would come through in the contract.

Option D – Keep start times as they currently are. There would be no additional costs with this option. It would maintain the status quo.

The pros/cons of each option were also shared, which included items such as daycare needs for elementary students, the effects on jobs and extra-curriculars for the high school students, and the ability to find bus drivers with the various options.

Marty from Student Transit said that if there could be more flexibility with the number of minutes in the day or a longer calendar year, the costs could be optimized and perhaps be cost neutral. Mr. Goings stated that the Calendar Committee felt there were many benefits of going to the revised calendar for 2015-16, which included staff development and built in snow days.

The Board discussed the various options. Most Board members seemed to favor Option A (or some variation of that plan utilizing a change in number of minutes of instruction per day to lower the financial impact) or Option D. Chris Hambuch-Boyle expressed concerns about the impact on younger students, especially those who will be bussed and who could have very early mornings catching the bus. The Board contemplated what could be added to the budget to do what is best for all students and still accommodate staff.

Mr. Goings said that as far as shortening the day, that wouldn't be the committee's decision to change the calendar. They would have to be directed to do that. Dr. Hardebeck said if the Board looked at shortening the day, the Calendar Committee would have to work in concert with the Start Time Committee.

Jason Lin felt students might be discouraged from participating in after-school activities if Option A were initiated because they would extend into the evening hours. He suggested that students and the community be surveyed to see how they feel about the proposals. Emily Surges felt that if activities were pushed later into the evening, kids would stay up later to complete studying so they wouldn't be getting the extra sleep anyway.

The Board asked that both committees meet together and look at what is best for students yet gives staff the professional development they need. If more input is needed for the committees, they were asked to bring it back to the Board for discussion. Ms. Marks felt it would be difficult to have a plan put together by February if both committees needed to be convened together.

### **9.3 Community Forums - Impact on Referendum Planning**

Rich Spindler said that the Budget Development Committee set up a timeframe for the Board to consider with regards to making a decision about going to referendum. That was shared with the Board.

It was suggested that Mr. Ojibway, who served as the facilitator at the forums, be contacted to see if he could do a debriefing with the Board.

Board members discussed what they heard at the forums. Common themes included the recruitment and retention of highly-qualified staff, student support services and in-school programming. Several participants wanted to go above the status quo and add things back into the budget so the District can thrive.

The Board talked about ways to get the word out to the community by visiting service clubs, businesses and PTA/PTOs and sharing the information.

It was suggested that it would be important to tie the referendum with the Strategic Plan, Board/District Goals and relevance in student achievement and social/emotional growth. Therefore, staff from Teaching & Learning should also attend the Budget Development Meeting. In addition, the Compensation Study would factor into those discussions as well.

The Budget Development Committee was asked to come up with a list of items that would be considered priorities to add into a possible referendum. They were asked to find out what the cost would be for those items and to bring them back to the Board at the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting with a recommendation for the entire Board. The Board will have to weigh what it thinks the public will support and would be willing to pay for property taxes.

#### **9.4 Discussion and Possible First Reading of Policy 655.1 - Activity Passes**

Joe Luginbill said that he had an adult with a disability contact him asking if the Board had ever considered allowing adults with disabilities to be eligible for a free lifetime pass. He brought the proposal forward to P & G.

Joe Luginbill shared a first reading of Policy 655.1 – Activity Passes:

*Activity passes allow the holder entrance to all district-sponsored regular season athletic contests and fine and performing arts activities.*

*Family activity passes are available for purchase. This pass allows admittance for family members and guardians who live within the household of ECASD students.*

*Employees eligible to purchase activity passes include regular employees, interns, people with emergency contracts, noon-hour supervisors, CESA employees assigned 100 percent to the*

*Eau Claire schools, long-term substitutes, and regular substitutes working more than 50 days who receive the higher rate of pay either during the present year or the year prior.*

*Passes issued will be Eau Claire Area School District passes and honored by North and Memorial high schools.*

*Residents of the ECASD who are 62 or older and adults with disabilities will be admitted free to school events by presenting their Platinum activity pass. This lifetime pass may be obtained at the Superintendent's office or at Memorial and North high schools.*

*In addition, all ECASD high school students will receive free admission to events with their current student ID.*

Wendy Sue Johnson proposed that the third paragraph be amended to take out "who receive the higher rate of pay."

Joe Luginbill reread the policy with the change in the third paragraph as amended:

*Employees eligible to purchase activity passes include regular employees, interns, people with emergency contracts, noon-hour supervisors, CESA employees assigned 100 percent to the Eau Claire schools, long-term substitutes, and regular substitutes working more than 50 days during the present year or the year prior.*

This policy will be brought forward as a consent resolution item at the next meeting.

## **10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no requests for future agenda items.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other matters brought before the Board.

## **12. ADJOURN**

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to adjourn meeting.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.