

**Eau Claire School Board Minutes**  
**Monday, November 6, 2017**

*Generated by Patti Iverson*

**Members present**

Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Lori Bica

**Member absent**

Eric Torres

**1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Hambuch-Boyle 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.

**3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**3.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Hardebeck reviewed the Board's calendar of upcoming events.

Dr. Hardebeck recognized members of Boy Scout Troop 30 who were present. She said they were working to earn a badge. She welcomed them to the meeting.

Dr. Hardebeck said that the following student athletes recently earned Academic All-State Honors from the Golf Coaches Association of Wisconsin: North students include Tiana Martin, Sydney Brown, Haley Cronin and Allison Brommer. Memorial students include Maddy Logan, Rebekah Gerry, Nicole Larson, Lexi Meade and Katelyn Mongerson. Students are nominated by member coaches and must have at least a 3.25 GPA, play in 75 percent of their team's matches, and be a sophomore or older in school.

Dr. Hardebeck reminded the Board that the Chamber will hold its monthly Egg's & Issues on Friday, November 17, 2017 and the guest speaker will be Todd Berry.

**3.2 Board President's Report**

President Chris Hambuch-Boyle recognized Commissioner Joe Luginbill who received the Distinguished Service Award at the Wisconsin Art Education Association's State Conference.

The WASB State Convention will be held on January 17-19, 2018 in Milwaukee.

Any Board members interested in attending should let Patti Iverson know.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle said all schools have Veterans Day programs scheduled on November 10th. Northstar will host the city-wide presentation on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:10 a.m.

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

Lauren Priem highlighted many athletic and extra-curricular events going on at Memorial. She said that the Student Council presented a grant to special education classes to purchase materials. She also said that the National Honor Society and Student Council are conducting a toy drive to support the cross-country team, which is sending toys and gifts to students affected by the recent hurricanes.

Ryan Cramer said he and two other North students are serving on the Academic Recognition System Sub-Committee. He believes there should be different ways to recognize students rather than by Grade Point Average to take into consideration class rigor and other factors. Ryan and other students are meeting with administrators to review the course catalog. Ryan thanked Mr. Jim Schmitt for sharing these opportunities with students.

#### **5. OTHER REPORTS**

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

The Public Schools Foundation met and approved allocations for grants submitted by teachers.

Kathryn Duax attended the WASB Legislative Advocacy Conference and shared a report on the sessions she participated in.

The Budget Development Committee will meet on November 8, 2017 and will discuss OPEB.

The LEAP Committee will give a presentation at the CESA 10 Board of Control Meeting on November 9th at 6:30 p.m. to share information about the innovation zones and the LEAP Policy.

The Policy & Governance Committee discussed a new policy on online solicitations (crowdfunding and crowdsourcing) that will come forward to the Board at the next meeting for discussion and a possible first reading. An Exhibit will also be drafted that will include the pre-approved sites for online solicitations. There are two sub-committees working on information for two separate policies. One group is developing a job description for the School Resource Officers to include in policy and the other is studying the Academic Recognition System Policy and will make a recommendation to P & G.

## **5.2 Legislative Update**

Legislative Liaison Joe Luginbill has received the proposed resolutions that were approved for the WASB Delegate Assembly. The resolution the District submitted was approved and Mr. Luginbill will be presenting that resolution to the assembly. Kathryn Duax will serve as the Board's delegate at that session.

The House Committee on Ways and Means is deliberating on the federal tax reform package. One of the provisions of the plan would repeal the \$250 tax deduction currently available to teachers who use their personal funds to purchase instructional materials and classroom supplies for students.

The state is discussing legislation that would make the state a "constitutional carry" state, where people could carry concealed guns without having to get training or permits. As written, it would limit the ability of school districts to restrict guns on school grounds, particularly in parking lots. This bill would focus on allowing permit-less carry to be legal in the state. WASB strongly opposes this proposed legislation.

Mr. Luginbill said that the City Council is looking to increase bus fares for K-12 students in its budget. This would equate to a \$50 increase per semester for those students who use city transportation. It was noted that UWEC students can ride for free with a student ID but ECASD students cannot.

## **6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Aaron Harder, to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of October 23, 2017
- Minutes of Special Budget Meeting - October 25, 2017
- Minutes of Closed Session - October 23, 2017
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Student Transit Contract
- Memorial High School Secure Entrance

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Lori Bica

Dr. Hardebeck said that included in the Employment Report was the retirement of Tim Leibham who has been in the District for 25 years. Mr. Leibham will be retiring at the end of the school year and she noted the contributions he has given to the District.

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

**7.1 Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing in Amount Not to Exceed \$7,000,000 Pursuant to Section 67.12(8)(a)1, WIS. STATS.**

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, explained that once a year ECASD must short-term borrow for cash flow purposes. She said this is due to the timing difference between when the District receives revenue and when it makes expenditures. The District solicited 17 bids and 5 bids from 3 different bidders were received. It was recommended that the District award Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. with a note for \$3,000,000 at a net effective interest rate of 1.2638% and Oppenheimer & Co., Inc., with a note for \$4,000,000 at a net effective rate of 1.4333%.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Charles Vue, that the Board of Education award the sale of a tax and revenue anticipation notes in the amount of \$3,000,000 at a net effective interest rate of 1.2638% to Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated and in the amount of \$4,000,000 at a net effective interest rate of 1.4333% to Oppenheimer & Co., Inc. with aggregate principal sum of not to exceed \$7,000,000 for the period of November 10, 2017 through August 22, 2018.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Lori Bica

## **8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE**

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

### **9.1 Opening of School & Equity Report - Part II**

Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, explained that this was the second part of the Opening of School and Equity Report, which would focus on the results of the Strategic Plan work.

Mr. Schmitt said that the District continues to out-perform the state at all levels. The District is making small increases in most areas but there is still work to be done to close the gaps with all students at all levels.

The five-year Wisconsin Student Assessment Reading Trend for grades 3-8 was reviewed. The District's 2017-18 goal is to get to 52% on all exams with a long-term goal of 80%. ECASD consistently scores above the state. In looking at the risk ratio for third grade reading, there are several segments of the population that need additional support to close the achievement gap. This includes Black and Hispanic students as well as students with disabilities, those that are economically disadvantaged, and those that are limited English proficient.

Five-year trends for mathematics show that ECASD consistently scores above the state in mathematics and has improved mathematics achievement while the state's overall mathematics achievement has decreased over the past five years. Those 8<sup>th</sup> grade students at risk in math include students with disabilities, those that are economically disadvantaged, and those that are limited English proficient.

The ACT composite score for students in grade 11 increased from 21.4 to 21.7. The goal for 2017-18 is 21.8 with a long-term goal of 22. The District scores above the state and the nation on the composite score. The District was a year ahead of the state in that it had all juniors take the test. The District's composite score went from 21.4 to 21.7; the goal is 21.8 and long-term goal is 22. Those groups most at risk are Asian, Black, Hispanic, those with disabilities, those economically disadvantaged, and those with limited English proficiency.

In 2015-16, 49.6% of students had a post-secondary experience, in 2016-17 that increased to 62.8% and in 2017-18 that was 67.9%. This could include advanced placement classes, transcribed credits, business academies where they earn delayed credit or take courses and earn a score, internships, and work programs.

There was a small dip in attendance in 2016-17 as the percentage was slightly below the state average.

At the middle school level, 87.6% of students participate in fine arts courses and at the high school level 47.3% of students participate. Mr. Schmitt was asked to get four-year trends for participation in fine arts. He was also asked to submit participation rates for just 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for art and music since it is required in grades 6 and 7.

Students in grades 6 through 12 show a participation rate of 58.2% in after-school activities. A study of the impact of athletic fees on participation rates was requested.

When 2017 graduates were asked what their post-secondary plans were 59% said they planned to attend a four-year college or university, 19% planned to attend a technical or community college with the intent of transferring to a four-year college, and 10% planned to attend a technical or community college to earn an applied skills degree. Mr. Schmitt was asked what the ACT scores were for those students who planned to attend a four-year college.

The number of office discipline referrals have declined over time. The four-year average for students that were in seclusion has dropped by 21.7. There has also been a drop in the four-year average for students that had to be restrained. Over the past five years there has been an increase in the percentage of suspensions in the District but that seems to have plateaued. During the 2016-17 school year, 238 students had out of school suspensions and 64 had in school suspensions.

Mr. Schmitt was asked if he could provide information on office referrals using the same kind of risk ratios used for reading and math. Dr. Hardebeck added that the District could look to see if students of color who commit the same offense as white students receive the same consequences.

It was suggested that the Board consider forming an equity committee to look at not only the achievement gap for students of color, but some of these other areas as well.

Dr. Hardebeck felt the Board could have an upcoming Work Session to dig into the data more deeply in all areas. She added that there could also be focus groups scheduled with students of color and their families to gain information on what they think they are missing. The focus groups could also consider strategies to close the achievement gap.

## **9.2 Review and Discuss School Board Handbook**

A draft of the School Board Handbook was shared with the Board, and Board members were asked to provide feedback or to share any proposed modifications.

Some suggestions included:

- Add information on guidelines for Board use of social media and archiving pages.
- More clearly define the roles of Board officers. Perhaps links from WASB could be included that are more explicit on what the expectations are for officers.
- Page 14 talks about disciplining Board members. One thing included in this section was how Board members could initiate a recall election for officials. It was felt this was not a function of the Board and that paragraph should be removed.
- Page 16 gives procedures for School Board correspondence. The Superintendent's contract says that complaints or concerns should be forwarded to the Superintendent but the Handbook says that all correspondence should be referred to the Superintendent. It was felt that the Superintendent would not want every correspondence to be sent. Clarification was asked for on that item.
- Page 16 says that individual Board members shall not make requests for printing, PowerPoint presentations or media work of the Superintendent, whether for use in their capacity as Board members or in the community, without bringing the request to the full Board for approval. Committee chairs have asked the Administrative Assistant to print things or assist with documents and that isn't specifically addressed in the Handbook.
- Include information from Key Works on the role the Superintendent plays and the role School Board members play. Either that information should be included in the Handbook or a reference should be made that the Board follows that model.
- The Handbook includes the outline of two somewhat oppositional governance models. Either one should be omitted or a hybrid should be developed and included.
- Consider adding a check list for new Board members. This could be a list of the information received by new Board members by the Superintendent during orientation.

President Hambuch-Boyle asked that if Board members had any other modifications, they should submit them to her or Patti Iverson who will make revisions. The handbook will be approved by the Board at an upcoming meeting.

### **9.3 Discuss Work Sessions & Summer Meeting Schedule**

Superintendent Hardebeck proposed that the School Board hold one meeting in June (June 4) and one meeting in July (July 23 or 30) to accommodate administrators and Board members who may have summer trips planned. In addition, President Chris Hambuch-Boyle asked the Board to consider holding a Work Session each month starting in January.

A proposal for these recommendations will be brought to the Board at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **9.4 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 825 - Distribution of Non-School-Related Materials**

The Board shared a first reading of Policy 825:

The purpose of sharing materials from non-school sources is to provide information to families about community resources, programs and activities for school-aged students and families. The Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) shall share such information for school-age students. School partnership coordinators play an important role in communicating this information.

As a service to the community, the ECASD provides electronic flyers on its website for outside community activities and services that may be of interest to students/parents in the ECASD. The inclusion of a flyer on the website does not in any way, shape, or form constitute an endorsement by the ECASD (including its School Board, administrators and staff) of that activity, or any views or facts expressed by or through that activity, or otherwise imply any association of that activity with the ECASD.

This policy does not apply to District-sanctioned student activities, PTA/PTO activities, and Booster Club activities.

The Superintendent shall designate a process to screen materials according to the following criteria:

- Is consistent with law
- Is suitable for student cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development
- Does not disrupt the school environment or inhibit the operation of any school
- Does not promote tobacco, alcohol, drugs or weapons
- Is not vulgar, offensive, sexual, or obscene

Groups that use the sharing process shall follow the administrative rules which shall be reviewed by the School Board prior to any changes.

The display of school-specific community information on school premises shall not constitute the endorsement or approval of the organization or activity.

The Board agreed to bring this forward at the next meeting for approval.

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

There were no requests for future agenda items.

#### **11. ADJOURN**

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Kathryn P Duax, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Lori Bica

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.