

# **Eau Claire Board of Education Meeting Minutes Monday, September 14, 2015**

*Generated by Patrice Iverson*

## **Members present**

Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

## **Members absent**

None

## **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**

Jonathan Bledsoe, Putnam Heights parent, said he was representing several parents in attendance as well as those included on a list of other parents, who are advocating for hiring another first grade teacher at Putnam. There are 52 kids in first grade with two teachers. He said that the teachers don't have the necessary resources to perform at a level of excellence and asked for the Board to consider hiring another teacher.

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

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

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

Dr. Hardebeck announced that Memorial High School guidance counselor, Kris Terhark, has been selected as a recipient of the 2015 Yale Educator Award. This award, sponsored by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions, recognizes teachers and counselors from around the world who inspire and support their students to perform at high levels and to achieve excellence. Yale students are invited to nominate high school educators and a committee composed of Yale admissions officers reviews the nominations and makes the selections. Kris was nominated by Memorial alumni and current Yale student, Kate Tanawattanacharoen. The entire Yale Admissions Office credits the excellent quality of the Yale student body to educators like these who shape their students long before they attend Yale! Kris was present and recognized.

Dr. Hardebeck also congratulated Sue Devine, Northstar Middle School science and social studies teacher, for being named Wisconsin's Middle School Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent Tony Evers last week in a surprise ceremony at Northstar. She will receive an unrestricted award of \$3000 from the Herb Kohl

Educational Foundation. A panel of educators, parents and community leaders selected the four Teachers of the Year from a pool of 86 public school Kohl Teacher Fellows who were named in the spring. Kohl Teacher Fellows are chosen for their ability to inspire students' love of learning, instructional innovation and leadership and commitment to community involvement. Sue will be honored by State Superintendent Evers during the September 17th State of Education address and awards program at the State Capitol. Later this fall, a committee will select one of the four Teachers of the Year to represent Wisconsin in the National Teacher of the Year program.

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

President Spindler informed the Board of the following WASB Events: October 14 - Regional Meeting, October 29 - Key Works of School Boards: Policy Making & Board Relationships, November 4 - School Board's Role in Superintendent Evaluation, and November 7 - Legislative Advocacy Conference.

## **4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

### **4.1 Student Representative Report**

Jason Lin, Memorial Student Representative, reported that homecoming will be in two weeks. He was also informed by Principal Oldenberg that there was a 20% increase in Memorial students taking Advanced Placement courses. Even though more students are taking the exams, the pass rate is continuing to rise.

Emily Surges, North Student Representative, said that North had a Helping Hands Day the Monday before school started. Freshmen helped teachers have a good start to the school year. The Student Council is working on preparations for homecoming. There will be a blood drive at North on Thursday.

## **5. OTHER REPORTS**

### **5.1 Board Committee Reports**

Joe Luginbill reported on the progress of the Policy & Governance Committee. WASB completed the District's policy check and the committee is reviewing policies recommended for updating or development. The current policies being updated are 731.1, 462 and 333.

The Charter Choice Committee is discussing the development of Innovation Zones in the District where more freedom to try learning strategies could be utilized. They will report back to the full Board in the near future.

## **5.2 Legislative Update**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared the Legislative Update from WASB. This included the following information:

- Senate Bill 250, which is related to pupil participation limits in the Voucher Program
- The Speaker's Task Force on Urban Education schedule, which includes a hearing in Eau Claire on December 8 about closing the achievement gap
- Bills to allow School Board members to serve as volunteer coaches and to allow Board Presidents to fill certain vacancies
- The Youth Readiness Task Force had its first meeting aimed at youth employment in the state.
- The new Statewide Assessment (Wisconsin Forward Exam)

## **6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Kathryn P Duax, to approve the following consent resolution items:

- Minutes of Board Meeting - August 17, 2015
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Appointment of Board Negotiation Teams for 2015-16
- Appointment to Budget Development Committee

Motion carried: Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

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

### **7.1 Ratification of the Buildings and Grounds Local 560 Wisconsin Council of County and Municipal Employees #40 AFSCME AFL-CIO Contract**

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Joe Luginbill, to ratify the 2014-15 contract between the Eau Claire Area School District and the Buildings and Grounds Local 560 Wisconsin Council of County and Municipal Employees #40 AFSCME AFL-CIO.

Motion carried: Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

### **7.2 Process for Appointing School Board Member Vacancy**

President Spindler said the agenda setting team used the discussions from the last meeting about the procedure for appointing the school board

member vacancy to develop that process. Applicants can pick up an application sheet in the Superintendent's Office or online. They will be asked to give a three-minute statement at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and the Board will vote on the appointment at the same meeting.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Chue Xiong, to approve the process to fill the School Board seat vacated by Trish Cummins as presented.

Motion carried: Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

### **7.3 Election of Board Clerk**

Chue Xiong nominated Chris Hambuch-Boyle as Board Clerk. There being no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast and Chris Hambuch-Boyle was declared Clerk.

### **7.4 Approval of Daktronics Scoreboard Project**

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Kathryn P Duax, to authorize Administration to move forward with the Daktronics scoreboard project as presented with a guarantee that sponsors would be secured for the scoreboards before they are purchased.

Motion carried: Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

## **8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE**

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

### **9.1 Budget Development Committee Report on Options for Referendum**

Dan Van De Water, Executive Director of Business Services, said the focus of discussions by the Budget Development Committee have been on two types of referendum questions. One would be to issue debt, which would include bricks and mortar, major building and site repairs, major remodeling, additions, new facilities, and long-term notes or bonds. The current estimate for these items would be \$48,910,000. The second would be for a revenue limit override and that estimate would be \$29,340,944.

Mr. Van De Water said the committee considered several referendum packages and recommended three options for the Board to peruse. Package 1 would have one question to exceed revenue limits by \$29,340,944 over three years. This would defer building and site needs to a future date, and would have the lowest tax impact of the three packages. Package 2 would

consist of two questions—one would be to issue debt for \$48,910,000 and the other would be to override revenue limits by \$29,340,944. This would address all immediate needs of the District and would have the highest tax impact of the three packages. Package 3 would have one question on the ballot and would be a hybrid of Packages 1 and 2. It would include a revenue limit override of \$35,340,944 and would include a \$2 million annual increase in the operating budget for building and site needs. Mr. Van De Water shared the projected tax impact on each package.

In addition, the Board could consider whether a recurring or non-recurring revenue exemption would be proposed, and he showed an illustration of what each type would look like. A non-recurring override exemption carries nothing forward and could potentially create a 'funding cliff' after three years. A recurring exemption would carry those funds forward.

The committee looked at several potential dates for the referendum: February 16, 2016; April 5, 2016; August 9, 2016; November 1, 2016 or a special election at a date to be determined by the Board. The committee proposed April 5, 2016 and several Board members indicated a preference for that date.

Board members discussed other items that could be considered such as funding for Charter/Choice initiatives, Odyssey of the Mind, staff infrastructure, field trips, and child poverty. It was suggested that the budget be aligned with what is recommended in the Strategic Plan.

President Spindler asked for comments from the audience.

Carolyn Barstad was a teacher and counselor in the District for 35 years. She encouraged the Board to provide another teacher at Putnam Heights. In addition, she felt the Board should move forward with one referendum question, noting that she preferred the April 5, 2016 date.

Teacher and ECAE President, Mark Goings, said the most expensive option only maintains the status quo. He would like a long-term plan. The district has lost over 10% of its teaching staff with many leaving to go to other districts in the area that offer more pay. Staff are looking for a reason to stay and for a commitment to their future. He wants to be part of a district that parents want to send their children to—a place where kids can excel and have top notch opportunities.

Several Board members indicated they wanted a referendum that would help the District move forward and not just maintain the status quo. They also thought it was important to involve the community in getting feedback. The

Board will discuss the process for getting public input at the Work Session on September 28.

## **9.2 Senior Exit Survey**

Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, shared results of the Senior Exit Survey. He said that just under 70% of the seniors completed the survey. The District was able to learn about post-secondary plans, the post-application process the students worked through, the students' perceived preparation for post-secondary life, and their experience with ECASD athletics and the visual and performing arts.

Mr. Schmitt said that key findings from the survey are that 86% of senior applicants received admission to their first choice of four-year colleges and universities and 93% to their first choice of technical colleges. In addition, 88% of the seniors responding to the survey plan to attend a two-year (29%) or four-year (59%) institution. Of the 35% who were offered scholarship money, about 28% received more than \$10,000. About half of the participants said cost was a significant factor in their decision whether or where to attend school. Students who participated in school-sponsored organized sports and visual and performing arts recorded favorable responses about their overall experience. The survey showed that 46% of students feel they are "life ready."

The District plans to use the results for program improvement in curriculum and student services and to align future improvements with the state's required academic and career planning.

## **9.3 Summer School Report**

Mr. Jim Schmitt shared an overview of the 2015 Summer School Program. There were 4,876 students who participated in the District course options, which did not include those taking online courses. There were 243 total staff employed, which included 189 certified and 54 support staff.

The elementary program included several new or expanded programs including the "Getting Ready For Program" at the Title schools; Discovery Program at Davey, Putnam and Robbins; and the Library Program at all schools. Breakfast and lunch were served at Flynn, Lakeshore, Locust Lane, Longfellow and Manz.

Principals from Robbins, Manz, Meadowview and Roosevelt reviewed the programs that were held at their schools.

A list of 16 additional partnership programs were also shared with the Board.

Mr. Schmitt said that two areas of focus were to provide interventions for struggling learners particularly in the area of English Language Arts and Math and to provide enrichment opportunities for all learners in a variety of disciplines.

Mr. Schmitt anticipates that the middle school program will be expanded next year to continue with virtual learning options for credit remediation and credit attainment and to offer credit attainment courses in ELA and math at the school sites.

It was noted that staff who teach summer school are teaching the same things they do during the school year but at a lesser rate of pay.

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

Joe Luginbill requested a Committee Report about class sizes at the elementary level.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other matters brought before the Board.

## **12. ADJOURN**

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

Motion carried: Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Richard Spindler, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.