

**Eau Claire Board of Education**  
**Monday, September 28, 2015**

*Generated by Patrice Iverson*

**Members present**

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

**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**

Mike and Angie Maskevich have students in the District and asked the Board to consider drafting a policy with regards to coaching accountability. They believe there is an epidemic culture of bullying and abusive coaching. They said coaches have no requirements for certification and they have no Code of Conduct to follow. Angie shared data obtained from various studies about the harmful effects on students of bullying by coaches. They asked that coaches be held to the same standards as teachers.

Mark Goings and fellow Robbins teachers shared thoughts about what life is like at their school. Kaylee Skinkis is the art teacher and began teaching at Robbins four years ago. She said her greatest accomplishments have been inspiring kids with the true love of art and seeing them feel a sense of pride in their work as well as having the opportunity to teach students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Anika Dervetski teaches kindergarten. She said that teachers always put kids first and participate in many special events at Robbins. She sees commitment, excellence and passion by staff and parents at Robbins. The love of school and learning doesn't just happen in the classrooms. Emily Gray is a fourth grade teacher. She said her favorite aspect of teaching is making connections with students, and especially with students who struggle with social/emotional skills. She enjoys learning how to become a better teacher for all of her students.

Mark Goings summarized by saying that as the Board talks about the possibility of a referendum, they should look beyond simply sustaining the District. The Board should dare to dream... dare to attract quality staff... dare to commit.

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

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

Dr. Hardebeck announced that this would be the last official School Board meeting for Charles Kramer who is retiring as the Director of Buildings and Grounds. She shared a recap of Charlie's career and wished him the best in retirement.

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

The Board observed a moment of silence for Gene Power, a cherished band teacher in the District, who passed away due to a car accident.

President Spindler reminded the community that the last day to apply for the open Board seat is September 30.

There are several upcoming WASB events that Board members may want to attend. Please contact Patti Iverson if interested.

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

Emily Surges, North's student representative, reported on their blood drive where they collected 37 units of blood. She reviewed Homecoming Week festivities that will take place this week. Emily said the music department took part in a performance at Memorial to support their band teacher and in honor of Mr. Power.

Jason Lin, Memorial's student representative, said that Memorial will have Club Rush where students will have a chance to learning about the 20-30 clubs at the school. He reported on the "Speak Up to Slow Down" presentation that students took part in. He also talked about Memorial's homecoming activities and thanked North for showing support for Mr. Power during their homecoming game. Jason congratulated art teacher Miss Ruder for having her drawing depicted on the cover of *Volume One*. He reported that it was Deaf Awareness Week.

### **5. OTHER REPORTS**

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

The Budget Development Committee met on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed how the District should approach a possible referendum and how it should align with the Strategic Plan and community values. The committee also talked about possible additions to the referendum to make our schools "Thrive Rather Than Survive." The committee recommended April 5<sup>th</sup> as the date for a referendum.

Policy & Governance reviewed a number of policies that will be brought back to the Board for a possible first reading including Policy 460 – Student Scholarships & Awards, Policy 731.1 – Privacy in the Locker Rooms, and Policy 154 – Board Self-Evaluation. They also discussed new Policy 333 - Parents Rights in Relation to District Programs/Activities (Student Privacy). In addition, they looked at adding the classification of transgender students to Policy 411 – Equal Employment Opportunities.

## **5.2 Legislative Update**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle reported on the following legislative issues:

- SB 234 related to school district budget summary, annual audit and annual report
- SB 254 related to the achievement gap reduction program
- SB 213 regarding prefunding of OPEB for new employees (SB 213)
- Retirement changes under some GOP bills to base retirement calculations on the workers' top five years of pay instead of the top three. A second bill would change the minimum age at which a government employee covered by the WRS can retire from 55 to 57 years.
- Proposed constitutional amendment being circulated that would allow the Governor to appoint the State Superintendent rather than being elected by voters.

## **6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

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

- Minutes of September 14, 2015
- Minutes of Closed Session - September 14, 2015
- Gifts in the amount of \$3,662.36 for the period of August 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015
- Human Resources/Employment Report for September 28, 2015

Final Resolution: Motion carried.

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

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

## **7.1 2014-2015 Final Budget Adjustments**

Abby Johnson explained that the District was reimbursed by DPI to cover substitute costs at North. The subs were paid by Teachers on Call but the budget adjustment was to put the money back into North's budget because that's where it was charged.

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Charles Vue, to approve 2014-2015 Final Budget Adjustments as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

## **7.2 Payment of all Bills & Net Payroll**

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Charles Vue, that the Board of Education approve payment of all bills in the amount of \$4,775,351.07 and net payroll in the amount of \$2,731,977.22 for the period of August 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

Abstain: Joe Luginbill

## **8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION**

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

#### **9.1 2015-2016 Budget Presentation**

Dan Van De Water, Executive Director of Business Services, reviewed the 2015-2016 budget document. He reminded the Board that the state controls 85.4% of all revenue and there is a .1% projected increase in revenue limits from last year. The District is expected to have a .5% decrease in general state aid, and expenditures are projected to increase by .2%. The District will use about \$4.6 million of working capital. Mr. Van De Water said the projected tax levy is \$56,761,809. The levy comparison is down 1.9% and the tax rate is projected to decrease by 4.1%. The owner of a \$150,000 home would have a decrease of \$60 in school property taxes from last year.

Mr. Van De Water also shared data obtained from the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance related to administrative and instruction costs per student. In terms

of administrative costs, Eau Claire has some of the lowest costs among comparable school districts. This is also true for direct instruction and total instruction costs.

In order to finalize the budget, the District will need the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September membership count, the October 1<sup>st</sup> certification of property values and the October 15<sup>th</sup> certification of state aid. The Board will be asked to approve the recommended budget on October 5<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> and the Board will be asked to adopt the budget that evening so the tax levies can be certified to municipalities by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

President Spindler asked if a footnote could be included in the budget document under test scores that indicates the change in state assessments.

## **9.2 Report from the Charter/Choice Committee**

Tim Leibham, Executive Director of Administration, and members of the Charter/Choice Committee were present to share additional information of two of the components of the innovation zone design strategy as one option to meet the charge of that committee. That included Educational Opportunities and Governance & Structure.

The committee used the District's vision and mission to guide their work as well as the Board's goals and alignment with the Strategic Plan.

This split screen strategy allows for a separate place designed particularly for exploring fundamentally new ways of accomplishing learning and gives staff a level of independence, authority and incentive to pursue innovation free from undue barriers or interference while being held accountable for achievement results. Strategies and methodologies shall be investigated that are not typically associated with conventional schools. This design will hopefully create a climate of encouragement for innovation.

The committee highlighted opportunities that innovation zones would provide for students, families, staff and the District. They also recommended that the Board direct the committee to draft a policy statement for this innovation zone strategy for review by the Policy & Governance Committee and with P & G support, to present the first reading to the entire Board in the fall/winter of 2015.

The Board asked that the Charter/Choice Committee work with Policy & Governance to collaborate on a policy and move forward with this process.

The Board adjourned to the Work Session at 8:55 p.m.

## **10. WORK SESSION**

### **10.1 Discuss Community Engagement for Proposed Referendum**

President Spindler proposed a format for gauging community support for a possible referendum. Forums would be held to share information regarding the history of revenues and expenditures in the District, the current budget and future budgets without a referendum. The final portion of the forum would give community members time to ask questions or make statements about a possible referendum.

It was proposed that at least three forums take place, likely at each of the middle schools. A facilitator would be utilized to conduct the forums. They would be open to all community members. The tentative dates for community forums are October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. at DeLong, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at Northstar, and October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at South.

The Board discussed the format. There was a suggestion that some good news be added at the beginning of the presentations, perhaps something related to the new Innovation Zones that the Charter/Choice Committee is working on. They also thought it would be good to develop a handout that people could take home. In addition, marketing could be targeted to those people who would be most affected.

There were also suggestions to have presentations to community groups, service clubs or anyone else who might request information. The website could include a FAQ page with additional information and perhaps a video could be produced. The Board cannot legally advocate for the referendum but a separate citizen group could do that. A group of interested citizens has been meeting to discuss ways to promote the vote. Several of them were involved in the last referendum. It was also noted that Commissioners Xiong and Vue have conducted meetings with the Hmong community in the past and it was felt that was beneficial.

Joe Luginbill said he has scheduled several listening sessions to allow public input with groups the District serves. He said the proposed format is in line with Policy 188. The first session, entitled Students First, is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:45 to 5 pm at DeLong in the auditorium. The second session, entitled Staff Recess, is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Hooligans. The third session, Make Your Voice Heard, will be October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at a location to be determined. These sessions will be publicly noticed and open to anyone who wants to take part. People will also be able to fill out confidential comment cards to give feedback.

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

Administration was asked to provide the requirements and qualifications for coaches.

## **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other matters brought before the Board.

## **13. ADJOURN**

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Chue Xiong, to adjourn the meeting.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.