

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, JUNE 3, 2013
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.

Board Members present: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Hambuch-Boyle, Johnson, Spindler and Xiong. Absent: None.

PUBLIC FORUM

Montessori Principal Todd Johnson said he believes Montessori is an effective, thriving school. He acknowledged there are many challenges facing charter schools, and he said he looks forward to working collaboratively with the School Board and Governance Board.

Montessori Governance Board President Tracy Bush shared information with the School Board on what their Board is doing to move the program forward including development of short/long term plans and providing the School Board with quarterly updates.

Melina Papadimitriou is a Montessori trainer at UW-River Falls. She spoke about the value of the multi-age Montessori program. She said there are sensitive periods during which a child will learn something optimally based on their brain development, and the three-year cycle is crucial.

Ken Szymanski is a teacher in the District and has a son in the Montessori program. His son was diagnosed with autism and the family decided not to accept the IEP as they felt keeping him in the environment he was comfortable with would be best for him. His son has done very well, and they are pleased with the multi-age classrooms.

Julie Campbell, has been a teacher at CVMCS for ten years. She highlighted the orientation sessions and student screenings that have already taken place with next year's four and five year olds.

Linda Jacobson is the Continuing Education Program Manager at UW-River Falls. In fall 2011 UW-RF conducted a market research study that showed a growing need for Montessori training. They launched a graduate program last summer. She said although it is best to hire teachers with full credentials in Montessori training, the numbers of certified teachers available to fill the openings is not there yet.

Montessori teacher, Janet Krause, spoke about the issue of teacher certification language in the Montessori contract. There are currently ten teachers in the UW-River Falls program. CVMCS has hired seven core teachers and approximately ten people

applied for each position. One of the seven teachers was certified in Montessori when hired.

Com. Spindler moved, seconded by Com. Hambuch-Boyle, to suspend the rules to allow another 20 minutes of public input. Carried by unanimous roll call vote

Kurt Lothe, Montessori teacher, addressed the enrollment cap language in the contract. He said the District has stated in the past that one-section schools are not efficient. Capping the program at 240 leaves them short of being a two-section school unless the building is underutilized. He felt the cap of 300 students would be more appropriate.

Mike Paulus was concerned about the proposal to take the 4K program out of Montessori. He has a child who would be in the program in the fall and another child who went through the 4K program who is now six years old. He said the Montessori methods in 4K recreate the family dynamic by mixing age groups.

Linda Carlson signed her daughter up for 4K in the fall at two locations, one being the Montessori program. She chose Montessori and the other location no longer has an opening. She felt that cancelling the 4K program at this late date would be a problem for families.

Kristen Walukas's daughter Annika attended Montessori in the past but they open enrolled out of ECASD last year into a virtual school. She felt there were misunderstandings about overcrowded classrooms that led to stress. She felt there should be at least a two-year contract given so there is some certainty from year to year. Annika said her Montessori teachers did not have Montessori training when they were hired, but they were very good teachers. She felt she was prepared for middle school.

Erica Zerr felt Montessori's 4K program provided the perfect environment for her child to learn. She was concerned about the school being labeled elitist as her family has one income and they make sacrifices so she can be home with their children.

Paul Kaldjian's daughter was one of five students in the first Montessori graduating class. She will be graduating from high school this year and she made a successful transition from CVMCS. He encouraged the School Board to support the program as it can attract families to the District.

Chris Hlas has opened enrolled his daughter into the Montessori 4K program for next year. He was relieved once she was accepted into the program, but is very concerned about the possibility of not having the program in the fall.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck shared a list of events on the Board's calendar for the next month.

Dr. Hardebeck announced that three administrators will be leaving the District as they have accepted other job opportunities. She shared information on the work history of Chad Erickson, Christine Heilman and Michelle Golden and wished them well in their new jobs.

The ECASD has received a Spotlight Schools Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for Longfellow Elementary. Staff will be demonstrating their best practices to schools across the state and the grant money will be used for professional development.

A group of 23 high school students from Memorial and North traveled to Japan. Some of the students and their teachers were present to share information about their trip. They were part of the Kuzuna project, which provided them a fully-funded two week study tour. Students traveled to Japan to help the nation recover from the devastating tsunami and learn more about the Japanese culture.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

There was nothing to report.

Student Representative Report

The committee designated to select student representatives is in the process of interviewing students and will share an update in the near future.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

The committee will meet on June 10, 2013.

Budget Development Committee

The committee will meet on June 17, 2013.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolution 4 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of May 20, 2013 as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of Work Session of May 20, 2013, as mailed.
- ◆ The matters of employment of June 3, 2013, as presented.
- ◆ Transfer of Eric Mosel Memorial Scholarship Fund from the Eau Claire Area School District to the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #4 -- State Open Enrollment Requests for 2013-2014

Board members asked clarifying questions about students applying for open enrollment. A survey of parents involved in open enrollment will be conducted to get a better understanding of why parents chose that option. There was a suggestion that a meeting be held with the Realtors Association to discuss concerns with the information that is sometimes shared with families moving into the area about which schools were the best and where people should live due to their economic status.

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Cummins, to approve state open enrollment requests for 2013-2014 as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
JUNE 3, 2013**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Hambuch-Boyle, Johnson, Spindler and Xiong. Absent: None.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School Contract Extension

The Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School Governance Board requested a contract to be enforced from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015. The Governance Board drafted a contract for the School Board to review on May 20, 2013. A program review relative to achievement, diversity and costs was also shared with the Board at that time. Modifications were suggested by Board members and a new proposal was drafted.

Mr. Schmitt reviewed information about Montessori enrollments, free/reduced status, ethnicity, ELL and disability status over the last five years. He also shared longitudinal data for reading and math scores which have declined. Costs for staffing and transportation relative to similar-sized schools were also discussed.

The Board reviewed the modifications and provided input on each change/addition. The following additional changes were proposed:

- On page 4 under #6, change to “Specialist instructors, such as art, music and physical education are expected to obtain a Montessori orientation.”
- Under Funding Allocation on page 6, add “as specified in Policy 331” at end of first sentence.

There were several issues that didn’t have a clear consensus to move forward with yet including certification/training for the administrator and for new staff hired, whether to include 4K at Montessori, funding options with current program driven budget vs. more control by Governance Board, enrollment cap and staffing,

It was suggested that a Joint Committee be formed at a future date to discuss a number of issues raised in the Montessori Contract including sharing best practices, certification, achievement, diversity, enrollment

levels and funding issues. The Board will be asked to consider the contract extension at the June 17, 2013, meeting as an Individually Considered Resolution.

B. Math and Science Credit Report

Ann Franke shared a report on the current ECASD graduation requirements and the proposed increase in state graduation requirements in math and science as part of the ESEA Waiver. The District currently requires 2 credits for math and the proposal would increase the credits required to 3. The District is already .5 credits above the required 2 credits for science, but the proposal would increase science to 3 credits. Ms. Franke explained that increasing the credit requirements in math and science would be consistent with post-secondary requirements. However, these credit increases would limit the number of elective credits available to a student and may result in an increase/shift in high school staffing. Credit requirements from high performing school districts were also shared. The Board was not compelled to move forward with any changes in requirements at this time. It was suggested that the Policy & Governance Committee review Rule 345.6-Rule(1a) and possibly make it a policy.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Board members asked for updates on SAGE, equity policy, staffing high school music programs, reinstating the Charter School Committee, increments and factors associated with the Employee Handbook.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm.