

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, DECEMBER 6, 2010
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.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representative Joe Luginbill was present; Rebecca Giles was not.

PUBLIC FORUM

Dawn Comte from the City of Eau Claire Parks & Recreation Department said the city values the partnership and coordinated efforts with the ECASD. She said that coordinated services lessen the burden on taxpayers. Therefore, she asked the Board to consider amending its service and scheduling policy to keep priority scheduling for youth and adult activities, amend the policy to allow youth and activities to be scheduled at the same time with the same priority, and eliminate the reservation and cancellation fee. She said that adults are not a priority and consequently, it is difficult to schedule activities for adults at the secondary schools. The adult programs would have to take place in the elementary schools and those schools don't have the equipment to accommodate those activities. The city purchased equipment for the secondary schools so that those programs could be held for youth and adults. They would like the ability to schedule adult activities on May 1st so they can get into the secondary facilities and use the equipment they purchased. She added that with regard to the reservation and scheduling fee, the city gives the ECASD priority scheduling at football, baseball and softball games and there is no charge for reservation or cancellation fees.

Carolyn Barstad commented on the Board's consideration of dividing the referendum into two questions. She said that historically in Eau Claire when you take different parts of the community and divide them into different factions, you end up with discord or people against each other. She felt it should be limited to one question and to focus on getting everyone out to vote. She also addressed the issue of adding windows at DeLong. She retired from DeLong and has talked to other teachers there and highly recommended that the Board put windows into the DeLong building plan.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann reminded the public to provide the Board with feedback on its meetings. Forms are available in the hallway for the public to comment.

Dr. Heilmann congratulated Karyn Wajda, Joanie Heacox and Amy Traynor who recently attained national board-certification. He said that Eau Claire has a proud tradition of teacher excellence--as evidenced by the recent accomplishments of these three teachers.

Locust Lane Elementary School has been nominated as a Blue Ribbon School by the State Superintendent, which is a very high honor. Locust Lane is one of eight Wisconsin schools nominated. In order to be nominated a school must have at least 40% of its students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have dramatically improved student performance in reading and math and are in the top 15% in those areas on state assessments. An announcement of Blue Ribbon School recipients will be made in September 2011.

The City of Eau Claire is embarking on a project involving a downtown traffic circulation analysis, transportation planning, and conceptual design for downtown street improvements. The project includes development of preliminary plans for public improvements to the east bank of the Chippewa River from Lake Street to the Haymarket parking lot. There will be a meeting on December 8th at LE Phillips Public Library if anyone has interest in these projects.

State Superintendent Tony Evers visited Eau Claire to share his Fair Funding for Wisconsin Schools proposal recently. He feels the current state funding formula is broken. Under this proposal the ECASD could gain 6.7% or \$4.6 million in additional funding.

Lakeshore and Longfellow elementary schools received a USDA Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program grant in the amount of \$32,330 for 2010-11. North Students Against Destructive Decisions received a \$700 mini-grant as part of the Wisconsin Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug Education Network.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig highlighted the WASB resolutions that will be acted on at the state conference in January. She said Board members should identify any resolutions they would like to support. This will be discussed at the December 20th meeting.

President Craig said that as part of an initiative discussed at the WASB Legislative Advocacy Meeting, a meeting between School Board members and administrators from Altoona, Chippewa and ECASD was scheduled with the newly-elected legislators on December 8th at 11:45 am at the Green Mill. This will provide an informal exchange regarding education policies and budgetary concerns.

Student Representative Report

Joe Luginbill said he recently participated in an interview with Lifetouch for an informational video on the referendum. He stressed that the community needs to invest in strong public education because that is a way to invest in a strong community as well.

Joe said he sent a formal recommendation to Govern-elect Scott Walker that he establish a state youth commission upon his inauguration. This body of young people would make recommendations to the Governor and legislature on issues important to young people in Wisconsin.

Joe wrote an article for the school newspaper at North urging students to raise their voices about issues important to them in the District. He said he is planning a "State of the School" meeting for interested North students that would take place before the April referendum. Joe attended the presentation by State Superintendent Evers announcing his funding plan for public education. He is optimistic that at least some of the plan will be utilized in the next budget and feels that it would allow more balance for student funding and give rural and inner-city schools the tools to succeed.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

The committee is looking at several policies to be updated.

Student Representative Joe Luginbill left the meeting.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 3 and 4 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of November 15, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of November 15, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ §66.0301 Cooperative Agreement with the School District of Augusta for Eau Claire Student Attending Wildlands Charter School for the 2010-2011 School Year

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #3 – Employment Report

Com. Johnson asked for an explanation of the job description for the new Student Information System Manager. Dr. Weissenburger provided information.

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to accept the matters of employment of December 6, 2010, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #4 – Request for Proposals for Architectural & Engineering Design Services

Mr. Kramer was asked to explain what would be included in the RFPs for architectural and engineering design services. He said it would ask for a single line item from architects for preliminary design and the exact budget development. The architect would only be asked to proceed as far as necessary by April. No continuing design would be done until the referendum passes; the purpose of this first step is to give the public good information before the referendum.

Com. Duax was concerned with the short turn-around time for the proposals to be sent in; they will be due on December 22nd. Dr. Heilmann felt it was an adequate timeline and met industry standards. He said it was important to be able to clearly explain to the public the scope of the projects and to provide renderings of what the projects will look like. In order to be able to finalize the wording of the referendum question(s) that information would need to be provided quite soon. He added that the information that ATS&R provided will be available for interested vendors and architects to peruse.

It was estimated that the total package for architectural and engineering design would be \$2 million to \$4 million; however, if the referendum fails, the District would not be obligated to pay for post-referendum services. Mr. Kramer said the bulk to the costs for these services would come after the referendum.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to send out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Architectural & Engineering Design Services. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Aye: Craig, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel and Wogahn. Nay: Duax.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
DECEMBER 6, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representatives Joe Luginbill and Rebecca Giles were not present for the Committee Meeting.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Follow-up Discussion & Possible First Reading of New ECASD *Policy 825 - Distribution of Non-School-Related Material*

President Craig said that after discussion at the last meeting, there was one small change about groups following administrative rules which will be reviewed by the Board prior to any changes. The Policy & Governance Committee met with a variety of stakeholders and agencies that reviewed the policy and were satisfied with it.

There was a discussion about the distribution of materials being facilitated through the Community Fund and whether that meant that only partnership coordinators could assist with this. It was explained that the intention of the policy was not to put additional burdens on any support staff or add any positions or work flow. The committee wanted to make sure the daily operational budget was not impacted. Dr. Heilmann added that the key word was 'facilitated' rather than saying it shall be 'limited to...'

Com. Shiel shared the first reading of *Policy 825 – Distribution of Materials*:

The purpose of distribution of materials from non-school sources is to provide information to families about community programs and activities for students. The Eau Claire Area School District will distribute such information for school-age students on a regular basis.

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:

- Consistent with law and the District's mission, values and goals;
- Suitable for student cognitive, emotional, physical and social development;
- Not disrupt the school environment or inhibit the operation of any school;
- Not promote tobacco, alcohol, drugs or weapons;

- Not vulgar, offensive, sexual or obscene.

The organization and distribution of materials shall be facilitated through the Community Fund, not District operational funds.

Groups that use the distribution process shall follow the administrative rules which will be reviewed by the Board of Education prior to any changes.

The display or distribution of such information on school premises shall not constitute the District's endorsement or approval of the organization or activity.

B. Five Year Facilities Planning & Impact of Such Planning on Present and/or Future Shared Facilities

Director of Buildings and Grounds Charlie Kramer provided a list of priority facility projects recommended to be completed during the 2011-2012 budget year. He said most of the projects are maintenance items at existing facilities. Administration asked for feedback on the items presented so that RFPs can be obtained. Mr. Kramer noted that if the referendum is not successful, some of the items that would have been included in the referendum would likely bump some of these items.

President Craig asked if Board members could receive the five-year capital improvement binders as they have in the past. Mr. Kramer said that information is updated annually and published on the website, but he could provide the binder to interested Board members.

The Board discussed the replacement of the track at Memorial. Mr. Kramer said there have been many repairs made by maintenance staff, but the track has outlived its life cycle. At North they would like to move the student services area near the main office but he added that if early childhood moves out of North, there would be additional space available for special education to move around and make that area more efficient. Consequently, some of that work at North would be moved to next year so it can all be done at once. The Board also discussed the locker rooms at North High School. When North staff determined priorities, those updates did not make the list. Some in-house repairs have been done. Mr. Kramer was asked to make sure safety issues with lockers were taken care of as well as the hot water.

Com. Faanes asked about costs to provide secure entries at each school. Mr. Kramer estimated it would cost approximately \$340,000 per school. These costs could be reconfigured with the referendum, but the rest would be addressed through the five-year capital improvement budget. Com. Faanes wanted the Board to consider doing something with all schools now to secure entries.

The Board talked about having administration discuss the concept of utilizing shared facilities such as tracks or tennis courts with principals and interested others. This would help answer the question of whether the District is using its resources efficiently. Perhaps having one tournament-ready site where our high schools could host a BRC event would be the way to go. While Board members agreed in principle, they didn't feel this should be a high priority for administration at this time. It will be reviewed this summer.

The Board will be asked to approve a resolution for these capital projects at its December 20, 2010, meeting.

C. Continued Discussion of Whether to Have One or More Referendum Questions

The Board was asked to provide feedback on whether to split the scope of the referendum projects into more than one referendum question and, if so, the components to be contained in each question. Administration recommended that the Board have this decision in place by early January.

Board members said they have had numerous contacts about the costs for rebuilding the interior at DeLong. It was estimated that those costs would be about \$7.7 million. Mr. Kramer explained that these figures would include demolition of the portable walls; removal of carpet and door frame hardware; construction of new walls, doors, windows, etc; new flooring and ceilings; technology retrofit; furniture; and options for portables to accommodate learning during construction. The Board would like to get input from staff about the current situation with the portable walls.

Com. Faanes wanted to consider adding secure entrances in some form in all schools in the referendum.

The Board discussed the proposal for purchasing Epiphany School for an early learning center. Com. Craig questioned whether there was a real need for this building given that it would not be cost neutral and it wouldn't be filled. Others felt that the early learning center would be part of the whole plan to deal with increasing enrollments at the elementary level and would provide additional space in the future when elementary buildings reach capacity. Com. Johnson felt that the vast majority of the classrooms would essentially be filled moving the early learning children there, leaving space available in the other areas of the building for future elementary space needs. Dr. Heilmann said if the Board doesn't pursue the purchase of this building, there would be many more boundary shifts necessary and pointed out that the Demographic Trends Committee would have to refigure space availability if the early learning classrooms are kept in the existing facilities.

Com. Johnson asked administration to continue negotiations so cost estimates for the building are more firm. Com. Craig said the District is committed to provide early learning education in private day care centers noting that only 25 to 30 percent of the early learning students attend District sites.

Board members asked to have the Applied Population Laboratory study updated with census data so that the most current estimates for projected enrollment increases can be obtained.

After much discussion there was consensus from all but one Board member not to proceed with an operational question. The majority of the Board wanted one question that would include the early learning center. Discussions also took place about including costs for updating entrances for security purposes on one question but additional information was requested before that decision could be made by Board members.

Ms. Bev Christianson said she has gotten several questions about the replacement of walls at DeLong as well as the early learning center. She said the Board may want to consider adding a question to its FAQ list of why the Board is considering purchasing a building now when it had one and sold it.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

There was a request to have a committee report on the process used to evaluate administrators. Dr. Heilmann said there is an agenda item on January 24th to discuss a possible new policy regarding this. It was suggested that the Board review current practices and generate ideas for possible alternatives.

4. Other Business

The new reporter from the *Leader Telegram* was introduced and welcomed. McLean Bennett will be the education reporter.

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Janke, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.