

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, OCTOBER 17, 2011
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, Cummins, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representatives Joe Luginbill and Amal Javaid were also present.

NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION

President Craig announced that the Board would go into closed session following the committee meeting under 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one signed up to address the Board.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann showed comparable data from the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance for 2010-11 budgeted amounts that looked at administrative costs, instruction, buildings/grounds, and total comparative expenditures of similar sized school districts. He also showed how Eau Claire ranks in those budgetary areas, which in many cases was near the bottom. He used those same schools to compare how we rank in student performance noting that Eau Claire is at the top of the rankings in testing results.

Dr. Heilmann shared some legislative updates: 1) 97% of Wisconsin school districts received less state aid in 2011-12 than the previous year. 2) 40 out of 50 states are likely to request waivers under No Child Left Behind reauthorization, 3) Authors of new legislation that requires Wisconsin school districts to issue ½ credit for students who complete a hunter safety course have changed it from "shall" to "may," 4) the September Special Session will include discussions regarding AB 18 authorizing school boards to grant a vocational high school diploma as introduced at request of Governor Walker and Rep. Radcliffe.

The next Board with your Coffee will be held on November 4th. Topics covered in October included communication efforts, test re-takes, secondary start/end times, AP classes and the budget.

Flynn, Locust Lane and Longfellow elementary schools were recently honored in Madison as Schools of Recognition.

Memorial students were recognized by the American Red Cross for leadership in hosting two annual blood drives that exceeded their goals, and students received a \$2,500 scholarship in the Young Minds Change Lives campaign for their efforts. Memorial football coach Paul Kling was named last week's Green Bay Packers Coach of the Week.

The ECASD's monthly e-newsletter has gone out twice. This goes out to all parents, staff as well as senior citizens. People can also sign up to receive the e-newsletter.

There will be a Free Financial Planning Workshop for 7th and 8th graders and their parents at UW-Eau Claire. The workshop is designed for families to learn fiscally responsible strategies including how to budget and use credit appropriately, how to protect against identity theft, and how to develop a savings plan. This workshop is a collaboration between Junior Achievement, UW-Eau Claire, and the ECASD.

Roosevelt Elementary held Walk to School Day on October 5th.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

Coms. Duax, Johnson and Craig attended the WASB Regional Meeting and will be providing information to other Board members in the Friday Update.

Student Representative Report

Joe Luginbill said Husky Howl.org will be conducting a survey about student opinions on the Presidential election in the near future and again in six months.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

The P&G Committee would like to meet with members of the District Leadership Team to discuss policies on summer school, youth options, extra-curricular activities, suspension/expulsion and dealing with the philosophy of incorporating diversity into teaching and learning planning.

The committee will also look at the policy dealing with controversial issues as well as creating a policy on having student representatives to the Board.

Budget Development Committee

The committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of October 3, 2011 as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of October 3, 2011, as mailed.
- ◆ The gifts in the amount of \$99,070.04 for the period September 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, as presented.
- ◆ Revisions to *ECASD Policy 742 – Authorized Use of School-Owned Equipment*

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #4—Personnel—Employment Report

President Craig acknowledged that Dr. Weissenburger will be retiring in February and thanked him for his contributions to the district. Dr. Weissenburger noted that there was an amended employment report in the Board's packet.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to approve the matters of employment of October 17, 2011, as amended. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #6—Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$31,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds

Mike Clark from Robert W. Baird & Co. was present to share the results of the bids that were received for \$31,000,000 general obligation refunding bonds. Piper Jaffray had the low bid with a true interest rate of 3.945068%.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$31,000,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds pursuant to Section 67.04 Wisconsin Statutes and to award the bid to Piper Jaffray with a true interest rate of 3.945068%. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #7—Purchase of Wisconsin Association of School Boards Policy Resource Guide

Com. Duax felt the Board should wait to purchase this service until WASB has more data prepared.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to purchase the WASB Policy Resource Guide. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Cummins, Faanes, Janke, Johnson and Wogahn. Nay: Duax.

Resolution #8 – Reconsideration of Previously Approved Referendum-Related Bid: Earthwork & Site Utility

Mr. Kramer explained why the District decided to rebid the alternate portion of the earthwork and site utility projects. The value engineering and re-bidding of selected items at the three elementary schools resulted in a net savings of \$179,617.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to approve referendum-related bids for earthwork & site utility as rebid and to award contracts to Haas & Sons (\$362,415), No Mercy Excavating (\$275,100), and American Express (\$355,868). Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #9—Referendum Related Bids

Several Board members asked for more time to review the bids.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to table approval of referendum-related bids until October 24, 2011. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Faanes, and Johnson. Nay: Janke and Wogahn.

Resolution #10—Advocating for Legislative Action in Support of Senate Bill 174

A letter to area legislators was drafted to advocate for legislative action in support of Senate Bill 174. A reference will be added that this was discussed at the last breakfast meeting with legislators and they had indicated they would support this bill.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to send letter to area legislators advocating for legislative action in support of Senate Bill 174 as presented and amended. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #11—Bills Payable

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Cummins, to approve payment of all bills in the amount of \$4,862,649.09 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,165,660.38 for the period of September 1, 2011, through September 30, 2011, as presented. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Janke, Johnson, and Wogahn. Abstained: Faanes.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
OCTOBER 17, 2011**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representatives Joe Luginbill and Amal Javaid were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Post-Secondary Readiness & Secondary Staffing/Class Size and the 2012-2013 Budget Impact

Dr. Heilmann said the purpose of the report is to begin the discussion of how secondary staffing and class sizes impact the district's overall budget. Dr. Heilmann met with nearly 30 educators who served as collaborators in the process and provided feedback on this issue. Dr. Heilmann shared data that listed class sizes at each secondary school by departments as well as similar data for all elementary schools.

The current Board policy on class size was shared. The draft language for the Administrative Rule for that policy set a class size of 30, +/- 20%.

Dr. Heilmann said that after review and discussion with collaborators, administration was not recommending any reductions in FTE at the secondary level at this time.

There were some Board members who felt 30 was too high but the consensus of the Board was to move forward with the Administrative Rule as presented.

B. Additional Data Concerning Retirement Benefits

Dr. Weissenburger shared charts he prepared that indicated each group of employees in the District and the retirement benefits that they receive. All groups now have defined contribution plans with the exception of the classified staff.

After discussions, the Board confirmed that there will be no changes in existing early retirement benefits for individuals who retire prior to June 30, 2012 and it was also suggested that anyone eligible to retire in 2013 could utilize those same benefits.

The Board asked for a breakdown of employees who get insurance and at what level and the number of employees who pay more than the minimum 12.6% for insurance benefits. It was suggested that the date for employees to notify the district of their plans for retirement be moved from April 1st to January or February.

An Early Retirement Task Force will be formed to review this matter which could include a diverse group of representatives from WASB, legal counsel, retirement planning financial experts, Board members and various employee groups. This group could start meeting in the near future and have recommendations for an early retirement plan by spring or early summer.

C. Discussion & Possible First Reading of Revisions to *ECASD Policy 810—School Community Alliances*

Com. Duax shared the first reading of *Policy 810—School Community Alliances*:

The practice of community engagement in public education cultivates a critical role in the enhancement of student achievement. Quality education for each individual can best be achieved by utilizing the rich and diverse talents of people within the Eau Claire community. Full achievement of this policy implies inter-reliance with the referenced community entities.

Community engagement provides an opportunity for building broad-based community trust and support for public education. Therefore, the Eau Claire Area School District shall foster district-wide community engagement initiatives that shall achieve the following goals:

1. Maintain confidence and respect of the community in preparing youth for successful transition into their adult roles and responsibilities.
2. Practice all reasonable efforts to identify educational concerns and issues of the community and be responsive through its actions to those concerns and issues.
3. Advance a culture of civility among District staff and community members.
4. Utilize knowledge and assistance of community members in the discussion of the Eau Claire Area School District's educational programs and corresponding resources for programs.
5. Provide access to Eau Claire Area School District's facilities and resources for service organizations and community groups in accordance with *Policy 830 -- Use of School Facilities*.
6. Maintain reliable communication network to inform employees and citizens of Eau Claire Area School District's governing policies.

7. Sustain open and effective relations with media.
8. Establish and support collaborative interactions with other local and state governing bodies to optimize resources and enhance community trust.

It was pointed out that two changes that were suggested during the last review of this policy had not been incorporated into this draft. The last sentence of the first paragraph will now read, "Full achievement of this policy implies reciprocal responsibility with community constituents." The word 'individual' will be added to #5. These changes will be made and brought back for final action at the November 7th meeting.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

There was a request made to have a proposal for dealing with the Employee Handbook and the transition in HR due to Dr. Weissenburger's retirement.

4. Other Business

Com. Faanes asked that in the future when information on bidders is provided to the Board, it should include where each firm is from.

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

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

6. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to go into closed session under 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Faanes, Johnson and Wogahn. Nay: Janke.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.