

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, OCTOBER 18, 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, and Wogahn. Absent: Shiel. Student Representatives Joe Luginbill and Rebecca Giles 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 to discuss administrative compensation and contracts; 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session to discuss possible consideration of purchase of a public property; and 19.85 (1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations.

PUBLIC FORUM - No one signed up to address the Board.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann shared the feedback form that members of the public can fill out to evaluate the Board after each meeting.

The Education Law Center ranked school funding systems across the country using statistical modeling techniques. Wisconsin received a grade of B for its overall spending effort in attempting to fairly fund its public schools but earned a C when measured on how much money it directs to its neediest schools to address concentrations of student living in poverty. Many low-performing students come from impoverished backgrounds. Dr. Heilmann shared how Wisconsin ranked. The entire report can be accessed at <http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/>.

Dr. Heilmann said that members of the Community Roundtable met last week and will meet again on October 21st. The group is ready to move the referendum process forward.

Board with your Coffee will be held on November 4th at 6:30 pm at the Coffee Grounds and November 5th at 8 am at Acoustic Café.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig circulated a sign up sheet for Board members who are able to attend the Chamber Business Expo and Real Life Academy. Board Members Johnson and Duax recently attend the WASB Regional Conference. Com. Duax said they received information about legislative candidates and where they think schools are economically. They also heard a report from Intel, which promoted different use of technology for students that are beneficial to their education. WASB is now offering a policy resource guide for Boards that the district may want to look into.

Student Representative Report

Becca Giles said that Dr. Heilmann and Mr. Scidmore as well as Com. Janke attended Memorial's Student Council meeting in October. A committee of students interested in the technology policy was formalized to draft a set of rules to submit to the Board for consideration. Joe Luginbill said he will be setting up a similar meeting at North with the Student Council.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

The Policy & Governance Committee developed a relevant policy on distribution of materials. They will meet with Tim Leibham and Ron Heilmann to make sure it is feasible and will also share it with partnership coordinators as well as some non-profit organization that would be impacted.

Budget Development Committee

No update was given.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 6, 7 & 8 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of Board Forward meeting of September 27, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of September 30, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of October 4, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of October 4, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The gifts in the amount of \$44,157.80 for the period September 1, 2010, through September 30, 2010, as presented.

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #6 – Employment Report

President Craig pointed out that the first five positions in the employment report are being funded with 'soft money' that will not be available in the future.

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Johnson, to approve the matters of employment of October 18, 2010, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #7 – Conflict of Interest Policy

Com. Johnson asked that the words "decision making" be hyphenated in the policy.

Com. Janke said he would vote against the policy because there is nothing in it that says Board members would have to give notification of any possible conflicts. President Craig said that at the organizational meeting each year board members are obligated to disclose any potential conflict of interest. It was suggested that a rule be developed that says Board members will disclose this at the organizational meeting each year. Com. Janke will work with administration to draft rules.

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to adopt Policy 153 – Conflict of Interest as presented with the words "decision making" hyphenated where appropriate. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Aye: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, and Wogahn. Nay: Janke.

Resolution #8— ECASD to Host WIAA Tournaments and Record Proceeds in Fund 21

Com. Johnson asked where the proceeds for WIAA tournaments have been recorded in the past. Mr. Van De Water said they have always been recorded in Fund 21 but the state is now requiring that districts make a formal motion to that effect.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to record proceeds in Fund 21 for WIAA tournament events hosted by the ECASD. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #9 – Payment of Bills and Payroll

The payment of all bills in the amount of \$4,567,792.43 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,113,894.20 for the period September 1, 2010, through September 30, 2010, as presented. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, 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 18, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, and Wogahn.
Absent: Shiel. Student Representatives Joe Luginbill and Rebecca Giles were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Review of Capital and Facilities Needs Recommendation

Superintendent Ron Heilmann said many groups have come together and spent a great amount of time preparing the information the Board will review. The Community Roundtable group was proactive in advocating that the Board coalesce around action at this time. If the proposed timeline is followed, the Board will be on target with an April 2011 referendum.

Dan Van De Water, Executive Director of Business, shared the proposed timeline. In September the capital plan was refined regarding major repairs and Mr. Tim Leibham has been meeting with staff and parents at each elementary school to present information on enrollment trends, explain possible short- and long-term solutions and solicit feedback from the Demographic Committee. Also in September the architects and engineers analyzed schools to identify impacts of potential expansions, the Demographic Trends Committee met to come up with recommendations for the Board to consider and the financial advisor prepared financial projections.

Keeping with the proposed timeline, the Board was hearing a recommendation for capital needs tonight and would consider and prepare a referendum question in October and November. In December 2010 and January 2011 information would be presented to the community and feedback gathered. In February 2011 the Board would finalize the scope of the referendum and pass necessary resolutions. The Board would continue to inform the community in March 2011 with an April 5, 2011, referendum.

Mr. Van De Water said there are three components to the proposed plan: DeLong deferred renovation and repair, facilities to handle increasing enrollments and the early learning center component.

Mr. Leibham said that greater detail about the technical aspects and benefits of a centralized early learning center will be shared with the Board at a work session. He said that from 1993-94 to 2004-05, elementary enrollments dropped by 999 students. Since 2005-06 the district has grown by 400 students with projections from the Applied Population Laboratory (APL) showing increased enrollments for at least the next nine years. The

district is already seeing some problems with enrollments and over-crowded schools, and it will run out of space within eight to nine years.

The Demographic Committee looked at possible solutions to the issue of increasing elementary enrollments and came up with three ways to solve the problem: 1) Shift boundaries and move fifth grade students to middle schools. (That solution could last for about four to five years and then the district would run out of space at the middle schools at which time eighth graders may need to move to the high schools.) 2) Expand existing sites. 3) Build a new elementary school. It was noted that a new school would not be a replacement school but would fill elementary enrollment needs. He said the Demographic Trends group reviewed ATS&R's analysis. One of the problems with building a new school is that the district is not sure where the population increases will occur.

Mr. Leibham said that Little Red is a one-section school with six classrooms. Most of the classrooms were not updated when improvements were made in the past. It has some structural problems with the septic system and well. Little Red can functionally hold about 120-150 children but district enrollments will exceed that in a short time. One-section schools are expensive to operate and all students would need to be bused there. If it was expanded to a four-section school, extensive bussing costs would be added. He said the facility could be used for overflow or perhaps for the Engage Charter School. There were also discussions about the possibility of swapping the property for something more centrally located.

Mr. Leibham said the Demographic Trends Committee recommended expanding Robbins and Sherman, where significant growth is occurring, and improving the learning environment at Putnam Heights where there are great instructional and security needs. This proposal will address enrollment issues for eight to nine years during which time enrollments can continue to be monitored.

Paul Erickson and Dean Beeninga from ATS&R shared results of their analysis of district buildings. Mr. Erickson said they received all of the work of the Demographic Trends Committee, which was very helpful and thorough. He said their engineers and architects went into each building and talked to staff to understand all components of the buildings. They looked at each building from an engineering perspective as well as an educational analysis. Each building's capacity was matched with the curriculum and a site analysis looked at some things like bus and car drop off and having the office near the main entry for safety issues. They recorded the top five educational and facility needs for each building.

ATS&R looked at a map of the city showing housing starts in the last ten years. This showed where the growth is. After all of the analyses were made, Mr. Erickson said there were several concepts that were considered, but the Demographic Trends group chose Concept 3. The projected costs for elementary needs would be \$29 million and costs for DeLong Middle

School would be \$26 million. Mr. Erickson reviewed the elementary proposals.

Mr. Erickson said the office at Putnam Heights Elementary is in the middle of the building and it is proposed to be moved to the main entry. The bus/car drop would be adjusted, and one classroom would be added to bring it to a three-section school. The gym and cafeteria would be expanded and some mechanical, receiving and boiler needs would be addressed as well.

At Robbins Elementary the bus/car drop would be adjusted. The 1950s portion of the building would be removed because of deterrents such as air quality, mechanical, etc. It would be replaced with a two-story classroom addition, which would make it a four-section school. The gym, cafeteria and media center would be expanded and the office would be moved to the main entrance.

Sherman Elementary also has car drop issues so a turnaround would be added. The possibility of having an access drive for people going north would be considered. Sherman would be expanded to a four-section school by removing the 1950s portion of the school and adding a two-story classroom. The café, kitchen, and media center would be enlarged and the office would be moved to the main entry close to parent drop off and parking.

Mr. Erickson briefly explained the other options that were considered. The first one would match the APL projections to each school. There would need to be additions at six elementary buildings, five buildings would have extra space and some buildings would be sufficient. Option 2 looked at Robbins, Sherman and Meadowview, which have the biggest growth and are very full schools. Meadowview is a new school and in better shape, so to improve the situation, Option 3 was developed because Putnam Heights had higher repair needs. Another option looked at adding on to Little Red to make it a four-section school and what that would do to the whole population growth, and a final option looked at building a new elementary school and where that would be built.

Mr. Leibham said that the Demographic Trends Committee looked at the APL report and used the conservative growth models, which project an increase of 500 students. The two-year trend indicates an increase of 900 kids. There was a significant increase of families into the district this year.

Paul Erickson from ATS&R said staff have taken good care of the facilities and they are well maintained, but the annual budget isn't enough to keep them up to date. They confirmed the district's five-year capital plan and put together a booklet with all of the five-year capital projects of the district. They looked at architectural, mechanical, and electrical needs at each building.

Mr. Erickson addressed the needs at DeLong. He said it is a large facility which had some updates but it now needs some major upgrades to its

mechanical system, windows, roofs and partitions. There are security issues with the front door, the administration area needs to be reconfigured, and the fire suppression systems have to be addressed. The total for this project is \$26.4 million. It was pointed out that South Middle will likely need a comparable project to DeLong within ten years. There should be space in all three middle schools for six to ten years or even longer.

Administration recommended scheduling a special work session to look at more details of the plan. The group decided to meet on October 25th after the budget hearing and special meeting to adopt the budget.

Mr. Leibham said that if the proposal for elementary schools is approved, there would not be any major boundary changes necessary. The Demographic Trends Committee would work with Student Transit to determine where students live and how to better fill schools with available space. It was noted that if Little Red would be expanded and utilized, there would be extensive boundary shifts required. Even though the boundary changes would be minimal, there will still be some students who will have to move no matter what option is approved.

The district will ask APL to do another study in five years given the large student populations projected and the increases this year that were even greater than projections.

Mike Clark from Robert W. Baird & Co. said he put together a financing plan that is conservative, generic, and tentative. The district's existing debt will be paid off after the 2011-12 fiscal year. He did not factor in any future borrowing needs in this plan. Mr. Clark said he broke the borrowing into two portions and he explained the rationale for that recommendation. With this finance plan the debt payments would increase from 2010-11 by 11 cent above what is currently being paid. There would be a decline in tax rates after next year. The Board felt it would be important to even off the tax so there isn't a one-year increase. Mr. Clark said there are other options to minimize or eliminate that small increase, but there may be some trade offs and possible interest rate risks. The Board talked about the possibility of adding debt in the future. Mr. Clark said the district could work that into the debt structure depending on the scope of the effort. The debt payments can be pushed out for twenty years to allow others to participate in payments of buildings they will be using. He said with operational debt there isn't the same flexibility.

The Student Reps asked how they could help promote the success of the referendum. Dr. Heilmann said informational pieces will be created that would list a series of questions most usually asked and answer would be provided. Those could be shared with students. He also advocated for students to get involved in the community roundtables.

Citizen Ron Senningen suggested that the district consider some variation of year-round schools. Dr. Heilmann has some research on that subject that he could share with Mr. Senningen.

Citizen Terry Sheridan said he liked what he heard in terms of long-range planning. He said he didn't see accommodations for the increased space for music and art. If the district goes to four-section schools, he challenged the Board to make sure the adequacy of teaching spaces for those areas will be accommodated. He said all ramifications should be considered with respect to cost for facility and efficiency/cost utilization of staff. Four-sections would need added specialists and guidance time given the current minutes of instructions provided.

Com. Janke felt that although the improvements are needed, given the economy and state's financial situation, he didn't think a referendum would pass.

There were still some concerns expressed about not considering an operational question. Board members asked for updates on that situation. It was felt that at some point in the near future an operational question will have to go to the voters. Mr. Clark said that if the Board feels an operating question will come soon, the debt payments could be structured to accommodate that as well as the debt.

The majority of the Board wanted to move ahead with the plan. At the work session they asked to see details for the building projects, a listing of priorities for the DeLong project, information on the early learning center, and how to structure future operating costs.

President Craig thanked the Demographic Trends Committee for its hard work and efforts.

B. Discussion of New Positions/Responsibilities that are Part of the 2010-11 ECASD Budget

Mr. Van De Water explained the new positions that are included in the 2010-11 budget. The Buildings & Grounds Secretary II position is budgeted in Fund 80. This position was created by the Board to provide support for the implementation of a revised facility use policy and has been filled. He felt it has been a good investment. Each high school needed additional clerical support to cover deficiencies from past budget cuts. Eight hours per week would be added at each high school. Also included in the budget is the addition of the Student Information System Manager.

Mr. Bob Scidmore, Director of Technology, shared a history of reorganization in the Technology Department. In the past there were two non-affiliated Directors in Data Processing and one of those positions was eliminated through budget cuts and efforts to maximize efficiencies. A new student information system (Skyward) was implemented since that time, and there has been increasing work related to that system.

Additional time was also shifted from the assistant principal position at South to make the Montessori principal full time. Because Montessori has

over 300 students attending, it was felt there should be a full time administrator there for safety, security and response time.

President Craig said she is still concerned about reductions in the elementary art program and perhaps that should be discussed again.

Classified President Bev Christianson said that the union feels that the proposed non-affiliated position in the Technology Department should be part of the classified union.

Carolyn Barstad urged the Board to consider the information shared by Dr. Sheridan about research on three-section schools. She also encouraged the Board to consider windows a priority at DeLong. From her experience it is hard to work in a building without windows.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Johnson said that based on input received from the public, the next time the Board has a session to talk about board effectiveness, there be an item for recognizing minority viewpoints. The public was encouraged to be as specific as possible when filling out the evaluation forms.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

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

6. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, 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 to discuss administrative compensation and contracts; 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session to discuss possible consideration of purchase of a public property; and 19.85 (1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Aye: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, and Wogahn. Nay: Janke.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10 pm.