

Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes

Monday, January 5, 2015 - 7 p.m.

Generated by Patrice Iverson

Members present: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, and Chue Xiong.

Member absent: Charles Vue.

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

No one signed up to address the Board.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the Board's calendar of upcoming events.

3.2 Communications to Superintendent/Board President

President Spindler said there are two School Board positions on the spring ballot. Papers are due on January 6, 2015 at 5 p.m.

He reviewed several upcoming events: 1) The Budget Development Committee will meet on January 14 and will start needs assessment to start looking at next year's budget and a possible referendum. 2) The National School Board Association Convention will be in March in Nashville. 3) The Chamber will host the Chippewa Valley Rally to Madison on January 28. 4) ECASD will host the next legislative breakfast. It is tentatively set for February 6 at Prairie Ridge at 7 a.m.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

4.1 Student Representative Report

Hannah Winegarden said she has been investigating how other districts deal with grade ranking and has not found any conclusive information. She highlighted the alumni hockey game and alumni dance performance at North.

Jonah Giese suggested that students be given training on Chrome Books so they can be utilized to their full potential. He spoke about adding college planning discussions for seniors during home room.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 Board Committee Reports

Policy & Governance met and discussed middle and high school class credits as well as the open enrollment policy.

The Charter Committee has been looking at contract benchmarks to get an idea of what a template would look like.

5.2 Legislative Update

Eric Lindquest from the Leader Telegram wrote an article entitled, "Seeking Common Ground" which highlighted committees that legislators serve on and what their focuses are.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

6.1 The Board will consider approval of the Consent Resolution Agenda Items

Motion by Trish Cummins, seconded by Chue Xiong, to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of December 15, 2014 Board Meeting
- Minutes of Closed Session - December 15, 2014
- Human Resources-Employment Report of January 5, 2015
- Adopt New Policy 622.3 - Fund Balance
- Revisions to Policy 411 - Equal Employment Opportunities

Final Resolution: Motion carried

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Chue Xiong

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Approval of Head Start Continuation Grant

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, seconded by Chue Xiong, to approve Head Start Continuation Grant.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Chue Xiong

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Continuation of Discussion on Forming Compensation Study Committees

Rich Spindler and Chris Hambuch-Boyle volunteered to draft a charge for the Compensation Study Committees. They brought forward a charge for the Board to consider. Board members were pleased with the draft charge. They suggested some tweaks to the makeup of the three recommended committees. One committee would be for teacher/certified staff, another for hourly staff and a third for non-teacher/non-certified salaried staff. Because several staff members were suggested to be on all three committees, it was recommended that Superintendent Hardebeck be given the flexibility to rotate or split up the administrators for each committee.

To keep the size of the committees manageable, there could be some overlap where staff could cover more than one area. For instance, have a special education teacher that works at the elementary level serve. Another recommendation was to include a "Representative from Teaching & Learning." Mr. Butler will be contacted to determine if a T & L representative needs to be on both the hourly and non-certified committees. For Committee #2, Items B-F will be combined.

It was suggested that the committees be filled by accepting volunteers and then picking participants randomly. If there are not enough volunteers for certain areas, those could be appointed. Board members would be appointed by the Board President.

The possibility of having one large group meeting to begin the process was discussed. Mr. Spindler will talk with Bob Butler, the facilitator, about this.

The recommended changes will be made and brought forward as a Consent Resolution at the next meeting.

9.2 2015-16 School Calendar Discussion

Kay Marks and James Martin shared a draft of the 2015-2016 school calendar that was proposed by the Calendar Committee. They explained that the committee focused on four areas: 1) Ending the school year earlier but on the same date for all levels. 2) Incorporating teacher professional development time within the work day. 3) Assuring elementary schedule 'out of session' days coincide with either middle or high

school schedules. 4) Incorporating enough minutes in each level to account for a minimum of five inclement weather days. It was noted that there would be no change in elementary minutes, middle schools would add 24 minutes per day and high schools would add 14 minutes per day. All of the time added would be instructional minutes. The student early release time on Wednesday's for professional development at the high schools would be eliminated under this proposal.

The added minutes to student days at the secondary level was discussed. There was some discussion about allowing minutes to accommodate five snow days, given that the District would rarely have that many. Having fewer instructional days was also discussed. It was noted that feedback from staff and parents indicated that it would be preferable to not have to add days at the end of the year to make up for snow days. This would allow staff and families the opportunity to make summer plans or sign up for summer classes. If the snow days are not used, students will receive extra instructional time.

The Parent Advisory Council provided some input on the calendar earlier in the year and that feedback was reflected in some of the proposals. PAC will review the draft again at its January 12th meeting.

Allowing additional days for staff to work on professional development could provide them more time to be better educators. With the added demands on staff within the professional learning communities, the PD is important. The committee developed specific guidelines to use for these days and that was shared with the Board.

Jim Fey from Student Transit reviewed changes that could be made to the bell schedule under this proposal. He said that adjusting the elementary school start times would allow these changes to be implemented with little to no additional bussing costs.

The student representatives also provided feedback. Hannah Winegarden felt a longer school day could stress students, but she also saw the benefit of added minutes for AP courses. Adding minutes would also push extra-curricular activities later into the evening, which would give less time for homework. Jonah Giese felt eliminating the early release on Wednesday's would be a positive change.

When asked about studying the concept of having secondary students start later in the day, Ms. Marks said the Board requested that the Calendar Committee make a recommendation about whether to pursue that. A report will be provided to the Board in February on that topic.

Information will be included in the District Update for staff to provide feedback on the calendar.

Com. Johnson asked for input on how teachers will accommodate the required curriculum with fewer teaching days.

9.3 WASB Delegate Resolutions

Board members received a copy of the WASB Delegate Resolutions that will be discussed at the Delegate Assembly later this month. They were asked if they could support all 17 resolutions.

Trish Cummins moved, seconded by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to direct the District's Delegate to support all of the WASB Resolutions with the exception of Resolution 15-17. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

The Board discussed Resolution 15-17 further, which would provide pathways to licensure for teaching candidates in subject or content areas where there is a shortage of licensed teachers.

Chue Xiong moved, seconded by Trish Cummins, to support Resolution 15-17. Motion carried by the following voice vote: Ayes: Richard Spindler, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Chue Xiong. Nay: Kathryn Duax. Abstained: Wendy Sue Johnson.

Kathryn Duax will serve as the Delegate for the District.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10.1 Requests for Future Agenda Items

Chris Hambuch-Boyle would like to discuss the possibility of participating in the Wisconsin Public Education Network and the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Such other matters as may be brought before the Board.

12. ADJOURN

12.1 Adjourn the Meeting

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

Final Resolution: Motion carried

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Chue Xiong

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.