

## **Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes Monday, January 19, 2015**

*Generated by Patrice Iverson*

### **Members present**

Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

**Member Absent:** Kathryn Duax.

### **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**

Tania Santo is a fourth grade teacher in the ECASD. She was very pleased that instructional planning days were embedded into the 2015-16 calendar. Lakeshore started a four-hour planning block last year, and she felt students have benefited greatly with that change. She noted that the atmosphere in the school has changed considerably.

Marti Hardy is the math coach at Lakeshore. She said they are a focus school and have done a lot of reading and research on high performing schools. It was determined that utilizing four-hour planning blocks was beneficial and was implemented at Lakeshore. The time is used for collaborative scoring, planning, analyzing data and responding to data. It has made a big difference in the building. The planning is purposeful, which increases student learning and helps staff to be better teachers.

Mark Goings spoke on behalf of ECAE. He asked if the Calendar Committee would be able to review the feedback that the District received on the 2015-16 calendar. He felt there were revisions that could be made to the proposed calendar that would take into consideration some of the concerns expressed. Mr. Goings also stated that he and James Martin have conducted listening sessions with staff at 19 buildings regarding the compensation study. He said the meetings have been positive. He is confident the Board and administration will do what is best to attract and retain the best teaching staff possible.

Kim Koller said as a parent, she appreciates the calendar changes. She liked that the teacher professional development days were added at the beginning of the year and built into the calendar so her children wouldn't have substitutes when their teachers were doing planning. She also liked the changes to the middle school day, which would allow students to receive interventions during middle school. Having middle school and elementary school schedules the same helps with arranging child care when the kids are not in school.

### **3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **3.1 Superintendent's Report**

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

#### **3.2 Recognition of National Board Certified Teachers**

Dr. Hardebeck shared information on the process for staff to become National Board Certified Teachers. It typically takes two to three years to complete. Dr. Hardebeck recognized the following teachers for achieving national board certification: Diane Johnson Rose, Travis Van Vleet, and Char Winkler. In addition, Jodi Miller became recertified. President Spindler also congratulated these staff members for this accomplishment.

#### **3.3 Communications to Superintendent/Board President**

President Spindler acknowledged the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He noted that the legislative breakfast will be held at Prairie Ridge Early Learning Center on February 6th at 7 a.m. The Chamber of Commerce has several upcoming events that were highlighted: 1) The District will be recognized as one of the long-standing institutions in the city at the 100 Year Anniversary on February 18th. 2) The Chippewa Valley Rally will be held on January 28th. WASB is holding a Lobby Day on education issues in Madison on March 18. In addition, the NSBA convention is March 21-23 in Nashville. Board members interested in attending any of these events should contact Patti Iverson.

### **4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

#### **4.1 Student Representative Report**

Jonah Giese said the Student Council at Memorial asked administration to support the recognition of Martin Luther King. He felt this should be incorporated into the schedule in the future and not necessarily be student-led. Jonah also talked to the Student Council about the proposed 2015-2016 calendar. There were many concerns at first but after it was explained to them, students were in favor of the changes. He asked if students could provide feedback regarding the

calendar. Dr. Hardebeck noted that students can use Your Voice to submit comments or questions.

Hannah Winegarden was not present.

## **5. OTHER REPORTS**

### **5.1 Board Committee Reports**

The Budget Development Committee received an overview of the District's audit at the last meeting. This was a very positive report.

### **5.2 Legislative Update**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle reported on Assembly Bill 1 and hearings regarding the accountability bill. Before the hearing started, the Education Committee Chair and bill author Jeremy Thiesfeldt announced two major changes. The first was dropping the provision that the Academic Review Board would play a key role in the oversight process. The second was announcing a new mandate on school boards to annually announce by board resolution what academic standards the district will use in the coming school year. In addition, Senator Lamar Alexander released a draft bill to replace No Child Left Behind. He is seeking feedback on the bill via email and comments can be sent to [fixingnclb@help.senate.gov](mailto:fixingnclb@help.senate.gov).

## **6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Motion by Trish Cummins, seconded by Chue Xiong, to approve the following consent resolution agenda items:

- Minutes of Board Meeting - January 5, 2015
- Closed Session minutes from January 5, 2015.
- Financial Report for December 2014
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$ 4,507,656.48 and net payroll in the amount of \$ 3,175,191.51 for the period of December 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.
- Human Resources-Employment Report for January 19, 2015.
- WASB Resolutions

Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong.

## **7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)**

### **7.1 Gift Report**

Wendy Sue Johnson had a question about a large gift included in the gift report. She asked for further information on this item.

Motion by Wendy Sue Johnson, seconded by Trish Cummins, to table the discussion on the gift report.

Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong.

### **7.2 Administrator Contracts**

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Chue Xiong, that the following administrators receive a contract beginning July 1, 2015: Mary Ann Hardebeck, Timothy Leibham, Daniel Van De Water, William Giese, Kathryn Schiefelbein and Tim Skutley.

Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Chue Xiong. Abstained: Charles Vue.

### **7.3 Compensation Committee Charge**

The sub-committee responsible for drafting a charge for the Compensation Committee made some revisions to the composition of the three committees, which were also reviewed by Superintendent Hardebeck and Bob Butler from WASB. They were brought to the Board for review. Bob Butler said he would get all three committees together, or assign someone to do that, at the beginning of the process for collaboration. Board members should email President Spindler if they are interested in serving on a committee.

Motion by Wendy Sue Johnson, seconded by Charles Vue, to approve the Compensation Committee Charge as presented.

Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong.

## **7.4 Schools/Programs Not Available for Open Enrollment**

Tim Leibham, Executive Director of Administration, noted that state statutes require districts to identify schools, grade levels, or educational programs that are not available for the purpose of Open Enrollment. Due to limited capacity to meet the needs of resident students, it was recommended that the following District programs be closed to the expectation of placement for non-resident students for the 2015-16 school year: 1) Deaf/Hard of Hearing elementary program, 2) Educational programs designed to meet the needs of students who are in the general education setting less than 40% of the time, 3) Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School, and 4) McKinley Charter School.

There was discussion about closing Montessori to open enrollment. Principal Todd Johnson said the Montessori Governance Board had much discussion about this. He said they ultimately decided that closing the school to open enrollment would allow the school to focus on their priority to increase the diversity at the school. The topic of not allowing siblings of open enrolled students priority in the enrollment process was also discussed. There were some concerns expressed about this. Mr. Johnson said the Governance Board would make it clear that this was the Governance Board's decision on handling their lottery.

It was suggested that the Charter School Committee look at this topic. The Governance Board welcomed the idea of having a conversation with the School Board in the future to discuss closing Montessori to open enrollment and giving siblings of open enrolled students priority in the lottery process.

Motion by Chue Xiong, seconded by Wendy Sue Johnson, to approve the schools/programs not available for open enrollment as presented. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

## **8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE**

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **9.1 2015-16 Budget Considerations**

Dan Van De Water, Executive Director of Business Services, shared a preliminary look at the 2015-16 budget as well as the budget calendar. He said that Governor Walker will release his budget proposal on February 3rd. Property tax reduction is a high priority for the governor and some legislators and the expansion of the voucher program is still being considered. It is not known whether or not there will be an increase in the revenue limit. If there is an increase in the revenue limit, either state aid will increase to fill the gap or property taxes will have to increase.

Mr. Van De Water shared a history of per pupil increases as well as enrollments. He also provide various scenarios with different variables such as per pupil allotments and enrollment. This showed the impact on the expenditures exceeding revenues and tax implications. There are still questions about whether or not the legislature will allow the use of Fund 80 in the future. This could also have an impact on the budget. The Budget Calendar was reviewed.

The District may have to consider a referendum in the future.

### **9.2 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 424 - Open Enrollment**

The Policy & Governance Committee reviewed suggested changes to Policy 424 - Open Enrollment. Changes in legislation necessitated an update to this policy. There was a suggestion that the title "Executive Director of Administration" be changed to "Superintendent's Designee" throughout the policy. In addition, a question was raised about the section under Nonresident Open Enrollment Students regarding space availability and waiting lists, which states that the administrator shall consider the availability of space but the Board establishes limitations. This raised a question about who is responsible for these decisions, and it was recommended that the entire policy be reviewed for these types of questions. The policy will be sent back to Policy & Governance for additional review on these areas.

### **9.3 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 460 - Student Scholarships and Awards**

The state has offered a new Wisconsin Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship for students. Therefore, the current policy needed to be updated to include this scholarship.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared the first reading of Policy 460 - Student Scholarships and Awards:

*Students in the school district shall be informed annually of any available scholarships and awards. Literature concerning available scholarships and awards shall be posted in the school building and/or available through the guidance counselor. Criteria for school district awards and scholarships shall be developed consistent with school district goals and objectives. The District will select nominees and alternates for the Wisconsin Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship and the Wisconsin Technical Excellence Higher Education Scholarship in accordance with established procedures for those awards.*

*The school district shall not unlawfully discriminate in the acceptance and administration of gifts, bequests, awards, scholarships, or other aids, benefits or services to students from private agencies, organizations, or persons on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, color, handicap, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Discrimination complaints shall be processed*

*in accordance with established procedures. Accordingly, any scholarship or award granted by, administered by, or advertised/promoted by the District shall be in compliance with the above stated policy of nondiscrimination.*

There was consensus to bring this policy change forward as a consent resolution at the next meeting.

#### **9.4 Safety and Security Annual Report**

Mr. Charlie Kramer, Director of Buildings and Grounds, provided an update to the Board in the areas of student and staff safety and district security. He shared what the Emergency Management Work Group has been doing including a review of the District's Crisis Plan, the implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS) model, secure entrances, staff training and communication. The Student and Staff Safety Team Work Group has been discussing work place safety, student safety, prevention, compliance with required drills, safety culture, practices, and communications.

A history of the number and types of staff safety incidents since 2011 was provided. The District has seen an increase in workers' compensation injuries. These injuries contribute to workers' compensation insurance costs, so time has been spent on that issue to determine what is causing those injuries and how to prevent them.

Mr. Kramer explained the Incident Command System and why it is a critical component to safety and security. He shared a diagram of how the system works during a crisis situation and the staff involved in the process.

#### **9.5 2015-16 School Year Calendar**

Kay Marks, Executive Director of Human Resources, and members of the Calendar Committee were present to share information obtained by the Committee with regards to the calendar. This included their charge and the challenges they faced, best practice and researched-based instructional strategies to increase student achievement, and the impact on the proposed calendar from a teacher's perspective.

Information was shared regarding the proposed breakdown of contract days by level and the proposed adjustments to minutes of instruction to meet DPI requirements for minutes. This would allow inclement weather days to be built in, which would cover days closed due to weather as well as late starts/early release for inclement weather.

Staff members who have been piloting the use of four-hour planning blocks at the elementary level shared the benefits for students and staff that they have experienced. This included taking a critical look at learning and data and making adjustments for students, common core alignment, further development of professional learning communities, focusing on effectiveness and making clear and positive impacts on student learning. The data support these findings. Secondary teachers also shared information about the impact of the proposed calendar at the middle and high school levels and the benefits that could result from shared planning and staff development time.

Board members thanked the group for the presentation. Additional information was requested about how the District would make up for fewer days of instruction for students. The concept of adjusting start/end times for secondary and elementary students was also requested to be studied again. The Board talked about next steps and whether feedback received from Your Voice, parents, staff, students and the Board should be shared with the Calendar Committee.

Motion by Charles Vue, seconded by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to send comments received from Board members, staff, parents and students to administration to decide if the Calendar Committee should be reconvened or if the calendar should be brought back as a consent resolution item on the next Board agenda. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Lori Koepke, a member of the Calendar Committee, felt it would be important for their committee to review the feedback received. In addition, the committee hadn't heard the information about adjusting start times to allow for additional time for snow days. She thought the committee could weigh in on the information provided and bring back a strong recommendation.

### **10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **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, second by Chue Xiong, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Trish Cummins, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

