

Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes
Monday, November 17, 2014
Closed Session-6 pm; Regular Meeting-7 pm
Generated by Patrice Iverson

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

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.

Public Forum

President Spindler explained that there was unnecessary controversy over a media report that the District had canceled its Veterans Day Programs. Each school had a program and no programs were canceled. In regards to the 21 gun salute and honor guard, he said that sometimes the honor guard has been used for programs in the District and other times it has not. One of the schools in the District was contacted by the Patriotic Council about having an organized program at that school. The school already had a program planned so the Patriotic Council contacted Burger King and decided to hold the program there. Another school has had an honor guard as part of their program, and because of some unique learning and behavioral challenges of students at that school, it was decided that rather than exclude those children from the program, they would omit the 21 gun salute to have all children involved. He said the School District and Patriotic Council have worked together for years on Veterans Day Programs and have a strong partnership.

Paul Savides, the President of JONAH (Joining Neighbors Advancing Hope), shared information about their program. He said one of the goals of their program is to make a stronger, safer community. He said that by listening and demonstrating the willingness to understand one another, they can make progress to reach that goal. He encouraged the District to work together with JONAH.

John Stedman is also a member of JONAH and he invited Board members and educators to participate in the SNAP (Safer Neighborhoods Action Project) Initiative. SNAP is an innovative way to engage neighborhoods and affected communities using social media, cell phones and other mobile devices. Participants "speak" with photos they take of places in their community where they feel safe.

Joyce Anderson is a retired ECASD educator as well as a member of JONAH. She said the group feels that faithful economics and healthy communities are linked. She applauded the Board for its work on the issue of providing compensation to staff that is fair to employees and the community. She said that as the fourth largest employer in the community, the Board's decisions will affect the community because she felt that fair compensation builds healthy communities.

David Anderson is a retired pastor and part of JONAH. He said that taxes enable children to get a 'free education.' He felt that taxes make strong communities possible and advance hope for the whole community.

Steve Boyle said he is a veteran and was honored to attend DeLong Middle School's Veterans Day Program. He said there was a very touching tribute to veterans.

Ron Martin, Chair of the Patriotic Council, spoke about misinformation shared by the media about the District's Veterans Day Programs. He explained the long-standing partnership the Patriotic Council has had with the District and shared the history of past events that have taken place in the community. He said every school had a program on Veterans Day and noted that the District fully embraced Veterans Day. He said the goal of those programs is to promote patriotism and what it means to be a veteran. He said the Patriotic Council has worked with schools in the District in the past and when a school was contacted this year, there was a scheduling issue that prevented the formal Patriotic Council program to be held there. Mr. Martin explained that every principal in the United States gets a booklet that gives examples of ways to commemorate Veterans Day. He noted that booklet does not mention the practice of using a firing squad with a 21 gun salute. Mr. Martin stated that there hasn't always been a firing squad used at programs. The local site has the autonomy to make that decision based on the program that is planned. Mr. Martin thanked the District for working collaboratively with the Council for many years.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the Board's calendar of upcoming events. She also announced that five individual members of North's golf team have been named to the Academic All-State Team. Memorial's state championship cross country team had eight students named to the Academic All-State Team. Students are nominated for this award by coaches if they meet the following criteria: 1) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25, 2) participate in at least 75% of their events, and 3) are at least a sophomore in high school. Manz fifth grade teacher, Tracey Tumaniec, has been awarded the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Hardebeck congratulated these

students and Ms. Tumaniec for their accomplishments.

Dr. Hardebeck said that American Education Week is celebrated the week of November 17-21. This is a long-standing tradition that marks a celebration that started 100 years ago. The goal of this week has been to raise public awareness of the importance of education, particularly public education. She encouraged everyone to reflect on the influence that teachers are making in the lives of our students and to reach out to an educator who made a difference in their life.

3.2 Communications to Superintendent/Board President

President Spindler announced that December 1st is the first day Board candidates can circulate nomination papers. There are two seats up for reelection. Anyone interested in taking out papers should contact the Business Office. Com. Johnson announced that she will not be seeking reelection.

President Spindler reminded the Board about the NSBA Convention held March 21-23 and the WASB Convention held January 21-23. Anyone interested in attending these conferences should contact Secretary Iverson.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

4.1 Student Representative Report

Jonah Giese asked the Board to look at the decision it made to allow students into all extra-curricular events at the high schools. Fine Art events typically charge a fee in order to fund the event. Without this revenue, these events may not be able to be presented in the future. Dr. Hardebeck said she would follow up with the Athletic Council to see if a resolution can be reached in the matter. Hannah Winegarden was not present.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 Board Committee Reports

Commissioner Wendy Sue Johnson said the Demographic Trends Committee met and reviewed the purpose of the committee and its guiding principles. They received an overview of enrollments in the District at each level. The group recommended that an updated projection be completed by the Applied Population Lab. The committee reviewed the different types of referendums and timelines associated with holding referendums.

5.2 Legislative Update

Com. Chris Hambuch-Boyle said the GOP is eager to pass education measures. An accountability bill that would have sanctioned failing schools and test private school students who use taxpayer-funded vouchers did not pass in the last session. A bill is now being drafted that would create a council that would determine the criteria for punishing lagging schools and rewarding high performing schools. This bill would allow voucher students to take different tests with scores being aligned so they can be compared on the state report card. The bill would also expand vouchers from 1000 to 9000. The third piece of this bill would be a replacement of the common core state standards.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

6.1 The Board approved the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of November 3, 2014
- Financial Report - October 2014
- Bills Payable-October 2014 - Payment of all bills in the amount of \$ 6,112,801.25 and net payroll in the amount of \$ 4,791,357.56 for the period of October 1, 2014 through October 31, 2014.
- Human Resources - Employment Report - November 17, 2014

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, seconded by Trish Cummins, to approve consent resolution items as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Gift Report-October 2014

Chris Hambuch-Boyle thanked the community members who have donated to the District.

Motion by Trish Cummins, seconded by Charles Vue, that the Board of Education accept the gifts in the amount of \$ 17,414.83 for the period of October 1, 2014 through October 31, 2014.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

7.1 Resolution Authorizing Temporary Borrowing in Amount Not to Exceed \$7,000,000 Pursuant to Section 67.12(8)(A)(1)

Mr. Van De Water shared the results of bids for temporary borrowing. It was recommended that Oppenheimer & Co. be awarded the sale of a tax and revenue anticipation note in the amount of \$7,000,000 at a net interest rate of .6175%.

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, seconded by Trish Cummins, to award the sale of a tax and revenue anticipation note in the amount of \$7,000,000 for the period November 24, 2014 through August 26, 2015 at a net interest rate of .6175% to Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

7.2 2014-2015 Five-Year Capital Selected Projects

Mr. Charlie Kramer, Director of Buildings & Grounds, shared and reviewed the District's Comprehensive Facility Plan as well as the recommended five-year capital projects for 2014-2015. The 2014-2015 projects total \$1.6 million and include

roofs at Locust Lane and Montessori; plumbing, HVAC and electrical at South; special education remodel at Northwoods; architect/engineering services and health and safety/asbestos repairs district-wide. Mr. Kramer noted that North's track needs to be replaced, but that project was put on the deferred list. Mr. Kramer said there were about \$33 million identified facility needs district-wide, which includes \$20 million at South that hasn't been scheduled yet.

Mr. Kramer provided an update on referendum projects. Most projects have been finished, with DeLong near completion.

Motion by Trish Cummins, seconded by Kathryn P Duax, to approve the 2014-2015 five-year capital selected projects as recommended.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

7.3 Non-Affiliated Staff 2014-2015 Compensation

Kay Marks, Executive Director of Human Resources, said that the base wage increase is 1.46%. It was recommended that the Board approve a 1.46% base wage increase for the non-affiliated group for the 2014-2015 year. This action would result in a \$1,136 increase for each non-affiliated employee.

Motion by Trish Cummins, seconded by Chue Xiong, to approve a 1.46% base wage increase for the non-affiliated employee group for the 2014-15 school year.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

7.4 Classified Staff 2014-2015 Compensation

Kay Marks, Executive Director of Human Resources, said that the base wage increase is 1.46%. It was recommended that the Board approve a 1.46% base wage increase for the classified employee group for the 2014-2015 year. This would result in a range of increases from \$.18 - \$.42 per hour.

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, seconded by Charles Vue, to approve a 1.46% base wage increase for the classified employee group for the 2014-15 school year.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

8. ADJOURN TO WORK SESSION

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 185 - Board Committees

The Policy & Governance Committee recommended that Policy 185 - Board Committees be updated to include the new standing committee (Charter/Choice Committee) that was approved previously by the Board.

Commissioner Duax shared the first reading of the section of Policy 185 that was updated:

Charter/Choice Programming Committee: The charge of this committee is to provide guidance and recommendations to the School Board, relating to its role as authorizer of current and future ECASD Charter/Choice Schools. This will encourage innovation that could increase our ability to provide diverse programming and methodologies. Through this investigation and advisement the committee can support the increase in student readiness for and success in ECASD programming and post-secondary options.

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

9.2 Discussion & Possible First Reading of New Policy 662.3 - Fund Balance

The Policy & Governance Committee reviewed and discussed the newly-drafted fund balance policy with Dan Van De Water, Executive Director of Business Services. Mr. Van De Water felt the current Governmental Accountability Board language be reflected in Board policy so that it is clear what authority the Board needs to take in terms of setting up some of these designations. The draft was discussed with the Board.

Com. Spindler suggested some revisions including the use of the term Unrestricted Fund Balance rather than Unassigned Fund Balance and changing the voting requirements from two-thirds majority vote to a simple majority vote,

The policy will be reviewed again by the Policy & Governance Committee and brought back to the Board at the next meeting for further review.

9.3 McKinley Charter School Annual Report

Pete Riley, Head of Instruction at McKinley Charter School, reviewed the competency and credit programs at McKinley in addition to the services provided to students at the Juvenile Detention Center. There were 109 students enrolled in the competency component. These students had less than 12 high school credits when enrolled. One of the goals of the program is for students to reengage in school and prepare them for the next level of success. The School Improvement Plan included increasing the number of students completing a program at CVTC. Another goal was to increase the number of students taking the Compass test. There were 3 students who took the test in 2012-13, 27 in 2013-14 and so far after the first quarter, 10 students have taken it at McKinley.

There were 279 students served in the Northwest Regional Detention Center in 2013-2014. The Underdog Program was showcased recently. There were 157 students identified for the Homeless Program.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10.1 Requests for Future Agenda Items

There were no requests made.

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.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.