

**Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes****Monday, February 16, 2015***Generated by Patrice Iverson***Members present**

Richard Spindler, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Charles Vue, and Chue Xiong

**Members absent**

Trish Cummins and Wendy Sue Johnson

**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**

Mark Goings spoke on behalf of the Eau Claire Association of Educators about the 2015-2016 calendar. The Executive Board felt Calendar 2 would make the most sense for the District. He reaffirmed that there is research showing that student achievement goes up when there is a commitment to professional development.

**3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS****3.1 Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Hardebeck shared a list of upcoming Board events.

Dr. Hardebeck stated that five ECASD students have been named as National Merit Scholarship Finalists: Samuel Larson, Rosalind Faulkner, Sofie Kjellesvig, Kate Tanawattanacharoen and Luke Van de Loo. There were 1.5 million students who entered this competition, and these five students are part of the 15,000 finalists left in the scholarship competition. National Merit Scholarship Corporation has now begun the process of narrowing 15,000 students down to 8,000 Merit Scholarship winners, and they will notify winners beginning in March.

**3.2 Communications to Superintendent/Board President**

President Spindler said the Legislative Breakfast with area legislators and ECASD, Chippewa and Altoona school board members/administrators was productive. There was a good exchange of information. In addition, he said that WASB will host the Day at the Capitol on March 18. Board members were invited to attend.

**4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT****4.1 Student Representative Report**

Jonah Giese said that one of the National Merit Finalists asked that he thank the Board for their commitment to education in Eau Claire, which allowed her to be able to compete for these scholarships. Jonah reported that juniors recently signed up to take the ACT exam as part of the new state mandate to give the test to all juniors. He asked that this process be explained to students. Jonah shared upcoming events at Memorial High School.

Hannah Winegarden was not present.

**5. OTHER REPORTS****5.1 Board Committee Reports**

There were no Committee Reports given.

**5.2 Legislative Update**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle reported that the group at the Legislative Breakfast discussed Assembly Bill 1, the accountability bills, projected budget deficits, the Governor's biennium budget, and the increase in poverty levels. Ms. Hambuch-Boyle shared a document from Dan Van De Water that explained the differences between fund balance and revenue and to show that any consideration of using fund balance as a substitute for a revenue stream is fiscally irresponsible. In addition, a comparison of revenue limits since 1993-94 between LaCrosse and Eau Claire

was shared.

There will be a meeting of the Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN) on March 6th at the Chippewa Valley Museum from 12 - 2 p.m if anyone wanted more information about the purpose of this group.

## **6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Motion by Kathryn Duax, second by Chue Xiong, to approve the following consent resolution agenda items:

- 6.2 Minutes of School Board Meeting - February 2, 2015
- 6.3 Minutes of Closed Session - February 2, 2015
- 6.4 January 2015 Board Financial Report
- 6.5 Bills Payable - January 2015
- 6.6 Budget Adjustments - January 2015
- 6.7 Gift Report - December 2014 & January 2015
- 6.8 Human Resources - Employment Report
- 6.9 Revisions to Policy 424 - Open Enrollment
- 6.10 2015-16 CESA 10 Contract Renewal
- 6.11 Approval of Individual Administrative Contract

Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Charles Vue, and Chue Xiong

## **7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION**

### **7.1 2015-2016 School Calendar**

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Charles Vue, to adopt the 2015-2016 School Calendar Version #2.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

No: Richard Spindler

## **8. ADJOURN TO WORK SESSION**

The Board adjourned to the Work Session at 7:23 p.m.

## **9. WORK SESSION**

### **9.1 Connecting Strategic Planning & Community Involvement**

Dr. Hardebeck said the Board talked about the need for a strategic plan in the past. This concept was revisited through Key Works around the mission, vision and the Board's development of its own goals.

Using the Key Works areas of Collaboration, Alignment and Accountability, several questions were developed for Board discussion. Board member feedback around each area is included here.

#### **1) How can the Board foster and guide community dialogue about the vision for the schools?**

It was felt that prior to the last referendum, there were many good conversations with community members. That model was effective and could be used to focus on discussions about the vision for the District. The Board discussed whether it should come up with the components of the strategic plan and then open it up to the community. There could be informal meetings such as "Board with your Coffee" sessions that were done in the past. The community could provide feedback to assist with goal development to see if the Board is still on track with the original vision and mission.

#### **2) How does the Board define and identify key stakeholders to be involved in the strategic planning process and what are appropriate levels of stakeholder involvement?**

The Board noted that key stakeholders would include parents, legislators, business people and key leaders in the community. They should help identify strengths and share their concerns while providing potential solutions. A strategic planning process could use strengths to problem-solve needs. It was noted that what the Board may perceive as important, may not be of value to the community, and the community might identify priorities that the

Board would not deem important. Stakeholders could help identify values of the community.

The Board brainstormed whether it would want multiple locations and times for the strategic planning process or one large event. Involving the community in the process gives them a voice and helps with buy in from all.

It was felt that the level of involvement would need some additional discussion.

### **3) What alliances and collaborations would most advance student achievement goals and objectives?**

Potential employers, the YMCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, United Way, Boys/Girls Club would all be examples of collaborations already in place. Chris Hambuch-Boyle said there was a list developed when discussions were ongoing about a Community Conversation that she could provide. A list could also be compiled of those involved in education in some way in the community (CVTC, UW-Eau Claire, etc.).

### **4) Is the community engaged in student achievement plans and initiatives at the District and school level?**

Dr. Hardebeck said there are many schools that use parents to provide feedback for their School Improvement Plans (SIP). A model is used to develop those plans. Parent input helps to build accountability and credibility for what staff are doing. Dr. Hardebeck said there are models for collaboration and district initiatives or standards (what we want schools to do) but the "how's" might come from work done within parameters of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and SIP. A strategic plan would set those parameters and help determine what is 'tight' (what everyone is expected to do) and what is "loose" (based on specific needs of students.)

### **5) Is the community well informed about the District's vision, achievements, challenges and plans for improvement?**

The ECASD conducts parent, staff and student surveys to gauge this internally; however, there is a segment of the community (grandparents, those without children, businesses) that the District needs to connect with so they can have a say in the process. The Board should consider what it wants the community to know about the ECASD and where it is going. Overall, it was felt this was an area that needed to be developed. Some of the things that could be shared would be the detail of the systems assessment, the Board goals and how those goals are aligned to the Superintendent's goals. Sharing the framework of Agenda 2017 would also be beneficial. That would be connected to student achievement, post-secondary education, and career. Other topics such as the budget deficit, diversity, programs, etc. could also be shared. The Board talked about the values that inform the work and goals of the strategic plan. Perhaps the Board could determine what value the community places on education for each child in the community. There is interaction between values/goals and restraints from limited resources.

### **6) How does the Board communicate to the community that they are committed to continuous improvement?**

It is important to set goals so that continuous improvement can take place. Perhaps a specific date could be set each year to revisit the goals and get feedback from the community. The Board also discussed coming to consensus and agreeing on certain values. Those values would impact the strategic plan and would also entice the community to support public schools. It was noted that there are many values embedded in the Board's goals such as educating the whole child; using multiple measures to assess academic achievement; the importance of socio/emotional skills; creating collaborative, intentional and engaging climate; using research-based practices; and strengthening connections. Those values, along with discussions of Agenda 2017 required goals, could be addressed. The Board should determine how it does its work in alignment with the community and those values.

The Board will have to determine if it takes the lead on how to engage the community in the conversation, whether a separate committee would do that or if a facilitator would be used. It was felt that people are more likely to participate if they know who is involved. It would be important to have stakeholders that are invested in the community and represent a diverse cross-section. Sessions could be done by school or as one large community event. Social media using technology or video could help advertise as well as putting a flier in school programs about such meetings.

### **7) In what ways can the community participate in continuous improvement discussion and plan reviews?**

The Board talked about a process to revisit goals and get community input. It contemplated the order to do this--

Form a committee and invite stakeholders? Begin conversations with a facilitator to do a large group meeting or perhaps smaller cluster groups to get input into the strategic plan based on goals, mission, and values? Develop detailed action plans and get feedback? Use of technology?

The Board discussed next steps and whether it wanted to appoint an advisory committee to work on this. Another Work Session will be held on March 16th to continue discussions about how to interact with the community through the Strategic Planning process. In the meantime, District leadership will seek advice from WASB, CESA or the Consortium for Educational Change (CEC) on how to format the process, the timeline, when to involve the community and whether or not to use a consultant. Additional information could be found by reviewing other district websites to see if they have a strategic plan. The Board may need to delegate substantially due to time constraints.

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

There were no requests for future agenda items.

#### **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other matters of business brought before the Board.

#### **12. ADJOURN**

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Chue Xiong, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried.

Yes: Richard Spindler, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.