

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, MAY 19, 2014
PRESIDENT SPINDLER PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Spindler 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.

Board Members present: Cummins, Duax, Hambuch-Boyle, Johnson, Spindler, Vue and Xiong. Absent: None. Student Representatives Kelsey Ackerman and Leah Sutliff were also present.

PUBLIC FORUM

John Bowman shared concerns about requiring students to pay for extra-curricular activities. He felt that many students don't go out for athletics because they can't afford it. He asked the Board to consider dropping extra-curricular activity fees before the 2014-2015 school year.

Charlie Kwick encouraged the Board not to impose extra-curricular participation fees. He believes that public education should be a free and equal learning experience. He felt the Board could find other ways to recoup the approximately \$200,000 that is collected for fees.

Pam Wall was present to support Project\$13. She shared the names of those who have donated to shine a laser light on public school funding in Wisconsin.

Andy Fisher spoke on behalf of the Eau Claire Association of Educators regarding the Employee Clinic. He did not object to the concept but was concerned about locking into a contract with Security Health Plan (SHP) for another five years. He felt the District was promised that the coverage would be the same but he shared examples of situations encountered by staff members that seemed to indicate that was not the case. He encouraged the Board to make sure the promises that were made by SHP have been kept.

Teacher Mark Goings said that he understood why Part III, Section 12.03 regarding representation was taken out of the Employee Handbook due to Weingarten law protection. However, he wanted to be sure the intent was still there so that the relationship between teachers and principals could be one of collaboration and not one of fear. He also wondered if there were any safeguards put in place to measure the commitment made to the District with SHP.

Teacher Julie Toske spoke about longevity issues in the Employee Handbook. She asked the Board to consider longevity language for staff who have combined years of service in two different work groups.

James Martin commended the Board for modifications that were made in the Employee Handbook that made significant differences in the lives of employees and families. He asked the Board to consider allowing employees who have worked in different employee groups to be eligible for benefits when they retire.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck shared a list of events on the Board's calendar for the next month.

Dr. Hardebeck recognized the following students and staff:

Memorial senior, Elisa Perez, has been selected as a Gates Millennium Scholar for the Class of 2014. More than 52,000 students applied for this nation-wide program and 1,000 students received a good-through-graduation scholarship to use at any college or university of their choice. Elisa will attend UW-Madison in the fall.

North High art students volunteered to participate in the Memory Project. Students were invited to create portraits for children and teens around the world who have been neglected or orphaned. The project aims to provide the orphaned kids with positive memories of childhood and help them see themselves as works of art. The photos sent to the students at North High School are all of children from the same orphanage in Haiti. Photos of the children are sent to North's student artists who use these photos to create the portraits. When the finished portraits are mailed back to the children, a photo of the artist is sent with so the child can see who created their portrait.

Longfellow received a 2014 Wisconsin Schools of Recognition Teacher Fellowship grant in the amount of \$10,000 and four staff members will spend 14 days in Thailand this summer. Goals for the trip are to increase understanding of Thai and Hmong culture, produce virtual field trips to be shared with students upon their return and establish an international, cross-cultural partnership, or "sister school" the in the Hmong village of Chai Thong.

The District has achieved national certification for Project Lead the Way through a rigorous audit conducted by the Milwaukee School of Engineering. This STEM initiative focuses on math and science and offers a different approach to learning and teaching by giving students a chance to apply what they know, identify problems, find unique solutions, and lead their own learning.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Spindler asked Board members to send their biography to Patti Iverson so it can be included on the District website. He also shared a plaque that he received at the recent DPI award ceremony for the Wisconsin Youth Opportunity Program.

President Spindler thanked the student representatives for their service to the Board during the last school year. He also asked Board members to volunteer to interview student representatives for next year.

Student Representative Report

Kelsey Ackerman and Leah Sutliff shared a list of activities that have taken place at both high schools.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

Budget Development Committee

Neither committee has met since the last Board meeting.

Legislative Update

Com. Hambuch-Boyle shared an update on the following legislative matters affecting school districts:

- U.S. Education Panel passed a bill to provide federal funding to expand preK programs for three and four year olds
- Requirements for eligibility for additional voucher schools
- The release of the Assembly's Rural Schools Task Force Report
- Graduation rates keep climbing upward; however, demographics show concerning data among minority students
- Assembly Speaker Robin Vos voiced frustration over the compromise on voucher schools which capped the number of students who could receive vouchers
- Bob Lang from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau said the state will need to find \$717 million in new revenue or spending cuts to balance the 2015-17 state budget if nothing changes

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 1, 8, & 9 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The financial report as presented.
- ◆ The budget adjustments as presented.
- ◆ The gifts in the amount of \$19,651.79 for the period April 1, 2014, through April 30, 2014, as presented.
- ◆ The payment of all bills in the amount of \$5,305,265.34 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,151,942.12 for the period April 1, 2014, through April 30, 2014, as presented.
- ◆ The matters of employment of May 19, 2014, as amended.
- ◆ BoardDocs Live Web-Streaming and Video Indexing for Board Meetings

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 – Approval of Board Minutes of May 5, 2014

Com. Hambuch Boyle asked that the following sentence be changed in the minutes of May 5, 2014 under Public Forum: “She shared the names of those who have donated to shine a laser light on public school funding in Wisconsin.”

Com. Hambuch-Boyle moved, seconded by Com. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of May 5, 2014 as amended. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Resolution #8 – 2014-2015 School Meal Prices

Com. Xiong noted that the increase in meal prices was due to USDA requirements.

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to approve 2014-2015 school meal prices as recommended. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Resolution #9— Agreement with City of Eau Claire for Placement of Warning Sirens

There was a question about the definition of the word “premise” in the agreement. Mr. Kramer said they questioned this and were assured it only refers to the immediate area where the sirens are located.

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Hambuch-Boyle, to approve agreement with City of Eau Claire for placement of warning sirens on school facilities as recommended. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Resolution #10 – ACA Implementation Plan for Substitutes-Teachers on Call

It was clarified that utilizing Teachers on Call would allow retirees to work as substitute teachers without having to suspend their HRA's. There was a discussion about the cost for the program. In addition, it was noted that the staff that currently are responsible for obtaining substitutes would be able to spend their time doing other tasks.

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Cummins, to approve agreement between ECASD and Teachers on Call as presented. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Cummins, Duax, Hambuch-Boyle, Spindler, Vue and Xiong. Nay: Johnson.

Resolution #11 – Annual Approval of Facility Rental Fees

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Xiong, to approve facility rental fees as recommended.

There were concerns about Items #7 and #13 on the School Camps/Clinics rules and how they relate to Board Policy 830.

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Hambuch-Boyle, to amend motion by striking Item #7 from the Camps/Clinics Rules. Motion failed by unanimous voice of acclamation.

It was suggested that this matter be referred to the Athletic Council for further discussion and clarification.

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Hambuch-Boyle, to refer approval of facility fees to the Athletic Council for review. The Board will put concerns in writing whether to add fees or diversify group. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Resolution #12 – Employee Clinic

Mr. Van De Water reviewed the proposal which would be locked in for five years with a maximum increase in premium at 3% the first year and 5% for the next three years. This has the potential of reducing premium costs by \$4.9 million. Associated Financial had projected increases of 3% in 2014-15, 7% in 2015-16, 16% in 2016-17 and 9% in 2017-18. The risk for the clinic would be totally assumed by Security Health Plan (SHP). He said the whole premise of the clinic is that by giving employees convenient access to high quality primary care, it will reduce the overall health costs which benefits the District. Participation by employees is voluntary.

Discussions occurred regarding surveying employees, addressing concerns and questions about SHP, the roll out in 120 days, selection of the advisory board and the location of the clinic.

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Xiong, to accept the proposal for an Employee Clinic with Security Health Plan as presented. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Johnson, Spindler and Xiong. Nay: Duax. Abstained: Cummins, Hambuch-Boyle and Vue.

Resolution #13 – Employee Handbook Modifications for 2014-2015

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Xiong, to approve modifications to Employee Handbook for 2014-2015.

Com. Duax asked that the Board remove Part 3, Section 7.03 regarding longevity. The Board discussed addressing longevity when the compensation study is completed. .

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Cummins, to amend motion to remove Part 3, Section 7.03 on longevity. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Cummins, Duax, Johnson, Vue and Xiong. Nay: Hambuch-Boyle and Spindler.

Original motion with amendment carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to adjourn regular meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Regular Meeting adjourned to Work Session at 9:24 p.m.

Work Session

After discussion, the Board agreed to postpone the Work Session until a future date.

Com. Hambuch-Boyle moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to adjourn Work Session. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Work Session adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary