

Eau Claire School Board Minutes

Monday, October 9, 2017

Generated by Patti Iverson

Members present

Kathryn P Duax, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

Members absent

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Charles Vue

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice President Kathryn Duax 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

Three Northstar students, Miinun, Cailey, and Emma, asked the Board to consider changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day in the ECASD. They want students to have a better understanding about their history so that all students feel valued and respected.

Adam & Alicia Condit went to school in Eau Claire and just moved back from out of state. They shared praise for Mr. Lilly, their child's teacher at Manz. In their son's previous school, he was unhappy and didn't have many friends. Now he is thriving at Manz, and they wanted to thank the Board. They see students and staff reflecting their motto of being kind, respectful, responsible, and safe.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Hardebeck said the District recently received notification that seven ECASD seniors were recognized as National Merit Semi-finalists. About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. There are approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program nationwide. These high school seniors now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring.

Dr. Hardebeck recognized the following students and their parents:

- Chase Hanson and his parents Peter and Natalie
- Tim Hirsch and his parents David and Tracy
- Will Orser and his parents Joseph and Wasuta
- Colin Porter and his parents Phil & Eliza Porter and Eugenie Tjan
- Sarah Schiefelbein and her parents Kit and Galen
- John Stremcha and his parents Tim & Anne
- Sean Miller and his parents Tim & Laura

3.2 Board President's Report

There was no report.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ryan Cramer said North's homecoming events were very successful and they had about 950 students attend the dance. Ryan said he hoped that students could continue to study the history of Columbus Day even if the Board adopts the resolution to honor Indigenous Peoples Day noting that students can learn a lot from history.

Lauren Priem said that a grant was received so the documentary theater class could go to Minneapolis to hear a TED Talk. Lauren offered support for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day. She also congratulated the National Merit Semi-Finalists.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 School Board Committee Reports

The Policy & Governance Committee discussed two resolutions that will be considered by the Board. Drafts of the resolutions were shared with the Board and members of the audience. At the next meeting, the committee will be discussing the policy on School Resource Officers. Feedback has been received from principals, the District's attorney and from the Eau Claire Police Department. With regards to the academic recognition system policy, the committee asked that a study group be formed representing a diverse perspective to come up with a recommendation to share with the committee by February 2018.

5.2 Legislative Update

Mr. Luginbill reported that the WASB Policy & Resolutions Committee passed the District's resolution on voucher transparency and will forward it to WASB's Chief Lobbyist and Government Affairs Director to look at the language and make any necessary edits to bring to the November meeting of WASB's Policy & Resolution Committee. This resolution will be brought forward for a vote by all WASB delegates at the January meeting.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Aaron Harder, second by Eric D Torres to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of September 25, 2017
- Minutes of Closed Session - September 25, 2017
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Revisions to Policy 341.1 - Human Growth and Development

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Resolution Supporting Legislation to Protect DACA Students

The resolution supporting legislation to protect DACA students was read:

WHEREAS, the decision by President Donald Trump to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program leaves children and youth in our school district in a predicament; and

WHEREAS, these children and youth are being raised in our neighborhoods; are integrated in our public schools; are active, productive and responsible members of our community; and share our most precious aspirations of social justice for all; and

WHEREAS, many of these young people live in fear that the program will be reversed,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire School Board will advocate for these individuals by asking the federal administration to allow all of them to continue to work and/or study while Congress approves a permanent solution to their migratory status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire School Board asks Congress to approve legislation to protect undocumented immigrants who were brought to our country as children and eventually to provide them with a path to permanent residence in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board shall send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Association of School Boards and all members of Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all members of the School Board for the Eau Claire Area School District, have executed this resolution this 9th day of October 2017.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Aaron Harder, to adopt resolution supporting legislation to protect DACA Students.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

7.2 Resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Day

Joe Luginbill read the resolution commemorating Indigenous Peoples' Day.

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District promotes the well-being and intellectual growth of every student in its jurisdiction, including that of sovereign indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, the School Board recognizes that indigenous peoples are the ones who have inhabited the American continent since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the School Board recognizes that the reproduction of uncritical narratives about the discovery and colonization of America continue to dehumanize indigenous peoples and devalue its cultural expressions and heritage; and

WHEREAS, the School Board acknowledges the many contributions that indigenous peoples have made to our life in community through labor, technology, environmental sustainability, philosophy, arts, and other indigenous forms of knowledge shaping in significant ways the cultural landscapes of the Chippewa Valley and the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District is committed to creating learning environments that are enriched with diversity and promote a sincere appreciation of difference; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District is mandated by Wisconsin State Statutes contained in Act 31 of 1989 to make efforts to reduce prejudice through the system of public education and foster an appreciation and understanding of different value systems and cultures, including intentional cross-curricular inclusion of studies related to First Nations, Hispanic, African American and Asian/Hmong students; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District considers that in doing so it will be laying the foundations to close the academic achievement gap that affects students of color including indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District seeks to join the hundreds of other municipalities, school districts, and universities that recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day to be observed as a day in solidarity with indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire Area School District wants to encourage students to be empowered to make positive changes that affect their fellow students and promote equity, community, and respect for all students, and as such, wishes to recognize efforts

made by ECASD middle school students to raise awareness about this day of observance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire School District shall annually observe the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all schools are encouraged to support the well-being and growth of American Indian and Indigenous students and recognize the contributions of native peoples on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being all the members of the School Board for the Eau Claire Area School District, have executed this resolution this 9th day of October 2017.

A member of the audience who was representing the Knights of Columbus stood up and asked the Chair if they could speak to the resolution being considered by the Board. Vice President Duax explained that Board Policy does not allow public comment during an Individually Considered Resolution and that their opportunity to speak would have been in the Public Forum. Lori Bica said that earlier in the day she responded to an email she received from a member of that group and explained the protocol to them noting that they should speak during the Public Forum if they wanted to address the Board.

Motion by Aaron Harder to table discussion on resolution until the next meeting. There was no second.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Lori Bica, to adopt resolution to annually observe the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Professional Development and Culturally Responsive Practices

Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, said that one focus of the Strategic Plan is to build capacity of staff to respond to the needs of students. A critical component of the District's approach to professional development is to help staff make the connections among the strategies used in the District to support student growth.

The District believes that the culturally responsive practices provide support for professional development. It is important for staff to have time together to connect and articulate learning. Staff must respect and understand the differences of

students who come into their classrooms. Students should see themselves in the classroom culture.

Mr. Schmitt explained that the District is currently working on professional development on the long-term implementation of a few, high quality strategic initiatives.

DPI cites five factors that facilitate sustained implementation of a culturally responsive multi-level system of support in Wisconsin. The District is on a path of meeting the goals of all five areas. The ECASD has been recognized as a district doing ground-breaking work with teams using data to plan and make changes, which is one of the five factors.

Four principals shared examples of the professional development work they are doing with staff in their buildings.

Lakeshore staff have focused on trauma sensitive practices, developing activities and ways to help build relationships and foster resiliency in children, zones of regulation to help kids self-regulate their behavior, and mindfulness practices.

As part of their School Improvement Plan work, Putnam Heights staff ask themselves: Are we connecting with each family? Is each student reflected in school resources and materials? Does each student have a voice in the classroom? Ms. Koller showed examples of activities that have taken place to connect with families, to purchase books that reflect the students they serve, and to learn about cultural norms that may affect how students act in the classroom.

DeLong staff participated in an activity to help them get to know their "customers," which helped them understand how to better serve them. They created an Amazing Race activity where staff divided into two teams. They had five minutes to get to a bus stop and once they got to the bus transfer station, they received additional information. There were two school buses at the transfer station and staff went on a tour of DeLong's attendance area to see where their students are coming from. After the tour, teams of 7 to 8 people were sent into their attendance area to interview different community agencies that serve families and then that information was shared with all the staff members. Staff were very responsive to the activity and learned that their students have very different starting lines.

North administration has been raising awareness with staff about anti-racism. They use the image of a mirror and ask staff if they feel students can look into a mirror and see themselves in their curriculum and classrooms. They ask staff to look at students who are struggling and reflect on things like language, vocabulary, and images.

School Board members complimented staff for the work they are doing to make students feel safe, respected, and supported so that they can succeed.

9.2 2017-2018 Budget

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, discussed the budget goals in bringing forward a proposed budget. She noted that she is expecting the final numbers from DPI on October 13. One of the driving factors in the budget is for compensation for high quality staff, and those increases will impact the budget.

Ms. Johnson explained that when building the budget, each building starts at zero and base their budget on what their needs are. She meets with those responsible for overseeing the budget to explain the process and look at where they are at in the current year for spending and what their three-year averages are. She said all decisions are grounded in the District's goals to promote equity for all students and schools within the priorities of the Strategic Plan. Facility needs are addressed through the Five-Year Capital Plan and through the referendum projects.

Ms. Johnson said the difference in the tax levy will be about \$1.9 million less this year. Equalized aid will increase by about \$356,000. Based upon the passage of the state budget, the District expects to receive \$200 more per student. There is an additional \$2.2 million in the revenue budget for 2017-18.

Ms. Johnson reviewed different aspects of the budget including referendum spending, total projected operating expenses in 2017-18, salaries/benefits, supplies, debt retirement, purchased services, capital objects, insurance, and other objects. She also reviewed budget items that were requested but not approved, which totaled \$1.8 million.

Ms. Johnson was asked to include something in the budget's executive summary about ECASD tax dollars going to the private schools through busing, vouchers, etc. She was also asked to show how transitioning to the new salary schedule will continue to affect the budget as level movement goes up.

Ms. Johnson said she is still working to bring in a balanced budget to the Board, and once the numbers from DPI are finalized, she will get the budget binders out to Board members.

9.3 Discussion and Possible First Reading of Policy 432 – Attendance Areas

The Board shared a first reading of Policy 432 – Attendance Areas:

School attendance areas shall be defined to support the mission and vision of the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD). The School Board and Superintendent shall review school attendance areas at least every ten years in alignment with the U.S. Census. Any changes to attendance areas shall be made in accordance with the criteria listed below.

In planning and developing an adjustment of attendance area boundaries, the School Board and Superintendent shall first consider the following primary criteria: availability of space, proximity to school, safety, equity, and neighborhood unity. Whenever possible, neighborhood areas, particularly at the elementary level, should be retained within a single attendance boundary.

The School Board and Superintendent shall also consider transportation costs, student body composition, staffing patterns, feeder school alignment, and the efficient and economical utilization of the buildings. If the criteria were met and were reasonably applied, the School Board shall approve adjustments to attendance area boundaries at least twelve months in advance of implementation.

ECASD is committed to boundary adjustment processes that are transparent, collaborative, and inclusive. Residents of the District shall be given opportunities to offer input and to respond to any proposed changes prior to final implementation. The Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee shall assist the School Board by applying its guiding principles when evaluating and/or proposing attendance area adjustments.

As an exception to the established attendance areas, the Superintendent or designee may implement flexible attendance areas to address overcrowding.

Students shall attend the school located within the attendance area of their primary residence. If a family has more than one residence in their name, the primary residence is determined by the family address used for registered voting. Exceptions to this policy will be administered through Administrative Rule and in accordance with Policy 424 – Public School Open Enrollment.

The Board agreed to bring this policy forward on the Consent Resolution Agenda at the next Board meeting.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Kathryn Duax asked for a list of items that have been requested in the past for future agenda items. She also requested that the Board discuss its stand on writing resolutions for social issues.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Aaron Harder, second by Eric Torres, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.