

Eau Claire School Board Minutes

Monday, October 23, 2017

Generated by Patti Iverson

Members present

Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

Member absent

Charles Vue

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Hambuch-Boyle 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

No one signed up to comment.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON PUPIL NON-DISCRIMINATION SELF-EVALUATION

No one came forward to comment.

4. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Hardebeck thanked the Board for their participation in the recent Board Retreat. She was pleased to see a committee created to build a sustainable governance model.

Dr. Hardebeck announced that ECASD has been awarded an Education for Homeless Children and Youth project grant under McKinney Vento. The grant will be used to continue the District's current efforts to assist homeless students.

ECASD participated in the Chamber's Business Expo. Several Board members, Teri Piper-Thompson, and Meghan Price from the Human Resources office manned the booth. Dr. Hardebeck thanked Teri Piper-Thompson for organizing the event.

Board Secretary Patti Iverson has arranged to have professional Board photos taken the evening of November 6th before the meeting. If anyone is not able to attend that meeting, they should let Patti know as soon as possible.

4.2 Board President's Report

President Hambuch-Boyle announced that the District lost one of its educators to cancer. Karen Brown was 51 years old and taught at Little Red and Meadowview. Karen was a beloved educator, and she will be missed.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle thanked the full Board for signing up to attend the WASB Regional Meeting. The pre-session begins at 4:30 p.m. and will focus on the impact of the state budget.

Those Board members who are eligible to attend the NSBA Convention this year should let Patti Iverson know if they are interested in attending the conference.

President Hambuch-Boyle thanked Board members for participating in the Board Retreat. She said the Board will work on completing its Governance Model. A School Board Handbook is also being developed. She suggested that the Board consider having one formal meeting and one work session each month so this important work can be completed.

5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ryan Cramer shared information about the fall athletic teams and those proceeding in tournament play. He said that four golfers earned academic all-state honors. Ryan said he conducted a student survey last year, and one of the items that students responded to was about having more say in their education. Ryan would like to have discussion about a possible role for students in giving their thoughts. This could include having questions on the student engagement survey or having students attend a meeting when the course catalog is being developed.

Lauren Priem shared information about the fall athletic teams and those proceeding in tournament play. She said that upper-level foreign language students recently had an opportunity to visit UW-Eau Claire to learn about taking a foreign language in college.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 School Board Committee Reports

The Budget Development Committee met and discussed the 2017-2018 budget. The committee will continue discussions about OPEB at the next meeting.

Policy & Governance reviewed the policy on flyer distribution, and that policy will be brought to a future Board meeting for discussion and a possible first reading. The committee also discussed the School Resource Officer policy and will continue work on that. At the November 6th P & G meeting the committee will talk about its guiding principles related to SRO's, and on November 9th a sub-committee will discuss the scope of SRO's in the schools and develop a job description. P & G will

look at the full policy as well as the work completed by the sub-committee on November 20th.

6.2 Legislative Update

Legislative Liaison Joe Luginbill reported that DPI released new figures about the costs for Wisconsin's voucher program. It will reach \$270 million for this coming school year, which was much higher than expected.

7. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Aaron Harder, to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of October 9, 2017
- Gifts in the amount of \$6,815.09 for the period of September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$6,859,069.26 and net payroll in the amount of \$5,489,125.06 for the period of September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Revisions to Policy 432 - Attendance Areas
- Pupil Nondiscrimination Self-Evaluation

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

8. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

8.1 Approve Recommended 2017-2018 Budget

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, shared the recommended 2017-2018 budget and asked the Board to approve it.

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Joe Luginbill, to approve the 2017-18 Recommended Budget.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

9. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 Opening of School & Equity Report - Part I

Members of the Executive Team provided the first of a two-part report concerning staffing, student enrollment, programmatic updates, and technology. It was noted that the Executive Team considers Board goals when it looks at implementation of educational programs and decisions.

Tim Leibham, Executive Director of Administration, reviewed enrollment projections from the Applied Population Laboratory (APL) and the actual number of students enrolled. APL projected an enrollment between 11,000 to 11,249 and the actual enrollment as of the third Friday in September 2017 was 11,334. The District continues to show growth in each of the last five years.

The number of students eligible for meal assistance as of September 2017 was 39%. That information was shared by building as well.

Mr. Leibham shared building capacities, which included the impact of the Achievement Gap Reduction (AGR) program. Information was also reviewed regarding the Board's guidelines for class sizes. As of the third Friday in September 2017, 100% of grade levels fall within the targeted class size range. The average elementary class size in K-3 is 21.7 students per class and in grades 4-5 it is 24.2 students per class.

Mr. Leibham reviewed the number of alternate school requests at each level. There were 141 elementary students who utilized an alternate school request, 108 middle school students, and 87 high school students. In addition, he looked at the enrollment of Chippewa Valley Montessori School by attendance areas. There were 561 who enrolled out of the District and 331 who enrolled in as part of the Open Enrollment program.

Mr. Leibham shared demographic information for students who receive special programming including free/reduced priced meals, gifted/talented, special education, critical health needs, individual health plans, English learners and those who are homeless. He also gave a breakdown of students by race across the District and in the gifted & talented program, special education, and English learners program.

Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, shared how the District is using demographics to meet the needs of the whole child. Culturally relevant practice briefs were shared with instructional staff during PD/IP days. These practices are also embedded in the Literacy Within Supportive Learning Environments work. Additional briefs were also prepared for non-instructional staff. During orientation week, new employees were trained and CRP toolkits were given to principals to use with their School Improvement Plan action steps.

The five-year attendance rate shows the District's rate at 93.4% and the state's rate at 93.9%, which were down slightly this year.

Mr. Schmitt reviewed student engagement indicators by grade as well as the perception of the safety of students and the indicators of students taking interest in extra-curricular activities and athletic programs.

Mr. Schmitt shared data that showed how communication has changed over the years. Webpage views have gone down and Facebook reaches have gone up. The number of Twitter followers continues to grow, Facebook posts have increased, and the number of Facebook likes has gone up as well.

The District has completed the installation of its fiber optic connections between all active sites with eRate and referendum funds. Connection speeds between sites is ten times faster than before. It is anticipated that there will be a return on investment in 3.61 years and a savings of \$65,000 per year. The technology infrastructure has decreased the number of network switches and increased wireless access points.

The District is rolling out Canvas for its online building platform for students. There is a portal for parents to access as well. Canvas allows parents and students to interact with teachers. Teachers also use Canvas for professional development as it creates an online learning space for staff.

Kay Marks, Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed strategies to align with Board goals and strategic priorities. She looked at data associated with hiring by licensure, staff counts, experience, turnover rates, and average years of experience. The staffing report also included breakdowns by ethnic group and gender.

Ms. Marks said the District has expanded recruitment on diversity. She felt that having a diverse staff has not only been a challenge for the District but across the state as well. The number of students coming out of UW system schools don't show diversity either. She said that districts need to be creative. An example of that is the Educator Rising Program. This is a 'grow your own' program that works with students to support them in their endeavors to be educators. The District could look at its own student population to see what partnerships can be developed to encourage more role models to come to the District. Administrators have been meeting with local Hmong, Hispanic, and Latino leaders to see how the District can help have a more diverse population.

Mr. Schmitt talked about partnerships the District has with families and the community. He shared data from the family climate survey. The overall perception of parents in the survey showed that 83% gave the District an A or B grade for the overall quality of their child's school. Over 80% of parents feel welcome and informed about their child. The areas where the District received lower ratings was in feeling welcome to use District facilities and in understanding the process for requesting to use facilities.

Mr. Schmitt shared a sample list of the many partnerships that have been developed in the District.

Mr. Schmitt was asked if the family survey could use an option of 'not applicable' rather than 'don't know.' Some felt that responses that indicated that the family is not informed may not signal there are concerns in that area.

Kay Marks was asked to provide the average age of retirement for staff in an upcoming Friday letter to the Board.

There was a concern expressed about the disproportionality of the District's Black/African American students in special education and the fact that not one African American student is in the National Honor Society. Mr. Schmitt said that staff have begun having conversations with a group to discuss how the District can create a mechanism or group that works with these students to change those outcomes.

10.2 Memorial High School Secure Entrance

Larry Sommerfeld, Director of Buildings and Grounds, provided floor plans of the original concept for Memorial's secure entrance as well as the revised plan. It is anticipated that the revised plan will cost approximately \$480,000 more than what was allocated for the secure entrance and gym heating project. He noted that for the projects completed in the summer of 2017, it is projected that the District will save \$500,000 from this year to next and so the projects will break even. In addition, another \$750,000 in savings is projected for projects in the summer of 2019, provided there isn't a drastic change in oil prices.

Approval of Memorial's secure entrance will come forward on the consent agenda as a change to the original proposal.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

12. ADJOURN

Motion by Aaron Harder, second by Joe Luginbill, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.