

Eau Claire Board of Education
Monday, February 6, 2017

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Members present

Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, 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

Dan Wilson, Labor and Relations Chair for the Eau Claire Association of Educators, shared his perspective of the Key Benefit Concept report dealing with Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). He said that wages were negotiated at a much smaller increase to get those benefits, and he felt that was overlooked in the way the media shared the information. He also felt it missed the important aspect that four years ago the unfunded liability for OPEB was considerably more than it is now. He said that employees are aware of the District's difficult budget decisions, and they will continue to look at ways to cut costs. Some of those savings were realized by moving from defined benefits to defined contributions. They have also made adjustments to health insurance, which have kept costs lower. He asked the Board to uphold agreements that have been in place for years for those who have given their time, energy, and love to students.

Wendy Sue Johnson talked about the open enrollment policy. As chair of the Demographic Trends Committee, she reminded the Board that the committee made a recommendation in 2015 that the preferred step in reducing the disparity in enrollments between schools was to limit open enrollment for those coming into the District to North High School rather than both high schools. Once a student was placed at North, they could use the intra-district transfer process if they had a compelling reason to go to the other high school just like in-district students can.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the upcoming Board of Education events.

Dr. Hardebeck recognized Tracey Tumaniec, Manz 5th grade teacher, who was awarded a \$1,500 White-Reinhardt scholarship to attend the 2017 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, this coming June. The scholarship provides travel expense funds to attend the conference and then use

the information gained to expand outreach to students regarding food, fiber, and fuel.

Dr. Hardebeck said the Board will be presented with preliminary information on the 2017-18 budget at the next meeting.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Hambuch-Boyle said that the District was mentioned in the December 2016 edition of WASB's *School News* about running effective and efficient school board meetings.

Ms. Hambuch-Boyle shared a press release from the Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN) that called for restored funding for public schools. In addition, she provided a list of WPEN Budget Advocacy Workshops that will be held across the state. The workshops will provide information about current budget issues, the budget process in Wisconsin, and what happens at the Joint Finance Committee public listening sessions.

The WPEN will be meeting in Eau Claire on March 13th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Administration Building. Participants will hear updates on the state budget and there will also be training on school funding.

The Chamber of Commerce will host a forum for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates on March 9th at CVTC beginning at 6:00 p.m.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ryan Cramer said the North community is sad and hurting after the death of one of its students. Ryan said that course registration has been completed. He asked how the courses that are offered are chosen and whether input from families and students is used to create the course catalog. Ryan spoke favorably about the proposed state law that would allow schools to start before September 1.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 Board Committee Reports

The LEAP Committee met on January 24th and looked at the process for involving administrators in buildings that have been approved for Innovation Zones. The committee also talked about establishing a budget for Innovation Zone proposals.

Policy & Governance reviewed modifications to the facilities use agreement and decided to meet with outside agency partners to discuss possible changes. The group added "immigration status" to Policy 411. In addition, they will look at the roles and responsibilities of School Resource Officers, Policy 366 - Guidance and Counseling Program and Policy 381 - Teaching about Controversial Issues.

The Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation (ECPSF) met and discussed awarding the new STEM scholarships, the Golden Apple Award Dinner, aligning its policies with the Community Foundation, and the nomination of new officers. Dr. Blenda Yun will be the new President of ECPSF. The ECPSF has doubled the number of gifts it received since last year.

The Head Start Policy Committee is working to cut down on student absenteeism.

McKinley School held its mid-year graduation and members of the Governance Board handed out diplomas to 13 students. There were many families and friends in attendance and it was a real celebration.

The Montessori Governance Board discussed the lottery system for enrollment for the coming fall.

5.2 Legislative Update

Joe Luginbill reported that Governor Walker proposes to increase each school district's allotment of per pupil categorical aid from the current \$250 per pupil by adding \$200 in 2017-18 and an additional \$204 in 2018-19. He also proposes providing \$3 million as a categorical aid for schools to hire school social workers as well as \$2.5 million in grant funding to offer mental health services, \$1 million to offer mental health screening, and \$500,000 for mental health initiatives in Milwaukee. The Governor will deliver his budget address on February 8, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Mr. Luginbill also reported that a bill is circulating to repeal the September 1st start date mandate, which would give school boards the opportunity to change the school start date starting in 2018-19.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Jennifer Fager, to approve the following consent resolution items:

- Minutes of January 23, 2017
- Minutes of Closed Session - January 23, 2017
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- McKinley Charter School Contract Extension
- Revisions to Policy 453.1 - Emergency Care Services
- Revisions to Policy 453. 4 – Administration of Medication to Students

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Petitioners' Request to Alter School District Boundaries

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, said the District received a request from petitioners of five properties in the District to detach from the Eau Claire Area School District and attach to the Elk Mound School District. Those petitioners included Kenneth & Kelly Books, Norman Postell, Robert & Kristine Staats, Jeff & Gail Mooney, and Todd Miller & Lisa Larson.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Carolyn Barstad, to suspend the rules to allow discussion.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Kenneth and Kelly Books explained the rationale for their request. They said they have four children, three of which are currently open enrolled in Elk Mound. Their youngest child has special needs with an expressive speech delay. The family was informed that as a non-resident open enrolled student with special needs, his application for open enrollment would likely be denied by Elk Mound. The student has been referred to the Eau Claire School District for another evaluation.

The family has looked at several options including annexation of property to Elk Mound, transferring their children to Eau Claire, selling their home and moving into the Elk Mound attendance area.

The family said they preferred Elk Mound because both parents were raised in small towns and they wanted that experience for their children. They indicated that they knew the property was in the ECASD when they built the house.

It was noted that if the properties were detached from the Eau Claire School District, the District would lose \$1,465,600 in property value and \$13,586.55 in real estate taxes. The other petitioners did not currently have children in the District but were supportive of the request.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Jennifer Fager, to deny the petition to detach property from the Eau Claire Area School District to the Elk Mound School District as presented.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Communications Committee Update

Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, shared an update on the work of the District's Communications Committee. This committee was formed to meet the Board's goal of developing a District-wide communication plan that assures all communications are streamlined, timely, and transparent. The list of committee members was shared with the Board.

The role of the committee is to make recommendations, which are taken to the Executive Team. The Executive Team provides feedback or gives approval to proceed with implementation. If necessary, School Board approval can be provided or the Executive Team may ask for input from building leadership. The committee receives feedback and makes changes as needed before the approval process begins again.

During the first year, the committee members had a facilitator meet with them to complete a gap analysis. An executable communication plan was developed made up of four elements: strategy, timeline, audience, and responsibility. Principals and other staff have had trainings and site-level support, which has included website work sessions and a Canvas course and feedback loop to measure effectiveness and identify areas for support. Referendum materials were developed and community outreach took place. Some of the communication tools the committee is developing include an Intranet design, District content repository, website review, and social media guidelines. The group is also reviewing District policies related to communication and working on District branding.

The group will continue to update the communication plan, develop modules for onboarding and new teacher orientation, conduct staff trainings and provide site level support, improve communication tools, develop policies, and work on branding.

The Board was pleased with the work of the committee noting that many districts have a centralized communication person. This type of position could be something to include in future budgets.

It was suggested that the Support Eau Claire Public Schools group be kept in the loop for communication strategies.

9.2 Community Partners Update

Jim Schmitt shared an update on the District's partnerships and how they address the Strategic Plan. There are over 280 partnerships that fall into the categories of curricular, financial, services, advisory, and parent/family. The list of partners was shared with the Board. Mr. Schmitt shared several examples of partners in the different categories.

The process for determining if agreements with partners are contractual agreements or Memorandums of Understanding is defined by the nature of the partnership. Mr. Schmitt noted that not every partnership has a contract.

Partnerships are facilitated at each building through any staff member. The relationship defines who facilitates the partnerships, and the number and nature of partnerships is fluid.

The focus of the 2016-17 school year has been to summarize existing partnerships, facilitate the partnership coordinator team, and heighten the awareness of the Strategic Plan and the focus on partnerships. Next year the District will leverage existing staffing and resources to meet the needs of the District's unique school communities and identify new partnerships and methods that continue to support school communities.

Mark Goings said that Support Eau Claire Public Schools has been a great partner through the referendum. He said that group wants to grow over the next year and continue to be a partner with the community.

9.3 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 424 - Open Enrollment

There were two paragraphs in Policy 424 – Open Enrollment that had proposed revisions. A first reading of those two paragraphs was shared:

Space Availability and Waiting Lists

The Superintendent's Designee shall consider the availability of space in the schools, programs, classes or grades within the District. When determining space availability, consideration may be given to desired class size limits, desired student-teacher ratios, overall building capacity, future enrollment projections, the projected number of sections of particular grades or courses, desired program-size limitations, known or projected limitations on available staffing and other resources, and staffing capacity limit based on the amount of services pupils may need. Based upon a review of the relevant considerations, the Superintendent may recommend establishing space limitations applicable to nonresident open enrollment as needed at a Board meeting held in January. At that time the Board may act on that recommendation.

Students with Disabilities

If the special education or related services required for a student with a disability is delivered through programming determined to have no space available as identified under #1 – Space Availability and Waiting Lists, then the application shall be denied.

The Board agreed to move this forward on the next consent agenda.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Joe Luginbill asked for a discussion on limiting open enrollment to North High rather than allowing it at both high schools to deal with the inequity in enrollment between the two schools.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Kathryn P Duax, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.