

Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes Monday, March 27, 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

Wendy Sue Johnson talked about the work of the Equity Committee. She felt the figures that were reported for gifts from North were not accurate. She wanted to know the makeup of the committee. She would like to get a communication through the principal or someone on the committee to share correct information.

Christy Haller is vice president of the Seymour Ball Club. She said the District no longer sends paper flyers home with elementary students for organizations. She said their registration is down considerably and feels the word is not getting out about their program. She was impressed with the summer school booklet that was sent out to all parents and asked if there was something similar that could be created with flyers from groups.

Dan Wilson spoke on behalf of the Eau Claire Association of Educators. He said ECAE would like to revisit the decision made by the Board for married couples. He noted that ECAE would like to recognize and continue to work collaboratively to explore ways to reduce costs associated with the increase in utilization claims. But he asked that the option to married couples be reviewed. It was felt that with the proposal adopted by the Board at the last meeting, married couples would pay the entire difference in premium costs all the way up to the PPO cost. It was suggested that the amount paid by married couples be the difference between the PPO and HMO premiums rather than the entire amount.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the upcoming Board of Education events.

Dr. Hardebeck recognized Memorial Senior, Benjamin Foster, who was recently presented with two very prestigious awards by the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC). He was awarded the Navy League of the United States' Youth Medal and Ribbon with Silver Star Appurtenance as the NLUS Cadet of the Year for the Twin Cities

Squadron. This is the Naval Sea Cadet Corps unit that he has been an active member of for the past six years. The award was based on his outstanding performance, professionalism, military bearing and dedication to duty in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy, the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Twin Cities Squadron. Ben also received the Region 9 - 7's Sea Cadet of the Year for 2016. This is a regional award for outstanding performance in keeping with the highest traditions of these groups. Dr. Hardebeck congratulated Ben and his parents, Denise and Mark Foster, who were also present.

Dr. Hardebeck also recognized Memorial senior, Ian Roback, who has earned a travel scholarship to attend Education First's Global Leadership Summit in Milan, Italy in July 2017. The Global Citizen Scholarship program is designed to identify and reward students across the United States who have come up with a big idea to tackle a pressing global challenge, while helping the Citizens Scholars develop important real world skills including global awareness, critical thinking and leadership. Ian's proposed project focused on understanding the intersection of sustainability, energy conservation and global cooperation in food sourcing. Ian will join a delegation of 17 Global Citizen Scholarship recipients in Italy in July. Ian's AP Euro teacher, Jessie Maas, who was very helpful in assisting Ian with the required teacher paperwork, was also commended for her assistance. Ian and his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Roback, were congratulated.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Hambuch-Boyle said she would limit her comments to allow more time for the Work Session.

She provided information about upcoming hearings being held by the Joint Finance Committee and encouraged Board members to speak at these hearings or prepare written comments to be shared with legislators.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ryan Cramer said that Angela Arnholt was not able to attend but she wanted the Board to know that Memorial students have given a donation of solar panels. Ryan said he was pleased to hear that the Board will be receiving a report on weighted grades and GPA ranking in the near future.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 Board Committee Reports

Kathryn Duax said the Equity Committee is gathering information and will be sure that invites have been shared with North Booster Club representatives to attend a future meeting.

5.2 Legislative Update

Mr. Luginbill will share a Legislative Update at the April 3, 2017 meeting.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Aaron Harder, to approve the following consent resolution agenda items:

- Financial Report - February 2017
- 2016-17 Budget Adjustments
- Gifts in the amount of \$15,611.79 for the period of February 1, 2017 through February 28, 2017
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$10,468,449.35 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,357,073.23 for the period of February 1, 2017 through February 28, 2017
- Human Resources--Employment Report
- Food & Nutrition Prime Vendor Bid
- Referendum Project Bids

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 Approve Health and Dental Rates

Deb Svihovec from Associated Benefits & Risk Consulting was present to review the recommendation for health and dental insurance renewal rates for 2017-18. The health renewal rates for 2017-18 were capped based upon claims utilization and percentage of membership in the plan. The claims utilization for renewal is 105.5%. The HMO claims utilization is at 89.5% and Open Access (OA) is at 142.2%. She shared the monthly renewal rates for health insurance. The total increase for the HMO plan will be 5.5% and the total increase for OA will be 9.5%. The District pays 87.4% of HMO premium for all employees.

Ms. Svihovec said the 105.5% claims utilization rate will not bode well for the District when the plan is renewed in 2018-19. The HMO utilization is currently subsidizing the OA plan. She explained that there will not be a cap for health renewal rates for the 2018-19 renewal year. Given the high utilization rates for OA, there are concerns that the premiums will increase. The Budget Development Committee is discussing options to control claims utilization. There could be changes made to the plan such as increased co-pays for emergency room visits. It was noted that there is a five-year cap for the Clairemont Center so if the District should decide not to go with Security Health Plan for 2018-19, there would be a penalty of \$250,000.

There will be no increase in dental rates. The District will continue to pay 83% of the premium and the employee will contribute the remaining 17%.

Motion by Jennifer Fager, second by Kathryn P Duax, to approve the health and dental rates for the 2017-2018 fiscal year as presented.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Aaron Harder

Abstain: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

7.2 Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$25,000,000 General Obligation School Improvement Bonds

Debby Schufletowski, Senior Vice President of Baird, was present and reported that the District received eight bids for the sale of \$25,000,000 general obligation school improvement bonds. Citigroup Global Markets, Inc., was the lowest bidder with a true interest cost of 2.7251%. This rate was lower than originally estimated; therefore, the cost of borrowing is \$1,000,000 less. This interest savings means the District can reallocate more of the referendum money for operational purposes.

Ms. Schufletowski reviewed the District's Standards & Poor's rating of AA by sharing a financial report card. This rating reflected the economic base that functions as a regional hub, the stable-to-growing enrollment, a history of stable budgetary performance and consistent maintenance of very strong reserves, and a moderate overall debt burden. S & P noted some items that could help enhance the rating such as modifying the fund balance policy by specifying a required minimum fund balance and maintaining a long-term financial plan or debt management policy. It is expected the District's rating will stay stable for the next few years.

Mike Clark will be contacted to see what policies they would recommend developing to get a more favorable rating in the future. Dr. Hardebeck said there are some districts that have policies about borrowing and ECASD doesn't have a policy on that. This will be brought to Policy & Governance.

Motion by Jennifer Fager, second by Charles Vue, that the Board approve the resolution awarding the sale of \$25,000,000 general obligation school improvement bonds to Citigroup Global Markets Inc., with a true interest cost of 2.7251% as presented.

Motion carried

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

8. ADJOURN TO WORK SESSION

Charles Vue moved, second by Jennifer Fager, to adjourn to Work Session in Room 123C. Carried by unanimous voice vote.

9. WORK SESSION

9.1 School Board Self-Evaluation

Dr. Hardebeck had the Board and Executive Team members complete a warm up activity called "One Word." Each person shared their thoughts about the word "self-evaluation."

The Board reviewed its policies on Code of Conduct and Board Self-Evaluation. They agreed on the norms they would follow during the Work Session.

Dr. Hardebeck talked about the process to help the Board answer questions such as:

- ✓ Where do you think we need to devote more time and energy?
- ✓ How can we make the job of being a board member easier?
- ✓ What could we have done better?
- ✓ What are our strengths?
- ✓ What are our weaknesses and how can we improve on them?

Using the book, *Boards that Matter*, the group did a 'Think, Pair, Share' activity. Participants were asked to share a couple of things from the book that resonated the most with them and then they talked about those things with a partner. Those responses were then shared with the entire group.

Dr. Hardebeck took the group through a self-evaluation activity using the World Café process with plus/delta to provide feedback on the areas of Board responsibility and relationships that the Board agreed would be evaluated including:

- ✓ The Board's governance structure and School Board goals, meeting management, conduct, attendance and decision-making processes
- ✓ Policy development and implementation
- ✓ Fiscal oversight and resource allocation and facility stewardship
- ✓ Oversight of accountability measures in alignment with the District's Strategic Plan
- ✓ Monitoring of student achievement
- ✓ Board member development
- ✓ Board and Superintendent relationships
- ✓ Community engagement and collaboration
- ✓ Board legislative involvement and advocacy

She asked the group to come up with a list of pluses (things each participant feels are going well or want to be pointed out) as well as a list of deltas (things that might change or provide an opportunity for change.) Those items were posted on chart paper under the appropriate categories as listed above. Participants were then asked to select one plus and one delta to explain the significance of this selection to the group. Next, participants were given two dot markers and were asked to choose two areas identified through the previous discussion that they would consider priorities by placing a dot on those items.

From those areas chosen, the Board was asked to complete a "Final Word" process to indicate where they would place the highest priorities. These items will then be used to help identify priorities for future Work Session Topics.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Charles Vue, to adjourn Work Session.

Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.