

Eau Claire School Board
Monday, June 5, 2017
Generated by Patti Iverson

Members present

Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres

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

Joy Howe spoke about redistricting the Lakeshore area. She was concerned that this would be increasing the number of students living in poverty and going to North High. She believed that having all Title I elementary schools going to one school showed inequality and separation. She encouraged the Board to look at the socio-economic factors of this proposal.

Jessica Smith said she lives in the area being considered for the boundary change, and she has not gotten any notification from the District about it. She said there has been confusion in her neighborhood about this proposal. She felt that middle school students have been identifying with their high school and planning to attend there. She asked about other factors such as school choice, being grandfathered in, open enrollment, and staff changes. She felt there should be more research done and that families that are involved in the proposal should be communicated with.

Jessie Maas said she lives in the proposal area and has not gotten any communication from the District about the proposal. She questioned why the District is making these changes. She asked that the Board get feedback from those impacted by the recommendations. She said as a staff member in the District, buildings talk about the importance of social and emotional needs and feelings of belonging. Students have already been involved in youth programs that will feed into Memorial. She asked the Board to think outside the box.

Bob Kron spoke in support of the boundary proposal and encouraged the Board to vote in favor of it on June 19. He felt the District should focus on the effort and resources that can be shifted to ensure a smooth transition. He said that this subject has been discussed formally and publically during Board meetings, committee meetings, and has been reported in the media. He felt the proposal was researched and was fact and data-driven. He said the committee was a diverse group consisting of business, parents and District staff. He encouraged the Board to implement the proposal starting with the 2018-19 school year so there can be equity at both high schools. He said that if the Board members believe it will be approved, they should not delay a decision.

Wendy Sue Johnson said that all of the questions raised by the previous speakers were answered in the presentation made to the School Board at the last meeting and can be found in BoardDocs. She said the proposal will not increase the disparity that already exists. She noted that the only way to improve the level of poverty, would be to add considerable transportation costs. She referred to the Start Time Committee proposal that had a timeline established with no action taken. The makeup of the Board changed and the proposal was not acted on. She was worried that if the Board waits until October to make a decision, the same thing will happen and the Board will lose momentum. She said the committee recognizes that change is hard and that it is natural for parents to say "don't move me, move someone else." She felt that by delaying action, it would leave those students unsettled. She didn't feel the Board should delay the Information Sessions until August and September but rather should proceed soon. She also made a comment about the Equity Committee Report, noting that she felt that an equal amount of gifting does not mean there is equity. There are 400 less students at North which affects donations as well.

David Mortimer is a twelve-year resident of the Randall Park neighborhood. He said he had not heard anything about the proposal and it hadn't been discussed in their neighborhood meetings. He asked that an accommodation be made to allow the Randall Park neighborhood to choose which high school they could attend. He said the area has become an area of rentals and it has been difficult to get families back in that area. He felt that Lakeshore helps facilitate bringing families in.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck shared the upcoming Board of Education events.

Dr. Hardebeck congratulated Mikaela Walters who is the first J Murphy STEM Scholarship recipient. The scholarship was founded by the generosity of an anonymous donor with family roots in the area and an interest in helping students pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM). Each year, one applicant will be selected to receive a \$10,000 scholarship to apply toward their tuition and fees. In addition, the scholarship is renewable for up to four years, for a total possible funding of \$40,000 per recipient.

She said the following students placed in the UWEC's Golden Key's 4th Grade Writing Contest:

- Grant Lokken from Robbins Elementary (Mrs. Seebruck's class) won first place. (He received \$50 and his classroom received \$100).
- Simone Winter Patrie from Flynn Elementary (Ms. McCaughin's class) won second place. (She received \$50 for her classroom.)
- Gavin Xiong from Sherman Elementary (Mrs. Smith's class) won third place. (He received \$50 for his classroom).

UWEC Golden Key honors students read nearly 230 essays that were rich in detail, imagination, and suspense. Dr. Hardebeck congratulated these students.

Dr. Hardebeck said that tens of thousands of students across the country contributed their original works to be considered for PTA's highest honor in the arts. This past spring, a panel of experts reviewed more than 1,000 national level submissions. Northstar student Grace Johnson was awarded the National Award of Merit for her dance entitled "My Life is Changing." Last year her sister, Emma Johnson, was awarded the National Award of Merit for her visual arts piece entitled "An Imaginary World." Grace will be recognized on June 24, 2017 in Las Vegas. Danie Johnson has run the Reflections program at Sam Davey for many years. The opportunity was extended to all Northstar students because many interested students were Sam Davey alumni who excelled and showed interest in art. Dr. Hardebeck congratulated Grace and Emma and thanked Danie for her contributions.

Katie Rhoten was the 2017 Wisconsin recipient of the \$10,000 AXA Achievement Scholarship. There were 10,000 applicants nationwide for this scholarship with one winner from each state. Memorial's Katie Rhoten was Wisconsin's winner. The scholarship is based on ambition and drive; determination to set and reach goals; respect for self, family and community; and ability to succeed in college. Memorial will also receive a \$1,000 grant from AXA. In addition to the \$10,000 AXA Achievement Scholarship, Katie was also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for being one of the 250 Coca-Cola Regional Finalist - one out of two from Wisconsin. There were a total of 86,000 national applicants for the Coca-Cola Scholarship.

Dr. Hardebeck said she was pleased to announce that Jeff Nestor, Darryl Petersen and Nathan Walla have completed the WASBO Facilities Manager Certification Program. This rigorous program is designed to provide facility managers with current knowledge and best practices as they fulfill their responsibilities in providing safe and healthy environments for students and staff. This educational program is recognized by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

School Board member Joe Luginbill is the recipient of the Wisconsin Art Education Association's 2017 Distinguished Public Service Award. The WAEA Awards Chair shared that Mr. Luginbill received this recognition for his tireless dedication and support for arts education in the State of Wisconsin. For the past two years, Mr. Luginbill has served as an advocate for art and music education as a member of the School Board. Since 2007, he has also served as a participant, mentor, and now a judge for the statewide "Visioneer Design Challenge" at the Peck School of the Arts at UW-Milwaukee. In September 2017, Luginbill's nonprofit organization is partnering with the Eau Claire Music School to launch a music and art-based mentorship program for at-risk youth. Luginbill was nominated for this award by ECASD Art Teachers Johanna Peterson and Kathy Bareis. Dr. Hardebeck congratulated Mr. Luginbill for this honor.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Hambuch-Boyle received the Eau Claire Chamber's Business Plan and noted that there are several areas the District can connect to the Chamber in its Strategic Plan. She will contact the Chamber.

Retired teacher Pat Hawkinson recently published an adult coloring book. A reception was recently held at the Chippewa Valley Museum. Memorial and North high schools are included in the book, and Ms. Hambuch-Boyle showed those pages.

President Hambuch-Boyle will be collecting donations to send in honor of Karie Lantz, a bus driver for Student Transit, who was recently killed.

Contacts will be made to schedule another legislative breakfast between area legislators and the Altoona, Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire school districts.

Ms. Hambuch-Boyle and Joe Luginbill will be doing one-on-one meetings with area legislators specific to the state budget and private school vouchers.

4. OTHER REPORTS

4.1 Board Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

4.2 Legislative Update

Mr. Luginbill said the Board will see three resolutions to fulfill its desire to advocate on legislative topics of interest. These resolutions will allow the Board to have a unified voice that can be used for one-on-ones with legislators and to advocate for these issues. The state budget is now at a standstill due to an Assembly proposal made late last week that added new provisions for education and discussed transportation as well.

5. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

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

- Minutes of May 15, 2017
- Minutes of Closed Session - May 15, 2017
- Referendum Project Bids
- Open Enrollment Application Approvals
- Wisconsin Educators Risk Management Cooperative (WERMC) Agreement for 2017-2018
- Approve Base Wage Increase
- Revise Policy 366 - School Counseling Program

- Adopt New Policy 411.4 - Ensuring the Educational Stability of Children in Out-of-Home Care (Foster Care)
- Revise Policy 425 - Education of Homeless Children and Youth
- Revise Policy 347 - Student Records
- Adopt New Policy 347.1 - Student Directory Data
- Revise Policy 311 - Academic Freedom
- Revise Policy 330 - Curriculum Development & Evaluation
- Revise Policy 381 - Teaching About Controversial Issues

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres

6. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

6.1 Human Resources - Employment Report

There was a question about several teachers receiving overload assignments in the Employment Report. Ms. Marks shared an example noting that instead of hiring a .3 FTE teacher which would be hard to fill, they can offer three teachers a .10 overload.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Charles Vue, to approve Human Resources - Employment Report - June 5, 2017

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres

Dr. Hardebeck shared a biography for newly-hired Sherman Principal, Kit Schiefelbein, and congratulated her on this appointment.

6.2 Accept Equity Committee Report on Donations

Motion by Jennifer Fager, second by Kathryn P Duax, to accept Equity Committee Report on Donations.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres

6.3 2017-18 Employee Handbook Modifications

Kay Marks stated that one additional change was made since the Board last saw the Employee Handbook Modifications document. On Page 3 under Work Schedules there were various administrative positions that had title changes due to the reorganization of the Teaching & Learning Department.

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Jennifer Fager, to approve 2017-18 Employee Handbook Modifications as presented.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres

6.4 Ratification of the 2017-18 ECAE Master Agreement

Motion by Jennifer Fager, second by Kathryn P Duax, to ratify the 2017-18 Master Agreement between the Eau Claire Area School District and the Eau Claire Association of Educators (ECAE).

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres; Abstain: Joe Luginbill

6.5 Recommendations from Equity Committee for Donations

Joe Luginbill moved, second by Kathryn Duax, to accept the Equity Committee for Donation's Recommendations 1-6 and that they be incorporated into District policies and rules.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres

7. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Discussion of Recommendations About Boundary Changes from the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee

Dr. Hardebeck said the Board received a recommendation regarding boundaries from the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee at the last meeting. She noted that at that time the Board did not discuss the proposal or how it might be communicated to the community. She said the Board could vote to accept the committee's recommendations at the June 19th meeting, could give opportunities to have Information Sessions in the community and vote after those sessions, or the Board could create its own timeline.

Noting that the Board first heard the proposal on May 19th, there has not been an opportunity for the Board to communicate with parents yet. It was felt that letters should go out to all parents via email and a letter should be mailed to those affected by the proposal and to share the dates for Information Sessions. A written report from the committee was also requested in addition to the Power Point that was shared on May 19th.

Dr. Hardebeck said that administration was asked to draft a proposed timeline, which she shared. She reviewed that timeline related to the boundary change proposal including creating informational materials, sending letters to parents, holding Information Sessions at Lakeshore, Sherman and DeLong and offering tours at North. This timeline had the Board voting on the proposal on October 9, 2017 and then starting the transition plan if approved. She discussed a possible communication plan and showed copies of the draft flyer and website.

Some Board members were ready to vote on June 19, 2017. Others preferred having Information Sessions with questions and answers so the community was aware of the proposal noting a civic responsibility for community engagement. When discussing the proposed timeline, some felt that if the Board went the route of holding off on the vote until after Information Sessions are held, the timeline could be pushed up to allow the Board to make a decision in September rather than October.

A suggestion was made to have the Board vote on June 19, 2017 and then if anything comes out of the Information Sessions that would change the Board's mind, they could vote again. Several Board members were not in favor of this concept, but rather felt the Board should either vote on June 19th or hold Information Sessions and vote after those sessions.

When asked about a process for making the transition, Tim Leibham, Executive Director of Administration, said that the Board set guidelines when it made the decision to direct open enrolled students to North. He said the Board could follow a similar process to transition affected families from those neighborhoods as well.

A suggestion was made to adopt a Board policy that would require the Board to review boundary changes based on the census that is taken every ten years.

President Hambuch-Boyle said that based on discussions, the Board will have two options they could consider on June 19th. One would be to accept the recommendation of the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee and proceed with the transition and the other would be to accept a shortened timeline with Information Sessions being held in August and the Board voting on the proposal on September 11th.

The public was given an opportunity to comment. Those comments included:

- A session should be held at North High School as well to hear from those that may support the proposal.
- The Board is charged with offering a quality education for all kids. This change would enhance educational experience for all. It should be seen as an opportunity for all students.
- Consider making accommodations for students currently in middle school.
- Notify the people affected by the proposal. Hold Information Sessions to get input from families.

- Consider the unintended consequences of the proposal. Students could have very long bus rides.

8.2 Literacy Within Supportive Learning Environments Project

Members of the Teaching & Learning staff explained the Literacy Within Supportive Learning Environments project. This three-phase project focuses both on literacy skills for all students and creating supportive learning environments for the whole child.

The group explained that this is an ongoing process, which started with the District's System Assessment and Strategic Plan. Both called for a PreK-12 vertically and horizontally articulated academic program. An external review of the English Language Arts (ELA) program provided feedback and recommendations. The ELA and Culturally Responsive Practices lead teams reviewed data, processes, and the recommendations to create the ECASD Literacy Plan.

The team looked at the current state of the curriculum and what the curriculum's ideal state would be. They then discussed how to bridge the gaps between each state. They looked at horizontal, vertical and Common Core alignment.

Recommendations to bridge the gap for student learning fell into five categories: 1) align the literacy curriculum within supportive learning environments; 2) create a literacy resource center; 3) increase knowledge sharing; 4) improve administrative focus; and 5) provide professional development.

The project is divided into three phases for literacy in all subjects. In 2017-18 the District will look at writing and language standards. In Phase II the District will look at reading: literature, informational text, foundational skills; and Phase III will be speaking and listening standards.

There will be four District Professional Development days. Universal learning will include a guaranteed and viable curriculum, literacy in all subject areas, beliefs about writing and language, and collaboration within PLC's.

Staff will look at how the whole child approach fits in with the teaching of literacy. They will be asked to look at implicit biases, language used, and instructional strategies used to see if there are any culturally biases practices in the schools.

The District's literacy curriculum will provide all students with an equitable opportunity to learn essential standards and skills. Curriculum documents will be created by educators representing all grade levels and student groups to identify and eliminate gaps, reduce redundancies, and make connections across grade levels and content areas. It will provide structured support as the students progress towards mastery.

Some Board members asked whether all students' interests are being considered and if non-Caucasian students have resources. Laurie Haus, PreK-5 Language Arts

Coordinator, said that one goal of the project is to increase classroom libraries. Through this check of resources, staff can see what each school currently has and if students of color or from a variety of backgrounds can see themselves in the classroom. The T & L Department has created a template to use across the District for all curriculum work that shares expectations for things that happen in the classrooms and the types of resources available. The District will make sure that culturally responsive practice work continues.

Board members asked the group to provide an analysis of the cost for this project.

8.3 Resolution on "Leading on Lead" Bill

Mr. Luginbill said that in an effort to present a unified voice from the School Board, he would like the School Board to consider several resolutions that are relevant to the District and the children and families that are served. If approved, the resolutions would be sent to WASB, WASDA, the local media, state media outlets, the Wisconsin Legislature, Governor of Wisconsin, and area school boards. The resolutions would also provide talking points for Board members to use in their advocacy for the ECASD.

The Resolution on "Leading on Lead" is in support of Senate Bill 48/Assembly Bill 78, the Leading on Lead Bill and Assembly Bill 298 to affirm our state's commitments to the health and safety of children and families in Wisconsin. The proposed legislation creates a tool to equip local municipalities to provide greater financial assistance to homeowners to remove and replace lead pipes, and requires testing for lead in drinking water in buildings used for child care purposes. we

The School Board agreed to bring this resolution forward for approval at the next meeting.

8.4 Resolution on Voucher Transparency Bill

This resolution calls on the Governor and Wisconsin Legislature to support the Wisconsin Voucher Transparency Bill in an effort to be transparent with taxpayers about the additional amount that the ECASD and school districts across the state are required to levy due to the statewide voucher programs.

The School Board agreed to bring this resolution forward for approval at the next meeting.

8.5 Resolution Opposing Anti-Local Control School Referendum Restricting Legislation

This resolution opposes the six proposed pieces of legislation that would limit and restrict local control and the ability of school boards to generate revenue through Referendum and other options.

The School Board agreed to bring this resolution forward for approval at the next meeting.

9. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

10. ADJOURN

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Jennifer Fager, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue, Eric D Torres

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.