

Eau Claire School Board
Monday, September 25, 2017
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Members present

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

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

Northstar teacher Amy Carlson Sather introduced three of her former students who are passionate about making sure all students feel valued and respected. They shared concerns about the celebration of Columbus Day and proposed that the District instead celebrate Indigenous People Day. Cailey, Emma and Miinan are now in eighth grade at Northstar. They did research and found that Columbus engaged in mass genocide and colonization of Indians. The students didn't feel comfortable celebrating someone who did those things and asked the Board to consider making a change to celebrate Indigenous People Day.

Jessica Smith asked for clarification about the busing provided for students in the affected area during the boundary change transition. It was her understanding that all students in that area would be able to choose what high school they attend. She said a group of parents have asked for a provision to allow students in that area to complete an alternate school request to go to Memorial. Ms. Abby Johnson clarified that it was not recommended that students in that area be allowed to choose which high school they attend.

Sam Barby was concerned about the numbers of athletes competing on North's football team. He wanted to address the equity piece of the boundary change proposal. He said that North doesn't have enough players to field a JV and Varsity team so many players on JV also have to play Varsity. They are playing against other athletes who are much bigger than they are. North has had five games this year with a running clock because they have been losing by 35 points or more. He asked that the Board make the transition to the new boundary change sooner rather than later so North students have a chance to compete in a safe environment with the needed number of players. He said not only is it an equity issue but a safety issue as well.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Hardebeck said that today is National Food Service Workers' Day. She said that the District's food and nutrition staff contribute to the development of the District's whole child initiative by serving nutritious and healthy meals. There were over 900,000 lunches and 270,000 breakfasts served last year.

Dr. Hardebeck reminded staff that the deadline for completing requirements for health insurance is September 30th.

Superintendent Hardebeck thanked Dani Claesges and Kaying Xiong along with the business partners and community members who supported the Border Battle to raise money for the ECASD homeless program.

Dr. Hardebeck thanked the staff from the Teaching & Learning Department and the Communication Committee who staffed the ECASD booth at the International Fall Festival. They passed out calendars, cards and information about the District and interacted with students to find out how *#ECASDInspires* them.

3.2 Board President's Report

Chris Hambuch-Boyle said that the District is planning a forum for potential School Board candidates on December 12, 2017.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Lauren Priem shared information about homecoming week going on at Memorial. She was reminded that there were not enough tickets for last year's Memorial homecoming dance and noted that not only will the boundary change benefit North students but Memorial will have less crowding in the hallways and at lunch, smaller teacher/pupil ratios, and enough parking passes. Although current eighth graders would have short notice of the change, she felt the Board should proceed with the transition next year. She felt that change can be healthy and being positive in the face of change is important. Lauren also stated that she and Ryan met with Jim Schmitt and Dave Oldenberg regarding eliminating class rank and going with an academic recognition system or changing to a laude system. She said that students like the idea of switching or maintaining class rank for those colleges that need that information, but not publishing that information. Students still like having a valedictorian and salutatorian.

Ryan Cramer commended the Northstar students for speaking during the Public Forum to support their beliefs. He also mentioned that the meeting with Jim Schmitt and Dave Oldenberg regarding academic recognition was very productive. Regarding the boundary change transition vote, he said that equity is an important issue he has talked about in the past. He felt the Board would make the right decision for all students to make the District a better place.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 School Board Committee Reports

The Joint Commission on Shared Services met in September and discussed where they have been and where they plan to go with regards to collaboration between the city, county, and school district.

The Policy & Governance Committee discussed policy revisions regarding School Resource Officers. The committee received feedback from legal counsel and it will be discussed again at the next meeting.

5.2 Legislative Update

Legislative Liaison, Joe Luginbill, reported that DPI recently submitted its state plan under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), as required by federal law. Under ESSA, states must establish an accountability system to identify and turn around public schools that need improvement.

Governor Walker signed into law the state budget on September 21, 2017. A copy of the final budget vetoes can be found by visiting www.WASB.org. There were several non-fiscal policy items incorporated in the final budget, including teacher/administrator licensure changes and scheduling of referendum restrictions. There were increases in per-pupil aid and other categorical aids as well as increases in school based mental health and the budget for vouchers.

Mr. Luginbill stated that Senate Bill 169 passed out of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety and has been moved on to the Wisconsin Senate. It would repeal and replace the state's gun-free school zones statute and would limit the ability of school districts to restrict firearms on school premises.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Kathryn P Duax, to approve the following Consent Resolution Items:

- Minutes of September 11, 2017
- 2016-17 Budget Adjustments
- Gifts in the amount of \$11,823.13 for the period of August 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$5,168,439.84 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,106,299.50 for the period of August 1, 2017 through August 31, 2017.
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Revisions to Policy 185 - School Board Committees

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Transition Timeline for Boundary Change

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Aaron Harder, to approve the following recommendations with regards to the high school boundary change:

- Implement the high school boundary change effective with the start of the 2018-2019 school year as recommended by the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee.
- Students currently attending Memorial High School will be allowed to remain at Memorial until they graduate if they choose to do so.
- Allow students in the boundary change area to choose to attend Memorial if they have concurrent enrollment with a sibling.
- Amend the timeline for all open enrolled students to attend North to match the boundary timeline recommendation.
- Accept the recommendation from the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee that transportation be provided to students affected by the boundary change to both high schools during the three-year transition timeline.

Motion carried

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

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Summer School 2017 Report

Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, shared information about the 2017 summer school program. He said that enrollments in summer school over the past three years show an increase. In 2015 there were 4,876 students enrolled, in 2016 there were 5,881, and in 2017 there were 7,028. Elementary programming was shifted so that every school had their own program. There was a substantial increase in the number of partnerships. In 2017 there were 5,870 enrollments through these partnerships.

One of the highlights of the program was that there were family-friendly course options that enabled students to go from one program to the other with transportation provided. One of the greatest barriers in the past for families was needing to transport their children during the middle of the day. Partnerships were created so that children could be under the care of a highly qualified adult for the entire day. For example, students participating in the elementary and middle school programs in the morning were bused to the Boys & Girls Club in the afternoon.

There were 499 staff members for the 2017 program, which was up from 294 in 2016. The greatest increase was for more classified staff. Finding staff for summer programming continues to be a challenge.

A copy of the Summer School Planning Guide was shared with Board Members. It listed all the summer programming and was mailed to each ECASD family. Mr. Schmitt reviewed the programs ECASD continued to offer in 2017 as well as programs that were new.

A Board member asked for data on the actual number of students participating in the program noting that some children may participate in several offerings so would be counted multiple times in the membership count. In addition, he asked for the average length of engagement for students. The subject of summer learning loss was discussed and whether programming can be extended to give students more than a three-week option. Research shows that you would need a five to eight-week program to provide the best reduction of summer slide.

Another suggestion was made to share the program guides with area churches who schedule Vacation Bible School in the summer. Other suggestions included creating an online virtual school and expanding the footprint for incoming 4K students.

9.2 Update on Referendum Projects

Larry Sommerfeld, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reviewed the referendum projects that were completed during the summer of 2017. The original budget for these projects was \$5.4 million and the construction completion estimate was \$4.7 million. He shared pictures of the projects.

Because of the project savings due to lower than budgeted bids for roofing and paving, the District was able to replace both existing boilers and chillers at North and Memorial and install new LED parking lot lights at Lakeshore, Meadowview and Northstar.

Mr. Sommerfeld also shared information on the five-year capital projects that were completed. The original budget was \$1.6 million and the construction completion estimate was \$1.675 million.

Mr. Sommerfeld thanked the taxpayers for passing the referendum. He also thanked his staff for their hard work and for the patience of the building principals to complete the projects.

9.3 2017-2018 Budget Update

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, reviewed the links to the District's Strategic Plan that will be included in the 2017-18 budget to meet the Board's goals.

Ms. Johnson shared how the budget for 2016-17 ended up and where the budget for the 2017-18 school year is at currently. Based on the passage of the state budget the District anticipates receiving \$200 more per student which would equate to about \$2.2 million based on the pupil count from last year. It is still not known how the vouchers will impact the District. The cap increased from 1% to 2% of students.

The preliminary operating budget is projected to increase by 2.5% for 2017-18. The referendum spending actual cost for 2016-17 was \$5.86 million and that same amount will be budgeted for 2017-18. Ms. Johnson shared a breakdown of that spending.

It is projected that there will be almost \$5 million increase in spending for salary and benefits for 2017-18. The total CPI increase for salary/benefits will be \$923,191, there will be a health insurance increase of 5.5% for HMO and 9.5% for Open Access, the district overall will spend 5.5% more on health insurance premiums because the employee bears the difference in cost between HMO and Open Access, there will be no change in dental insurance costs, vision insurance will be offered to staff at no cost to the District. OPEB costs were also included.

Projections show that purchased services would be about \$882,022 less. Ms. Johnson noted that the open enrollment piece for vouchers has not been received from DPI yet so that will affect those projections. She added that OPEB costs were just under \$6 million last year.

Supply costs will be up about \$368,416 and capital objects is projected to be down about \$800,000. Debt retirement will be up \$9,889 and insurance costs should decrease about \$140,102 due to a lower workers compensation premium. This is due to a claims ratio decrease that the District has been working towards. Other objects for things like entry fees, co-curriculars, and dues is estimated to be down about \$105,283.

Ms. Johnson shared a list of items that were requested but not approved for technology, additional time, staff development, and tractors and mowers for buildings and grounds.

DPI will certify state aid by mid-October and a formal budget hearing must be held before the end of October.

9.4 Discussion and Possible First Reading of Policy 341.1 – Human Growth & Development

The Board shared a first reading of Policy 341.1 – Human Growth & Development:

Instruction in human growth and development may be provided in grades K-12. If provided, the program shall offer information and instruction appropriate to each grade level and the age and level of maturity of students. Enacted curriculum shall be supported by both state and national standards.

No student shall be required to participate in human growth and development instruction as cited in Wisconsin State Statutes. A student's parent or guardian shall submit a written request for the student to be exempted. The teacher or school principal shall be notified prior to the start of the units of instruction.

Students exempted from part or all of the human growth and development units of instruction will be assigned alternative learning experiences of equivalent time duration and credit value. The exempted student will not be penalized in any way or manner, including receiving a lowered grade in the class that contained the exempted units of instruction.

The Director of Academic Services, or his/her administrative-level designee, is responsible for ensuring that the District provides the state-mandated annual notices regarding this instructional program to parents and guardians. Such notices shall include appropriate information about student exemption procedures.

Human Growth and Development Advisory Committee

The Director of Academic Services, or in his/her absence, a school principal designated by the Superintendent, shall serve as the chairperson of the District's Advisory Committee on the human growth and development curriculum. As established by state law, the role of the committee is to advise the School Board and administration on the design and implementation of the applicable curriculum and to periodically review the curriculum on an advisory basis.

This policy will be brought forward for approval at the next Board meeting.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Charles Vue, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.