

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, DECEMBER 3, 2012
PRESIDENT CRAIG PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Craig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed and was in compliance with the open meeting law.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Johnson, and Wogahn (arrived at 7:12 p.m.) Absent: Faanes and Janke. Student Representatives Betsy Fawcett and Jonathan Idarraga were also present.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kurt Lothe is a teacher at Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School (CVMCS). He felt that Montessori is an exceptional teaching method, and he encouraged the Board to find out more about it.

Michelle Waters is the partnership coordinator at CVMCS. She said she talks to parents and community members often about their program and people have expressed concerns about the wait list, space crunch and admission policy. Families complete applications each year and their admission is based on the following priorities: students currently attending CVMCS, siblings of current students, children whose families qualify for free/reduce meals, Eau Claire residents and then children living outside of the district. Families receive status letters in February and a wait list is established for those who don't have a spot.

Jennifer Wiltgen teaches at CVMCS. She said the charter contract has come up for renewal and she felt very strongly about the education that students receive there.

Jane Christenson is a parent of child who attends CVMCS. She shared her gratitude for the Board providing this option. She shared a personal experience with her son who has some special needs and explained how beneficial the program has been for him.

Barb Barkley-Ellenson invited Board members to visit Montessori.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck reported that the Board will hear presentations related to purchasing options for Epiphany as an early learning site, the ESEA waiver focusing on the common core and English/Language Arts standards, and the recent work of the Policy & Governance Committee with two recommended policy changes. She said the Board would also be asked to approve the 2013-2014 five-year capital projects.

Dr. Hardebeck shared a list of events on the Board's calendar for the next month.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig circulated a letter from the Department of Foreign Language at UW-Eau Claire regarding the District's Japanese program.

President Craig stated that there will be a School Board election on April 2, 2013, and there will be three open seats. Anyone who is interested in running for School Board can pick up nomination papers at the Administration Building in Room 132.

Student Representative Report

Betsy Fawcett said that the Hope Club at Memorial is taking donations for hats, mittens, toys and coats for the Bolton Refuge House and Beacon House. Memorial also recently hosted an Improv Fest, which was very successful.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

The committee will meet on December 6, 2012.

Budget Development Committee

There was nothing to report.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 1 and 2 from the consent agenda.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Cummins, to approve the consent resolution agenda consisting of the following items:

- ◆ The matters of employment of December 3, 2012, as presented.
- ◆ 2013-2014 Five-Year Capital Projects

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 – Minutes of Board Meeting of November 19, 2012

President Craig asked that the reference to supplemental pension costs include the word "stipends" in parenthesis.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Johnson, to approve Board minutes of November 19, 2012, as amended. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Cummins, Duax, and Johnson. Abstained: Wogahn.

Resolution #2 – Minutes of Closed Session of November 19, 2012

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to approve minutes of closed session of November 19, 2012, as presented. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Cummins, Duax, and Johnson. Abstained: Wogahn.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
DECEMBER 3, 2012**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Cummins, Duax, Johnson and Wogahn. Absent: Faanes and Janke. Student Representatives Betsy Fawcett and Jonathan Idarraga were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Options for Funding Epiphany

President Craig said two years ago a referendum to approve the purchase of the Epiphany Lutheran School with 12 acres of land for \$3.9 million failed. Recently the Board was asked by representatives of Epiphany Church to reconsider purchasing or leasing the school and the Board directed administration to pursue discussions with Epiphany. After negotiations the price was significantly reduced to \$2.85 million and now includes 16 acres of land. In addition, preschool and elementary enrollments have increased at a faster rate than predicted and the district will have to provide alternate classroom space in the immediate future. The public now has an opportunity to purchase a facility at a very significant savings and the Board felt it had a due diligence responsibility to reconsider the option of buying this facility. The Board approved a Real Estate Option Agreement with a \$1,000 consideration and has until April 2013 to buy the facility.

Mr. Van De Water presented three options available to the Board. 1) Borrow under Chapter 67.12(12)—this option would have the Board adopt a resolution stating the purpose and maximum amount of the note issue and would give electors the opportunity to petition for referendum. If electors acquire the required signatures, a referendum would be required if the Board wishes to proceed with the purchase. 2) Hold a referendum on April 2, 2013. 3) Purchase the property with a cash purchase. Mr. Van De Water shared the timelines for each option and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Mr. Van De Water explained that both Options 1 and 2, if successful, result in long-term borrowing to finance the acquisition. So, interest costs would be present in either of those 2 options. Both Options 1 and 2 may also result in a referendum. Option 1 requires a successful petition with 7,500 signatures on it. Option 2 is a Board decision to go to referendum. In either case, referendum approved debt results in taxes over and above existing debt. If no petition is filed for Option 1 and the Board proceeds to borrow

under 67.12(12), the resulting principal and interest payments must fit within the state aid and levy allowed by the revenue limit formula. As such, there would be no increase in the tax levy. The district would have to pay about \$650,000 in interest over a ten-year period of time with this option. Option 3 would also not cause an increase in the tax levy, because the expense would have to fit within the state aid and levy allowed by the revenue limit formula.

The public was reminded about the opportunity to donate funds to obtain naming rights.

The Board discussed the consequences of drawing funds out of working capital under Option 3. The Board asked that resolutions be prepared for Options 1 & 3 and to have a delineation of questions and options at the end of a successful or unsuccessful petition for Option 1, including a “Plan B” if a referendum would fail.

Members of the community were asked to provide feedback. Four people spoke about the proposal and were supportive of moving ahead.

B. ESEA Waiver – Common Core State Standards –English/Language Arts

Members of the Teaching & Learning Department provided an overview of the Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts. They shared how and why these standards are developed, what is being expected of our students, how our students are performing on different measures and what changes are taking place in our district.

The Board asked for periodic updates on instructional time allocated to assessment.

C. Discussion & Possible First Reading of ECASD Policy 832 – Weapons on School Premises

Mr. Tim Leibham shared the proposed Policy 832 – Weapons on School Premises, which was reviewed by the Policy & Governance (P&G) Committee. The updates were in response to changes in state law, and language from WASB’s Policy Resource Guide was utilized.

The Board discussed the procedure for bringing policy updates/additions to the full Board noting that everything goes through the P&G Committee. There was a request that more information, including the various versions of policy recommendations, be shared with the entire Board. Committee members said that the committee structure is such that the detailed information is reviewed with administration during the P&G meetings and would not generally be brought forward unless there were philosophical

discussions that needed to take place or there were varying impacts on policy changes. The committee will discuss this request.

Com. Johnson shared the first reading of **Policy 832 – Weapons on School Premises:**

No one shall use or possess a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, any destructive device, or other dangerous weapon (as defined under section 948.61 of the state statutes) in school buildings and other buildings owned, occupied or controlled by the school district, on school premises, in school provided transportation, or at any school- sponsored or school-supervised activity, except as otherwise specifically authorized in this policy. Any object which could be used to cause bodily injury or property damage and which has no school-related purpose for being in school or on school grounds, will be considered a weapon for purposes of this policy.

A student who possesses a firearm or destructive device in violation of this policy shall be suspended from school, referred for an expulsion hearing, and expelled from school for not less than one year. The School Board may modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that the request for such an exception is also consistent with the discretionary exceptions authorized under state law. Students possessing other weapons in violation of this or any other policy or rule shall be subject to appropriate school disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion from school. A parent or guardian with access to student records will be notified of student weapons violations in all cases. A law enforcement or juvenile justice referral shall also be made for all students violating this policy.

Employees violating this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with employee policies and handbooks and referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution. Any other person violating this policy shall be referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution.

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

D. Discussion & Possible First Reading of ECASD Policy 511 – Equal Opportunity Employment

Executive Director of Human Resources, Kay Marks, said the revisions to Policy 511 were made as a result of changes in the law about genetic information. A portion of the policy was deleted because it had more to do with harassment and discrimination than employment opportunities, so it was recommended that it be placed in a different policy. Language from WASB was utilized for these changes. The Board asked that the policy cross-reference the Employee Handbook and that it specify a time period for

having the Superintendent bring reports to the Board about the effectiveness of the policy.

The Policy & Governance Committee will review the policy with administration, make suggested changes, and bring it back for a first reading.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

There was a request for information about how the district will make use of the new opportunity provided by Wisconsin law that allows students to receive physical education credits through participation in athletic events. Ms. Dimock noted that the Board received information about this earlier in the year during a presentation on the physical education curriculum.

4. Other Business

5. Adjourn

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.