

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, MARCH 1, 2010  
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: Bollinger, Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representatives Marcus Liddell and Brittany Landorf were also present.

**NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION**

President Craig announced that the Board would go into closed session following the committee meeting under 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to discuss administrative contracts and the superintendent's evaluation and 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Sandra Benedict, 1347 Elderberry Lane, has been a teacher in the district. She expressed concerns about not receiving a stipend as well as issues with medical and dental benefits. She asked for an open forum with the Board. President Craig noted that Ms. Benedict's request has been under legal consideration and a resolution to the matter is being sought.

Jeremy Harrison invited the Board to attend Montessori Charter School's Artist of the Month program on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 8 pm. He also spoke on behalf of the Engage the Arts Charter School. He said he is a parent of an open enrolled Montessori student and noted that there are 34 students at that charter school who are open enrolled. Each open enrolled student brings in revenue to the district. He said he would like an alternative school for his children when they get to the secondary level. He said if the 34 open enrolled students stay in the district through graduation, it could bring more than \$1.5 million to the district. The Engage Charter has the potential of keeping students from leaving the district.

Ann Collier, 436 Summit Avenue, also spoke in support of the Engage Charter School. She has three children in the Montessori Charter and served as past president of the Governance Board and is on the parent steering committee. She has been very involved in grant writing and program development related to the

arts and is familiar with the working of charter schools. She said the Montessori Charter was a major factor in her family moving to Eau Claire and it reflected a progressive community. Dr. Collier said that the Montessori Board would do everything possible to support Engage. She felt Eau Claire needs another charter option for the middle and high school students. In addition to the revenue the charter could generate, she felt the community would welcome more choices. She added that the timing was right with implementation grants available.

## **BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann said that eight out of ten referendum questions passed in the February election totaling almost \$32 million. Four of them asked for issue debts totaling over \$26.6 million and they all passed. Five were non-recurring referendums for about \$4.5 million and four of the five passed. One district had a recurring referendum for \$775,000 and that failed. Dr. Heilmann shared data showing different types of referendum questions that have passed and failed from 2007-2010. Typically issue debts tend to pass, non-recurring tend to pass more often than fail, and recurring referendums historically are not successful.

Dr. Heilmann said that the Department of Public Instruction routinely audits school district calendars for statutory requirements pertaining to the number of days and hours of instruction. School districts must have 180 days of instruction unless a waiver is granted to meet for fewer days. Regardless of the number of days of instruction, students must meet a minimum number of hours of instruction. Based on DPI calculations, four of the five secondary schools were short in the number of hours of instruction provided. Administration worked to come up with a fix for the remainder of the school year. Collaboration time on Monday's at the high schools was canceled for the remainder of the school year and a slight modification was made to the class schedule at North. The middle schools added ten minutes to the beginning of their day. The changes resulted in little, if any, changes in busing. There were also slight modifications made to the schedules at Northstar and South throughout the day. The district will be working with DPI regarding the district's request for a waiver for the number of days of instruction. Once this is done, a school calendar can be adopted for the 2010-11 school year.

The ECAE Legislative Banquet will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Heilmann encouraged Board members to attend.

A group of rural Democrats has introduced a six-bill package to help school districts. The proposals include packages dealing with flexibility of the SAGE program, transportation aid, transporting private school students, district consolidation referendum date flexibility, declining enrollment relief and consolidation grant funding.

Longfellow Elementary recently received the Bronze Level of recognition from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for being a school that has created a healthy school environment that promotes physical activity and healthy eating among their students and staff. The Alliance also published articles in its national newsletter recognizing Lakeshore, Longfellow, Sam Davey and DeLong for their healthy schools programs.

In collaboration with the YMCA, Longfellow will be hosting a fitness boot camp for all ECASD staff on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4 to 5 pm in the gym at Longfellow.

Chippewa Valley Montessori will be hosting Jeffrey Zachmann at its Artist of the Month Open House on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 to 8 pm.

#### Communication to Superintendent/Board President

North business teacher, Odelia McLaughlin, has been awarded a 2010 Accounting Careers Awareness Grant in the amount of \$1,250 from the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants Educational Foundation, Inc. The grant allows schools to partner with CPAs to give students the opportunity to see what it is like to be a CPA. McLaughlin plans to use the grant money to take her students on a field trip to Minneapolis where they will visit with CPAs at the public accounting firm Larson Allen, University of Minnesota, Martin Williams Advertising Company and the Xcel Center.

#### Student Representative Report

Brittany Landorf said there is program called "Girls on the Run" that several elementary schools participate in. She has been working with the program and said it was great to see girls focusing on being healthy and fit.

Brittany advocated for allowing teacher collaboration time to continue on Mondays by having longer class periods. She said students like having study hall and the ability to work with teachers during that time.

Memorial's State of the School meeting will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Little Theatre. Brittany noted that the date was changed for this event because of other conflicts.

Marcus Liddell said he has heard from many students who were unhappy with the decision to eliminate collaboration time. He felt it is an important time for teachers to work together.

## Other Reports

### **State of the Schools Report – Locust Lane Elementary School**

Locust Lane Principal Kaying Xiong distributed folders containing detailed information about that school. She also shared demographic information with the Board. There are 284 students enrolled and 52% of those students qualify for free/reduced meals, 14% are students with disabilities, and 9.2% are considered Limited English Proficient. Caucasian students make up 74% of the population; 19% are Asian; and 4.8% are African Americans.

Dr. Xiong said the building's academic goal is to improve skills in reading for all K-5 students so that by May 2011, 85% of K-2 students will be proficient as measured by the DRA2 benchmark level for each grade. Students in ELL, Title I, or special education will demonstrate a 10% growth in two years. 92% of the 3-5 grade students without disabilities will be proficient or advanced on the WKCE. And 72% of the 3-5 grade students who are socio-economically disadvantaged will be proficient or advanced on the WKCE. Last year third graders met their goal, fourth graders were close and fifth graders were below their targets. When disaggregated, those students who are economically disadvantaged have a large gap and it is even wider for LEP and special education students. Dr. Xiong explained how the Rtl pyramid is used to help students succeed.

To assist with implementing the reading goal, the staff has had family reading nights, Readers' Theater activities, and guided reading and literacy centers. They have also invited community members in to read to students.

The behavior goal is to implement PBIS school wide so that recess incidences are reduced by 20% as tracked through SWIS by May 2011. With the implementation of PBIS, staff has been able to lay out skills and strategies that need to be in place and to target specific areas of need. Some PBIS activities include Pride celebrations and school-wide morning meetings.

Dr. Xiong highlighted various activities that take place at Locust Lane including Leopard Time, which is an extended school day for students in Tier II on the Rtl triangle, Reading Nights, Kids in the Kitchen through the UW-Extension, the Read Across America Celebration, and Girls on the Run.

**Policy and Governance Committee** -- There was no report.

**Budget Development Committee** -- There was no report.

## **CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 6, 7 & 8 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of February 15, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of February 15, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of February 16, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of February 22, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The matters of employment of March 1, 2010, as presented.

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

## **INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS**

### Resolution #6 – Final Notices of Nonrenewal of Certified Staff with Emergency Contracts

It was noted that the action to nonrenew staff does not reflect upon the employee's performance in any way. These employees were employed full or part time during the 2009-10 school year on an emergency contract.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to issue final notices of nonrenewal of certified staff with emergency contracts as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### Resolution #7 – Letters of Renewal for Teaching Staff

Com. Shiel moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to approve the reemployment of certified staff for the 2010-11 school year as presented. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Bollinger, Craig, Duax, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Abstained: Faanes.

### Resolution #8 – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Eau Claire Area School District Board of Education and the Eau Claire Schools Classified Staff Federation Local 4018 Regarding Language Revisions to Section 6.07 of the 2009-2011 Bilateral Agreement

It was noted that this MOU will be attached as an addendum to the contract and when the successor agreement comes forward, the language can be incorporated when bargained again.

Com. Shiel moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Eau Claire Area School District Board of Education and the Eau Claire Schools Classified Staff Federation Local 4018 regarding language revisions to Section 6.07 of the 2009-2011 Bilateral Agreement. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN  
MARCH 1, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Members present: Bollinger, Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representatives Brittany Landorf and Marcus Liddell were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Education Foundation Parameters

Superintendent Heilmann said the district has obtained 501(c)(3) status for the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation (ECPSF) and that is in place. In addition, the two high school partnership coordinators had ten hours per week added to their schedule to put together an Alumni Association. He shared a handout of the work that has entailed. Also included in the Board's information was a legal opinion from Attorney William Spangler about the possibility of two organizations sharing the Foundation's Federal Tax ID and 501(c)(3) status.

Dr. Heilmann said there have been discussions about having the Alumni Association obtain its own 501(c)(3) to keep funds segregated from the Foundation. There would be two separate Boards of Directors.

North Partnership Coordinator Julie O'Brien said that she talked to the EC Community Foundation and the Alumni Association could establish a pass-through account but it would need at least \$10,000. In reviewing the EC Public Schools Foundation's 501(c)(3) there is nothing that says the Alumni Foundation could have its own Board made up of Alumni that could dictate how the money would be utilized. The district's Foundation Board would make those decisions and the PCs were concerned about that. Ms. O'Brien and Memorial Partnership Coordinator Justine Vernon said they are ready to move forward with the Alumni Association and recommended that it obtain its own 501(c)(3) status.

President Craig said at one point the Board discussed using a single flow-through fund through the Eau Claire Community Foundation for the Alumni Association. The Board was also going to review what other school districts have done.

Com. Faanes said he recalls discussions about whether the EC Public Schools Foundation wanted to utilize the Community Foundation. However, he felt the Alumni Association should be a separate entity and should have its own 501(c)(3) status. He thought the ECPSF would look at larger gifts and its goal would ultimately be to create an account where only interest would be distributed. The Alumni Association would have much smaller transactions and utilizing the Community Foundation for those things wouldn't be appropriate. He believed the quickest way to start raising money was to allow the Alumni Association to secure its own 501(c)(e) status. They could eventually direct funds to the ECPSF in the future.

There was some frustration expressed about the fact that the ECPSF has obtained its 501(c)(3) status three years ago and nothing has moved forward. Com. Wogahn suggested having community volunteers get it going. The Alumni Association could serve as a key player to start receiving contributions. There were some concerns that if the Alumni Association was run separately from the Public Schools Foundation, it would take away from potential fund raising for the Foundation. However, it was also noted that if the Alumni Association can start raising money, it should get going since nothing has happened with the Foundation yet.

Ms. Vernon said the Alumni Association would not be competing with the Foundation. Alumni would raise money for different things but that's not to say it couldn't funnel money to the Foundation.

There seemed to be consensus with bringing a resolution for Board consideration at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting that would allow the Alumni Association to move forward and obtain its own 501(c)(3) status. Potential Board members and background information was requested.

The Board also asked that the issue of the ECPSF come back on a future agenda for discussion. The priority would be on the Alumni Association and once that is up and running, the Foundation discussion could take place. The Board will look at models like the Appleton School District and will get data about the potential use of the Community Foundation and what a fund manager would cost and the expertise they could bring to the ECPSF.

B. Update from Demographic Trends & Facilities Planning Advisory Council

Executive Director of Administration Tim Leibham distributed a spread sheet that showed projected elementary school enrollments from the Applied Population Laboratory (APL) and building capacity with SAGE programming and without SAGE programming. It was noted that SAGE takes up more classroom space than non-SAGE classroom space. Based on the APL study enrollment projections, it was possible that the district may be at full capacity at the elementary levels in 2012-13 with SAGE. Some boundary adjustments may be necessary by 2011-12 especially for Robbins, Roosevelt, Sherman and Meadowview. Without SAGE it was anticipated that the district would be at capacity in 2015-16. If Little Red would be utilized, it would extend full capacity with SAGE to 2014-15 and without SAGE to 2017-18. Mr. Leibham also pointed out that overall trends across the district are increasing for families that qualify for free/reduced meals. As more families qualify, the district receives more funding per child.

The Demographic Trends & Facilities Planning Council drafted working papers, together with framing questions, to focus strategies to address future overcrowding at the elementary level. Mr. Leibham asked the Board to consider two fundamental questions to frame the council's work: 1) Is the Board committed to keeping five SAGE schools for the foreseeable future? and 2) Is the Board interested in identifying/creating a centralized Early Learning Center or centers?

The majority of the Board was in favor of keeping five SAGE schools for now. There was a request for more information on the budgetary impacts of SAGE. It was also suggested that the Board reach agreement on targeted class sizes so that incremental costs can be determined. Com. Bollinger agreed with having SAGE at Longfellow; however, he felt that although lower class sizes are a desirable outcome, there is a net cost as well and keeping it at all five schools might not be possible. There are also constraints on building capacity as well as parity issues for non-SAGE schools.

Com. Shiel said was inclined to keep SAGE as it is now, but he would be more willing to reduce the number of SAGE classes if it becomes financially too difficult or there is reason to think that changes with the transformational readiness standards will alleviate some of these problems. He said SAGE might be part of the answer, but the district needs to come up with answers that work across the whole district.



It was noted that although there is a space issue keeping the SAGE program, there will still be a space issue within two years even without the program.

The Board discussed its interest in identifying or creating a centralized Early Learning Center or centers. Mr. Leibham said that currently there are 12 early learning (EL) classrooms in the district. For 2010-11 there is a need for at least one additional classroom due to increased enrollment and there will be a need to relocate one EL classroom from Montessori due to Montessori's need for one additional classroom. Currently children ages 3 & 4 receive services in the same classroom but there is interest in EL to separate these children. This would require additional classroom space. Mr. Leibham added that there is inefficiency in the use of psychologists, social workers, and speech & language staff due to numerous EL sites. Bussing is extremely inefficient in both time and costs with multiple EL sites. The district is responsible for EC4T transportation if requested by the parent and currently 220 children receive transportation. The district is required to transport Head Start and early childhood special education students and 115 children receive that special transportation. The APL projections reflect continued increases in the number of EL aged children. The total EL enrollment is 859 children which includes EC4T, Head Start, and early childhood special education.

Superintendent Heilmann said the district could increase efficiency in EC4T by going to fewer sites, and that's why the district went to four sites but the district is running out of space at each site. And although there may be space in the secondary schools now, it wouldn't be a long-term fix. Using existing facilities could buy some time but it will make overcrowding issues worse eventually. Mr. Leibham added that there are no particular facilities in mind but options could include renovating an existing center, finding available space or building a center.

The Board generally was in favor of investigating the concept of a centralized EL site or having two geographic centers based on efficiencies. However, creating a centralized site(s) may cost money. The Board would have to determine if the cost of potentially upgrading facilities would be less than the efficiencies achieved with staffing and transportation. It was noted that EL students ride separately from other students, which is part of the efficiency of this model.

Mr. Leibham pointed out that obtaining a site for early learning classrooms is not just about classroom space. There would be issues with restrooms, desks, playgrounds, and casework.

C. Update on ENGAGE Charter School Planning & Indication of BOE Support Through a Future Resolution

Jo Burke spoke on behalf of the Engage Charter School group. She provided the Board with a potential curriculum model as well as a five-year plan budget for sustainability. She also estimated that the group would need about one hour a week of administrative time during the planning period in the first year of the grant.

The issue of certification continues to be a concern. Decisions on certification are still in flux with DPI.

The budget was reviewed. There were no salaries included in the first year. The budget included the projected income the group would like to raise through grants and external contributions. As far as grant monies, there are dissemination grants that DPI gives out after the first three years. Ms. Burke also stated that there is great potential for foundation grants for things like building use. The group would ideally like to utilize buildings in the downtown area.

There were some questions about staffing levels with some thoughts that staffing may be understated at the student/teacher level as well as administrative and aide time.

President Craig shared the Board's policy on charter school guidelines. She said the policy stresses the importance of addressing specific student needs to target populations as appropriate. There is also a need for equity across the board and the policy states that the district will provide the same opportunity for access to resources and funding as the typical district school.

Ms. Burke was asked about the positions of coordinator and principal. She explained that the coordinator would work on curriculum and staff development--things that go above and beyond what the principal would normally do.

The Board asked if there was a maximum number of students that could be served in the charter. Ms. Burke said if the need was there, they would like to accommodate as many students as were interested. They would evaluate that every year to determine whether it was meeting the needs of its students and fiscally sustaining the charter school.

Dr. Heilmann said that after discussions with the District Leadership Team, it was estimated that the team could come up with 6 hours per month for this project.

Board members were encouraged with the progress that has been made and the models that were shared. The Board agreed this could come back as a resolution item on the next agenda. Com. Bollinger asked that the resolution state that this be brought back to the Board for an update at a certain date during the planning stage.

#### D. First Reading of Policy 345.3

Com. Johnson shared the first reading of *Policy 345.3—Extended Learning Opportunities/Homework*

The Board of Education recognizes that extended learning opportunities/homework are activities designed to enhance the individual learning needs of students. Extended learning opportunities/homework shall refer to those assignments to be completed outside of school by the student or independently while in attendance at school. Teachers shall ensure that students and parents are informed of extended learning opportunities/homework expectations.

The Superintendent shall oversee extended learning opportunity/homework procedures that:

- Reflect best practice research and district guidelines
- Extend classroom learning
- Explore educational learning experiences beyond the classroom
- Assess background knowledge
- Ensure extended learning opportunities/homework shall not be assigned as a disciplinary measure
- Ensure extended learning opportunities/homework require the use of common materials accessible to families in all socio-economic statuses
- Ensure extended learning opportunities/homework shall not be dependent on parent/guardian participation

#### 3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Shiel asked about the agenda item to discuss Charter School Contracts and whether that will include the content of those contracts. Dr. Heilmann said there will be two charter contracts coming forth and this discussion will be more on the format of the contract.

The discussion about the Public Schools Foundation will also be put on a future agenda.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

Com. Shiel moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to go into closed session under 19.85 (1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility to discuss administrative contracts and the superintendent's evaluation and 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:14 pm.