

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Monday, August 20, 2018
Generated by Meta Miske

Members present

Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

Member absent

Aaron Harder

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Luginbill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Meta Miske confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No one signed up to address the Board.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the calendar of upcoming School Board meetings.

Dr. Hardebeck shared four annual written reports with the Board: PBIS, School Nursing, Seclusion and Restraint, and School-Based Mental Health. Board members were asked to forward any questions they may have to Superintendent Hardebeck.

All staff will return on August 27, 2018. This year's wellness activities will take place in each individual building, and professional development will be held in the morning at each school. The original plan included having an interruption at midday with the annual kickoff. However, Memorial is under construction, so as a result parking is limited. The overflow parking lot is unavailable on August 27 due to a paving project. Work is also being done on Keith Street. Therefore, the all staff welcome will not take place this year.

There were 54 new staff members participating in the new staff orientation. Dr. Hardebeck thanked Mark Goings and ECAE for their tradition of greeting new staff members and providing lunch for new staff and administrators.

CVTC has made a video regarding the District's post-secondary opportunities and partnerships. The District has 18 different courses and 9 academic academies for students. These opportunities allow students to explore academic and career plans and earn college credits while in high school. In the 2017-18 school year, 553 students participated in at least 1 CVTC class and earned 1,400 post-secondary credits in high school. CVTC is the most popular post-secondary opportunity for ECASD grads. The video was shared with the Board. Kristal Tavare from CVTC was present and Dr. Hardebeck recognized her for her work. Kristal played a major role in the video.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Luginbill said the 10th annual Border Battle Golf Scramble benefiting the Homeless Children and Youth Fund will be held on September 9, 2018. Board members were invited to golf, visit, or volunteer.

The Adopt a Backpack Program is going strong. You can pick out a backpack, fill it with grade level items, and return to a school of your choice or the Administration Building.

If anyone wants to submit a resolution to the WASB Delegate Assembly, contact President Luginbill. There will be an item on the September 10 agenda to act on any resolutions brought forward.

President Luginbill is a contestant in this year's Dancing with the Eau Claire Stars. You can vote online for a fan favorite at www.dancingwiththeeauclairestars.com.

4. OTHER REPORTS

4.1 School Board Committee Reports

The LEAP Committee discussed membership and is reviewing policy revisions for the committee.

Policy & Governance reviewed the policy for social media, which will be acted on later in the agenda.

4.2 Legislative Update

Mr. Torres shared information on proposed licensure rule revisions for PI 34.

5. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Charles Vue, to approve the Consent Resolution Agenda Items as follows:

- Minutes of August 6, 2018
- Minutes of Closed Session - August 6, 2018
- Budget Adjustments - July 2018

- Gifts in the amount of \$28,841.00 for the period of July 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$10,720,963.08 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,404,622.25 for the period of July 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018.
- Human Resources - Employment Report

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

6. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

6.1 Adopt Resolution in Support of Increasing Special Education Funding in WI Public Schools to 90% of the Cost Incurred

The Department of Public Instruction invited Board members to their budget development meeting and talked about special education reimbursement. They came forth with the idea of funding at the same level as special education in the private schools' program. Milwaukee public schools created information that is now being put on the DPI website. WASB is looking at updating their recommendation.

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Lori Bica, to adopt Resolution in Support of Increasing Special Education Funding in Wisconsin Public Schools to 90% of the Cost Incurred.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

6.2 Adopt New Policy 821 - Social Media for District-Supported Sites

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to adopt Policy 821 - Social Media for District-Supported Sites.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

7. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Preliminary Budget Discussion of School Board Priorities

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, presented an update on the budget process for the 2018-19 school year. The recommended budget won't come to the Board until mid-October as the District doesn't receive information from DPI until October 15th.

Ms. Johnson explained that 78 percent of the budget is for salary and fringe benefits (people), 15 percent for contracted services (transportation/substitutes), 4 percent for supplies (workbooks/consumables), 2 percent for capital (equipment/ large purchases for each year), and 1 percent is for insurance costs, debt, etc.

ECASD is one of the only public entities that prepares its budget in public. The Board hears several budget updates before a final budget is presented in October. Each year the District starts its budget at zero. Each department and building create their budget requests, and all requests are considered. This process is used for staffing as well by looking at the District's mid-targeted class size policy and needs. The advantage to this means the District is looking at its operations each year. The adoption of the budget happens four months after the fiscal year begins.

Ms. Johnson displayed the timeline and showed how the District tries to meet benchmarks each year. She individually meets with each building principal and each department in February to evaluate where the budget is at for the current year so that can be used to determine needs for the next year. The staffing process starts in March, which helps evaluate the needs of the District due to retirements. From May through September, budget requests are reviewed, evaluated, and clarified as part of the reconciliation process. On July 1 the District receives an estimate of state aid from DPI. The Third Friday Membership Count in September is very important as it determines the student count, so DPI can certify state aid by October 15. That final information is used to make any required changes to the budget, so a final budget can be adopted by the required deadline of October 30th.

Ms. Johnson went over the tasks from the calendar/timeline and which department(s) is responsible for each task. It shows that there is a lot of collaboration and time spent on the budget. The Strategic Plan priorities are utilized, and staff is asked for input.

The reconciliation process after the Third Friday looks at staffing, state aid, computer aid, tax levy, transportation expense, and the budget reconciliation.

President Luginbill thanked Ms. Johnson for the presentation. He said he appreciates how open the District is with its budget process compared to other public agencies. He said this process is very democratic and engaging. Although it can lead to people misconstruing the District's "wish list," the District has a reconciliation process to look at wants and needs and creates the budget from zero.

8.2 Revenue Planning Presentation

Dr. Hardebeck said that she and President Luginbill have met with various leaders across the state and country and found that many school districts throughout Wisconsin, the United States, and across the world are seeking new sources of revenue. Districts are looking at ways to thrive in a different way.

The norm has been that in times of budgetary uncertainty and restraints from the state and federal level, school districts have traditionally looked at three areas to make up the difference: make cuts to services or programs, raise local property taxes through referendum, or ask the state for more resources. Over 24 years millions of dollars of cuts has resulted in the reduction of programs and closures of schools. The referendum helped with this to raise salaries, address deferred maintenance projects, etc. Mr. Luginbill asked the Board and staff to be transformational leaders and think outside the box to increase revenue for students.

Eau Claire has had public schools for 160 years. While ECASD faces challenges, there are many opportunities. The District must emphasize its collective power. It is the largest government entity in the Chippewa Valley in terms of facilities, budget, staff employed, and clients worked with every day. ECASD is the eighth largest district in the state and the third largest employer in the area. It is a true economic driver.

Mr. Luginbill and Dr. Hardebeck shared potential areas for the Board to study:

- New educational programs as a source of revenue (virtual charter/recovery school, international school, etc.)
- Renegotiate agreements with other non-government and government agencies so they aren't one-sided
- Copyright and licensing of ECASD-created materials and programs.
- Assess real estate/housing/development potential (survey land we currently own, work with consultant and explore opportunities)
- Partnerships with financial institutions (rewards programs)
- Advertising/sponsored content/naming rights
- Establishment of District adult education/extension school
- Public-private partnerships (athletic/event complex)

Superintendent Hardebeck asked the Board to consider creating an ad-hoc revenue committee to explore potential innovative revenue streams for the District. The Board would advertise for committee members in September, appoint members in October, and plan for a report with findings in January 2019. Board members would be asked to share their ideas with the committee.

It was suggested that this be discussed at an upcoming Board Retreat.

Ms. Abby Johnson was asked to summarize items that increase revenue currently. She said that summer school increases revenue by building partnerships with community groups. This increases the District's enrollment which increases state aid the District receives. There are also advertising contracts to promote the District. The new Daktronics scoreboards produce revenue.

8.3 Bi-Annual Communication Plan Status Report

Kim Koller, Executive Director of Administration, said that twice a year the Communication Committee provides an update to the Board on its work. The work of the committee is aligned to the Strategic Plan to look at partnering with families and the community.

In the last six months the committee created a video about summer school programming. It is anticipated that more videos will be created, but the committee is determining a focus for videos at this time so that they meet the needs of the District. The committee also worked to strengthen community partnerships by being more visible at community events such as Family Day, events at the L.E. Phillips Memorial Library, Senior Americans Day at UWEC, etc. The next step is to create a plan to ensure ECASD can attend events and have representation there.

The committee has also been developing consistency in branding. The Branding Committee created a branding statement. It will continue the process by focusing on how to send the branding message out through letterhead, communication, etc. The committee hopes to have a branding manual very soon that will guide staff in determining when to use a certain logo, how to display meeting times, etc.

A new school logo was created for Prairie Ridge, and the logos for Longfellow and Northwoods are also under construction.

The committee is taking an inventory of exterior signs at each school. If it cannot be determined by looking at the sign if it is part of the ECASD, signs may need to be updated.

The committee anticipates reinforcing trainings around communications and continuing site level support for principals and other staff. It will continue to review and revise communications-related policies and look at the website to build consistency within the website. The committee will work with a high school marketing intern/youth apprentice again this year.

8.4 Discussion and Possible First Reading of New Policy 441.3 - Student Assisted Voter Registration

A first reading of new Policy 441.3 was shared:

The Eau Claire School Board supports the civic engagement of its students as a "Responsibility" in the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) Core Values. To that end, the District shall facilitate Assisted Voter Registration to promote student involvement in the electoral process.

ECASD high schools shall offer to all students who will reach the age of majority by the next scheduled election with the opportunity to register as voters. Registration shall take place within the school, with staff, student government representatives, and/or nonpartisan community volunteers.

Voter registration information shall be made available on the district website, through the school newsletter and school emails, in the principal's office, library, guidance office, or other similarly accessible locations throughout the school year. Information about voter registration and civic participation shall be incorporated in High School Social Studies classes in alignment with Wisconsin State Curriculum Standards.

High school newsletters shall include periodic information educating students about the process of voter registration.

Eligible high school students may be excused from school to be a poll worker or poll observer in local elections.

Board members agreed to bring this forward for approval at the next Board Meeting.

8.5 Discussion and Possible First Reading of Policy 723.2 - Reporting Threats of Violence

A first reading of Policy 723.2 was shared:

Any school employee who believes in good faith that there is a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of any student, any school employee, or the public, based on a threat that has been made by an individual seen in the course of the employee's professional duties regarding violence in or targeted at a school or school sanctioned activity, shall report the threat as required by state law and this policy. In particular:

- 1. The facts and circumstance contributing to the belief that there is such a serious and imminent threat shall be reported immediately, by telephone or personally, directly to a law enforcement agency.*
- 2. The person making the report to law enforcement shall also immediately inform the building principal of the nature of the threat and circumstances. Such notice to a responsible administrator or supervisor in the District does not have to be given prior to contacting a law enforcement agency.*
- 3. The building principal shall notify the Superintendent immediately after the call to law enforcement has been made.*

This policy and the obligation to immediately report a serious and imminent threat of school-related violence also applies to any other person who is acting as an agent of the District (e.g., a contracted service provider) and who is specified as a mandatory reporter of threats of school violence under state law.

The administration shall promptly evaluate and process known threats of school-related violence according to the District's school safety plan and under any other established procedures for responding to safety emergencies.

The District shall not take any disciplinary action against a school employee, discriminate against an employee in regard to employment, or threaten an employee with any such treatment for making a report of threatened school violence in good faith under this policy. School employees may be subject to District disciplinary action, as well as penalties under state law, for failure to report such threats.

All District employees shall receive training provided by the Department of Public Instruction in the state laws governing the reporting of a threat of school violence within the first six (6) months after commencing employment and at least once every five (5) years after that initial training.

If a student has made, or if there is reason to suspect that a student has made, a threat of school-related violence, the District shall conduct an investigation of the relevant facts and circumstances and determine any appropriate school disciplinary consequences or other response. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, is authorized to seek payment from appropriate parties for costs and other damages, including for lost instructional time and other disruptions of operations, that may be associated with any threatened, attempted, or actual act of school-related violence.

The Policy & Governance Committee was asked to consider whether protection of students reporting threats of violence should be included in the policy. The committee will review this at their September 10, 2018 meeting, and it will be voted on at the Board Meeting that evening if there are no major changes made.

9. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

10. ADJOURN

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.