

**Meeting:** Policy & Governance Committee

**Date:** December 16, 2019

**Time:** 8:00am

**Location:** Administration Building, Room 137

**Attendees:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Klinkhammer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Torres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charles Vue
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**Guests:** Mary Ann Hardebeck, Abby Johnson, Kim Koller, Jim Schmitt (arrived at 8:42am)

**Notes:** Meta Miske

Meeting called to order at 8:02am.

**1. Public Comment**

- Krista Caucett-Ratz asked for an exception to the 4K policy to allow her daughter early admittance to 4K in September 2020. Her daughter's birthday is September 6, the cut-off is September 1, and she asked the committee to amend the policy to allow children close to the cut-off date the possibility to begin early. She believes her daughter is ready. If she waits to start 4K as scheduled and then is moved up to kindergarten, she'll have missed a year of social-emotional learning.
- Sarah French is returning as Executive Director of ECPSF. She said over the last few months Sue Bornick and the Board of Trustees have been working toward getting an MOU in place. She's excited to work with the Foundation Board and answer any questions the School Board might have.
- Sue Bornick thanked the committee for including the MOU on the agenda. She said trustees Jim McDougall and Wayne Willie were also present to answer any questions the committee may have. She passed out the ECPSF bylaws and a document about supporting organizations to help with the discussion.

**2. Policy 421 Early Admission/Early Acceleration**

- Mr. Jim Schmitt said he verified the District can receive state funding for 3-year old students in a 4K program. However, administration is still recommending to not allow early admission for several reasons.
  - Direction about enrolling 3 year-olds is pending from the State
  - If ECASD allowed early admission based on assessment results, many students would be eligible early. Prairie Ridge and the Community Sites are already very full.
  - No other neighboring districts are allowing early admission into 4K.
  - If the date is adjusted, others may then come forward and want the date moved even later.
  - Once in the program, parents can request early admission into Kindergarten which is usually in in November after the first set of assessments and parent/teacher conferences.
- Discussion ensued about filling all spots up to the cap, even if that includes allowing some early admission. Concerns expressed that 70% of the Prairie Ridge population is free/reduced and if often takes until mid- to late-September to get enrollment settled and determine if there are any additional seats.
- The committee agreed to follow Administration's recommendation and not make exceptions to Policy 421.

**3. Insurance Bidding**

- Ms. Abby Johnson said she and Ms. Marks have been working with the District's insurance consultant and realized there isn't a policy for insurance bidding. Based on current policies the District must go to bid each year, but the recommendation is not to go to bid because insurance companies don't look at the District

seriously if it goes to bid each year. Ms. Johnson asked if the Committee's desire would be to add something in to current policy to allow an exception.

- Discussion ensued about Policy 672 and the industry standard of going to bid every 3-5 years which allows an employer to track trends and hope for better bids.
- Ms. Johnson will provide a draft of proposed language at the next meeting.

#### **4. Policy 185 – Board and District Committees**

- Dr. Hardebeck said after the last meeting she was going to add language about Family Advisory Council. After research it was discovered FAC is not a board committee. The FAC was formed by parents to share information about the District with families. She asked the Committee to decide if they want to make it a Board committee or to leave as-is.
- Discussion ensued about FAC.
  - FAC sometimes advises, such as regarding the referendum, the Facility Use Policy, etc., but they have typically operated independently of the Board.
  - Board members have attended and even been assigned to FAC in the past, but don't typically attend FAC meetings.. Dr. Hardebeck attends every meeting and usually a member of Exec Team attends also.
  - FAC determines their topics by completing a survey at the start of the year.
- The P&G committee members agreed that since FAC operates independently, it has been an efficient and healthy committee, and therefore should be left alone.
- It was agreed that the updates to Policy 185 will be presented to the School Board for review without any additional language about FAC.

#### **5. Policy 740 – Materials Resource Management**

- Ms. Abby Johnson said the policy was put in place in 1985. The District no longer uses the warehouse model as it is more cost effective to ship directly to the buildings. She recommends the policy be retired.
- Ms. Johnson explained the warehouse was housed at the Service Center. The District used to order items in bulk such as toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc., and then deliver to the buildings when requested. Each building now orders what they need using preferred items and vendors and receive it directly.
- Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Charles Vue to retire Policy 740. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.

#### **6. Discussion about MOU and policy regarding Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation**

- President Torres said the proposed MOU was reviewed by an attorney. There are questions with having a direct contract and the contract language between the District and ECPSF. Suggestions about making changes through policy rather than having a specific contract with one agency might help to clarify the relationship. Proposed policy changes as well as the attorney's edited copy of the MOU were distributed for review.
- Commissioner Klinkhammer said she is on the Eau Claire Community Foundation's Board and since this is a contract negotiation, she believes it is a conflict of interest. Therefore she said she will abstain from any conversation or voting regarding the topic both on the ECASD side and the ECCF side.
- Committee members read the handouts and discussion ensued:
  - State statutes give the School Board as an elected body the authority to request and receive donations. They cannot relinquish the authority as they are held accountable for it. The attorney's proposed draft removes that from the MOU.
  - The ECASD has contributed \$50,000/year since 2011 for approximately \$400,000 to the ECPSF. The ECASD has received approximately \$600,000 back, for a net of approximately \$200,000. The ECPSF has given in the following ways:
    - Golden Apple Awards
    - North Baseball Dugout

- Small special projects through building grants
  - Field trips
- Discussion about how the ECASD can share needs with ECPSF to develop fundraising campaigns. It was agreed to add “and planning updates” to #4 of the proposed policy.
- Clarification of the relationship with Eau Claire Community Foundation; the ECPSF serves only the ECASD but is a sub-organization of the ECCF. ECPSF has its own Governance Board, but ECCF must approve new trustees for that Board, ECCF handles a lot of the administration and investments. The Supporting Organization handout Ms. Bornick shared explains the relationship.
- Questions were asked about the proportion of money raised by the Foundation and the portion granted back to the District.
- Three possibilities were discussed for next steps:
  - Create a policy that regulates the relationship instead of an MOU
  - Move ahead with an MOU and fine-tune the language
  - Move ahead with the MOU **and** create a policy
- It was agreed that the Committee will do both by moving ahead with the MOU and working on creating a policy. The attorney’s edited version of the MOU will be shared with the ECPSF to begin reviewing the modifications so they may respond.
- This item is scheduled be discussed again on January 6, 2020.

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Laurie Klinkhammer to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed by unanimous voice of approval.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16am.