

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, APRIL 19, 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)(e) to deliberate or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session 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

Leslie Sahls, 3509 Cummings Avenue, felt that alternative field trip options have been left out of the proposal. The EC United PTA/PTO group recommends not having a second grade field trip. First graders would go to the public library. She said it appears the Beaver Creek water study field trip has been moved from third grade to second grade. She felt it should stay with third graders as it stands in the curriculum. The trip to the Ice Age Trail costs \$5,400 but it gives students a world class opportunity. She said elementary field trips would only cost the district \$6 per day.

Diane Willer, 2750 Diane Lane, recommended that six field trips be put back into the budget. The cost would be \$23,791 and would include high school music opportunity. She said she sent the Board members a document tying the transformational readiness standards to each field trip. She urged the Board to find \$6 per day to send kids back out on field trips.

Recognition of Com. Bollinger

President Craig stated that this was Com. Bollinger's last meeting. She presented him with a plaque of appreciation from the Board as well as a certificate from WASB for his three years of service to the Board. She thanked him for his commitment to public education.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann said that on April 15, 2010, the Wisconsin Assembly approved legislation that would permit SAGE classes to increase from a ratio of 15:1 to 18:1. The Assembly version of the bill includes provisions that may be new to some individuals who have closely followed progress of legislation regarding SAGE. The current legislative session ends on April 23rd and the Senate has not yet included Senate Bill 593 on its agenda for legislative action. Dr. Heilmann urged Board members to call area legislators about the importance of this bill. He reviewed the pertinent language and the impact it would have on the district.

Dr. Heilmann shared information about the Alumni Association and Foundation. The advantages of an independent Alumni Association include a greater sense of empowerment/ownership, it may be seen as more community friendly, and there will always be alumni. The disadvantages are that it may be more difficult to maintain leadership roles, there may be many donations but they would be smaller, and it may be more difficult to involve corporate leadership. Less than half of the districts studied provided 501(c)(3) status to their alumni groups. In those that do have this status, most of the fundraising is done for scholarships and extra instructional needs. This effort will take community leaders, high school staff, and recent graduates to be successful. Some districts rely on community members with specific expertise to fill certain roles such as an accountant serving as the treasurer. In talking with Sue Bornick from the Community Foundation (ECCF), the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation (ECPSF) could choose to have donors make checks out to ECPSF rather than ECCF.

The ENGAGE Charter School planning grant was sent to Madison to meet the April 15th deadline. The ENGAGE Charter is based on a model that will include theme-based teaching with integrated creative arts and culture content and project-based learning. The application notes that the curriculum will include disciplines of creating writing, visual arts, music, dance, drama and language arts. If awarded, the \$175,000 planning grant would begin right away with a target date of September 1, 2011, for the opening of the school. Periodic updates will be provided to the Board and public.

Dr. Heilmann shared information from an article published by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel which pointed out that Wisconsin ranks in last place for Midwestern states in terms of tax burden. Wisconsin ranks 26th out of 50 in total spending for all levels of state and local government. The per capital spending in Wisconsin is \$7,204 versus the national average of \$7,516. Wisconsin's corporate burden is in the middle of the pack and many businesses now pay their taxes through the personal income tax system rather than the corporate structure.

Family, Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students from North and Memorial high schools earned several significant honors at its recent State Leadership Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Medals were awarded in areas of culinary arts, pastries

and baking, career investigation, specific focus areas and portfolios. Dr. Heilmann congratulated the students as well as their advisors, Mary Krans and Laura Brooks.

On May 21st the Chamber of Commerce will host the State of Schools meeting at Fanny Hill. The ECASD will give an update on school matters along with the Altoona School District and CASE. The district will have about 15-20 minutes for the presentation.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig acknowledged Carrie Hallquist, the district's Safety Coordinator, who recently completed the Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association's School Safety Coordinator Certification Program.

WASB will hold its regional meeting on April 21st. There will also be a workshop sponsored by WASB on May 8th in Wisconsin Dells. Board members were encouraged to attend these events if they are available.

Student Representative Report

Marcus Liddell announced that the North Husky Moon Theater company will present *The Matchmaker* on April 23-25.

Other Reports

State of the Schools Report – Putnam Heights School

Kim Koller, Putnam Highs Principal, said that their schools' mission is to promote, facilitate and ensure growth in emotional, social, academic, artistic, and physical development as they prepare their students for world citizenship. The enrollment has increased from 303 in 2007-08 to 391 at 2009-10 noting that students from Little Red moved to Putnam Heights in 2008-09. Putnam has seen a significant increase in the percentage of students who qualify for free/reduced meals in the last several years.

Putnam Heights uses Responsive Classroom to guide the way they learn, teach and grow as a school community. They "assume nothing and teach everything!" They also use the CARES program.

Putnam's CIM goal is to create a building climate that is respectful and safe. This is measured through student behavior in various zones such as the hallway, cafeteria, etc. The academic goal for the past two years has been to continue to work on increasing proficiency in math, particularly in problem solving. Putnam has become a REACH school which allows staff to focus on student achievement while also focusing on staff development. Teachers use grade level and common assessments every six weeks and collaborate around that data, provide targeted interventions for students, and then reassess for progress. Ms. Koller reviewed the progress made on the goals.

Ms. Koller said they prepare a community of learners through community partnerships. They have many outstanding partnerships and also have a family involvement team that works with parents as partners. An example of a partnership includes a service learning project where fifth graders decided that it was important to provide kids with healthy snacks at school. They raised money to plant an apple orchard near the school that will provide healthy snacks for not only the Putnam students but for the residents who live in Putnam Glen, which is next to the school.

Principal Koller said staff will continue to focus on the whole child through social/emotional learning. They plan to implement the first tier of PBIS, continue efforts of the REACH grant, and work on continuous improvement.

Policy and Governance Committee

The committee is meeting almost weekly and will be moving forward with the advertising policy relatively soon. The committee incorporated the list of the Board's priorities for policies and is keeping on track with those priorities.

Budget Development Committee

There was nothing new to report.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolution #1 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of closed session of April 5, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The budget adjustments as presented.
- ◆ The financial report as presented.
- ◆ The gifts in the amount of \$60,849.98 for the period March 1, 2010, through March 31, 2010, as presented.
- ◆ The matters of employment of April 19, 2010, as presented.

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 – Approval of Board Minutes

Com. Shiel pointed out that the notice of closed session on the first page of the minutes included a notation about a roll call vote. That should be amended to take out that notation.

Com. Bollinger moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of April 5, 2010, as amended. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #7 – Payment of Bills & Payroll

The payment of all bills in the amount of \$4,172,115.57 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,221,659.07 for the period March 1, 2010, through March 31, 2010, as presented.

Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Bollinger, Craig, Duax, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Abstained: Faanes.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
APRIL 19, 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. The Impact of Elementary Art Reductions

Com. Bollinger said the Board should have a feedback loop to look at the impact of budget reductions and to make adjustments when necessary. He met with the elementary art teachers to discuss the unintended consequences of the reduction of art time and to ask them what they could do differently. He asked the Board to involve staff in dialogue as further cuts are made and to involve them in process adjustments.

Flynn Principal Kim Hill Phelps is responsible for overseeing K-5 elementary art, music and physical education (AMPE). She said that last year grades 1-5 had 60 minutes of art per week. Art was scheduled based on district funded classes and not SAGE classes. Prior to the addition of contract language regarding teacher prep time, AMPE teachers taught part of the curriculum and classroom teachers taught the rest. When prep time was added, it was negotiated to be provided during the time when specialists taught. The contract allowed for 240 minutes of prep time and they were guaranteed at least 225 minutes. The contract said that prep needed to be provided in at least 30 minute segments but music and physical education couldn't be shortened and still meet prep time requirements. However, art could be, and consequently elementary students have 15 minutes less of art each week.

Elementary art teachers, Maureen Skrowski and Dani Johnson, said that for the last 15 years the elementary art program has been a model of educational excellence. They were present to address the impact of a 25% reduction to their program. DPI sets guidelines in all subject areas regarding the minimum recommended number of minutes of instruction. The district is currently at half the DPI recommendation with 45-minute elementary art classes. Ms. Skrowski said it has not been possible to meet objectives this year and it has had a direct impact on students. She showed an overview of the wide range of areas elementary art encompasses. Complete units of study have had to be eliminated due to the reduction in class time.

Ms. Skrowski said art teachers try to focus on higher level thinking skills. They used to work on developing critical thinking skills and now there is a lack of time to develop those skills. She said they seem to be lecturing more because of the lack of time. They would like kids to solve problems and now they have less time to find new and thoughtful ways to solve problems. Writing assignments and reflection are rare. Ms. Skrowski said that whether art is taught in 90, 60, or 45 minute blocks, the clean up time, introduction time and set up is the same. That leaves about 20 minutes of work time as opposed to 35 minutes before. The average number of students each teacher sees on a weekly basis has gone from 550 to 780. Teachers must teach, know, and assess all of these students.

Ms. Skrowski said the current research supports arts education. They showed a connection between current research and where the district is going with transformational readiness standards. Art is considered a core subject in the Framework for 21st Century Learning.

In addition to the loss of classroom time, other losses in the program include the art shows at the Administration Building and in the community, the permanent art collection, gifted/talented collaboration/program, collaboration with music and other school programs, cross-curricular connections, connection with building staff, and department coordinator/leadership.

The art teachers shared four ideas with the Board for delivery of the elementary art program: 1) Have one 90-minute art class every week; 2) Return to 60-minute art classes; 3) Create a six-day rotation schedule with one 60-minute art class every six days; and 4) Have one 90-minute art class every two weeks on a rotating schedule. They requested that specialists, administrators and Board members sit down together to problem solve, brainstorm, and find creative solution to the issues they presented. When asked which option they favored, the teachers said having 90 minutes would be ideal but realistically, returning to 60-minutes classes would be good. Ms. Skrowski felt that being able to recapture the student work time should be the primary focus for art teachers and administrators to work on.

Art teachers now have less time to interact with classroom teachers, special needs teachers, and integrated curriculum with other specialists. President Craig said that previous to contract language changing and having prep time tied to AMPE there seemed to be more collaboration with classroom teachers. She asked if that was viable at all in terms of the current art program.

President Craig summarized by saying the Board would like to have a cadre formed to address some of the issues raised including the parity issue with art, music and physical education. She said the solutions should include a district-wide cost neutral budget. She acknowledged that it did not seem

likely that something could be implemented by the beginning of the 2010-11 school year. She said they should give the necessary time to develop a plan that is not forced.

Ms. Hill Phelps said she heard the Board say that they should find some relief that doesn't cost the district any more money. She also heard art teachers say they wanted something done soon. She said she would be happy to work on a solution noting that the schedules are done by hand. On the surface, it would look like having a 90-minute class every two weeks would be cost neutral and it may be, but she will have to look at that. The Board asked if any 90-minute rotation models could be found to review.

President Craig said that an internal feedback loop should be set up to address red flags that come up so that Board decisions have fewer negative consequences.

B. Discussion of Field Trip Options

President Craig said the School Board had a moratorium on field trips for one year. Director of PreK/Elementary Education, Kris Dimock, recognized Eau Claire United PTA/PTO for their efforts to raise funds to continue field trips during the 2009-10 school year. Included in the Board's materials was an account of the field trips that occurred this year thanks to the funds raised through EC United. Ms. Dimock said that some changes were made to field trips within the Division of Teaching & Learning. Those changes were made without formal input from teachers. Four guidelines were developed to come up with options that would be appropriate and equal for all kids. Those were to provide high quality field trip experiences for all elementary students, to ensure strong curricular connections, utilize community resources to include different destinations at each grade level, and minimize costs.

Another document shared alternative field trip options. It was felt the kindergarten trip to the Children's Museum met the guidelines and connected to several curricular areas, was in town, and would provide hands-on experiences. The first graders would take a trip to the public library where they have developed specific activities for students. In order to allow all elementary students a field trip experience, they changed the second grade field trip to Beaver Creek as part of the science unit. Third graders would keep the Chippewa Valley Museum and Paul Bunyan Logging Camp trip. It was suggested that at the fourth grade level students have a high school music opportunity. Fourth graders have a unit on physics of sound, which is closely tied to musical instruments. The Blugold Beginning program would be new for fifth graders. UW-EC would connect with students at several grade levels to provide mentoring to kids and also provide a field trip for all fifth graders to go to the university and find out

what it's like to live in the dorms, visit the student center, etc. to help them understand that post-secondary education and opportunities await them.

Ms. Dimock said the total amount for these field trips would be about \$16,000. There were three different levels for funding. If the Board decided not to fund all of the field trips (Option A), Option B would provide opportunities throughout the elementary experience by taking advantage of community resources. Option C would be a lower funding level.

Ann Franke, Director of Secondary Education, shared the guidelines for secondary field trips. She said at the secondary level the teachers have access to funds by following the guidelines and going through the building principal.

President Craig felt that the community has spoken by raising the necessary funds for field trips during this school year. Administration was charged with coming up with ways to incorporate some field trips back in without a significant budgetary impact and she felt Option A was the most encompassing.

Superintendent Heilmann said that Option A could include partnerships with the community. Of the \$16,250, administration recommended including \$7,100 in the district's budget and asking partners to raise the remaining funds.

President Craig said that it was hoped that the Public Schools Foundation would be up and running and could be used as a potential resource. Although the district has a functioning Foundation and they have been meeting, there is no money in the Foundation at this time. Money could be donated to the Foundation and be designated for field trips. It was noted that the Foundation is not under the control of the School Board. Requests could be made but the School Board couldn't direct the Foundation how to spend money unless the donations were designed for field trips.

Com. Johnson asked to see figures on money spent on off-site staff professional development. She also said that although the public library trip might be a good opportunity, she wondered if it was better than the Young Authors conference. She would like to hear what Young Authors offered that they aren't getting at the public library and vice versa. She also asked about the changes with the Beaver Creek field trips by grades. She felt the Ice Age Trail trip was really connected to geology and wondered why that was deemed less important. She added that the high school music field trip may be a good option and sounds cost effective, but she wondered what students weren't getting by not seeing a college level performance. She asked administration to review the cost of the UWEC trip versus the high school trip.

Several Board members were concerned about making a decision about reinstating field trips without knowing the entire budget picture. Most agreed that teacher feedback should be obtained as well to determine the best options from a curriculum perspective.

Four of the seven Board members agreed with moving forward with a minimum funding level for field trips and gave administration direction to come back with a proposal noting that a cut would come with that addition. It would be determined whether the Foundation or using the gift policy to donate would be reasonable.

Leslie Sahls said the Board should look at how the money is being spent. She said that 4,500 students would be reached with field trips. That money could fund one-quarter of a teacher, which would only reach 60 students. She said EC United spent considerable time and energy raising funds this year and they wouldn't be interested in doing so in the future.

Elementary music teacher, Karrie Barchenger, encouraged the Board to get teacher input regarding field trip experiences. She said the district is already doing the Blugold Beginning program and if the high school music experience is added, she wondered when the music teachers would have time to communicate with the high school music teachers to create the program they already have with the university.

Wanda Miller, elementary music teacher, said that communication is key, and it would be good to talk with teachers. She felt the university field trip offered an impeccable program and encouraged the Board to weigh the costs of taking kids to the high schools versus the university. She also suggested having students contribute a nominal fee.

North AP, Sue Kern, reminded the Board that the \$16,000 in the proposal was solely for elementary field trips. She said there are field trips at the secondary level that meet curriculum standards and are built into the curriculum in environmental science.

Diane Willer said that teacher feedback would be helpful. She felt there would be alternatives for making cuts in small amounts from various pockets in the budget.

Ms. Franke said there is a different structure for field trips at the secondary level. When reviewing the established guidelines at the middle schools, the areas they felt were most important included the sixth grade environmental education field trip and some kind of theater experience at the seventh or eighth grade level. They were able to find alternative funding for the social studies (National History Day) trip. At the high school level, the one field trip

with a direct curricular connection was for environmental science. They were able to use Perkins funding for the other field trips. Ms. Franke will share budget figures for the secondary field trips.

C. First Reading of Revisions to ECASD Policy 672--Purchasing

President Craig reviewed the changes that were made to *Policy 672-Purchasing* and asked if there were any questions before the first reading took place. The Board was comfortable with the changes as proposed.

Com. Bollinger shared the first reading of *Policy 672—Purchasing*:

Purchasing in the Eau Claire Area School District shall be in accordance with state law, accepted purchasing practices, ethical business practices and the district's "Procurement Operations Manual." The Executive Director of Business shall be responsible for updating and annually reviewing changes to the Manual with the Board of Education.

The district's procurement function shall:

1. Economize the district procurement activities to maximize the purchasing value of funds;
2. Foster effective broad-based competition for public procurement;
3. Ensure fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with the procurement system;
4. Provide safeguards for the maintenance of a procurement system of quality and integrity with clearly defined rules.

The school district shall seek purchasing opportunities in cooperation with other districts or governmental agencies or through a consolidation of needs within the local district.

Competitive bids or quotations shall be sought on purchases where quantity or costs involved warrant such handling as found in the Procurement Operations Manual. Bidding shall be done in a manner that all qualified suppliers have an equal opportunity insofar as manufacturing or product differences will allow.

The district reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and shall be the only judge of the quality, construction, and suitability of the products offered.

In the event that bid prices, product specifications, and all services are equal, the district will give preference to agents, vendors, or manufacturers residing in the district who have a proven record of quality service. The district reserves the right to pre-qualify bidders, agents, or vendors and to determine whether or not the designation of a local business is met. The district shall publish pre-qualification criteria.

The district may only purchase materials, equipment, supplies or services from an employee, member of the Board of Education, or members of the household of an employee or Board of Education member where a competitive bid or quotation is solicited.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Shiel said that on the June 21st Futures Agenda there is a discussion of the superintendent's performance goals. He wondered whether the Board should have a discussion about its goals before the June 21st meeting. President Craig said the Board should discuss holding an annual retreat and goal setting meeting to discuss the Board's 2009-10 goals.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

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

6. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Bollinger, to go into closed session under 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session 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 9:52 pm.