

## **Eau Claire Board of Education - Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, September 8, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.**

*Generated by Patrice Iverson, Board Secretary*

### **Members present:**

Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

### **Member absent:**

Trish Cummins

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Spindler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Board Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

## **1. REGULAR MEETING**

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### **1.5 Public Forum**

No one signed up to address the Board

## **2. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

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### **2.1 Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Hardebeck shared the calendar of events for School Board members.

Dr. Hardebeck shared the names of several high school students who have qualified to be semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarships. She recognized these students for their accomplishments.

Dr. Hardebeck also noted that the District has two schools that have earned recognition as Wisconsin Title 1 Schools of Recognition for "Beating the Odds:" Longfellow and Locust Lane elementary schools. This means that those schools are in the top 25% of high poverty schools in the state that have had above average student achievement in reading and math when compared to similarly sized school districts. She said this is great recognition for the staff and students at these schools.

### **2.2 Superintendent's Report--North High School Dugout Project - EC Public Schools Foundation**

North baseball coach Bob Johnson said that there has been an effort for many years to build dugouts on the baseball fields at North, but it has been difficult to raise the necessary funds. At the present time North is the only team in the conference that does not have a dugout for JV games. A group of community members met with Mary Beth Kelley-Lowe, Executive Director of the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation, two years ago to develop a plan, and over \$36,000 was raised in cash and in-kind gifts. This will allow two baseball and two softball field dugouts to be built. The Foundation was pleased to set up the fund and assist the committee in reaching its goal.

### **2.3 Communications to Superintendent/Board President**

President Spindler reminded Board members of upcoming events they may be interested in attending. He also said that the Altoona School Board is planning the next legislative breakfast with legislators on October 13 or 15. School Board Appreciation Week is October 5 through 11. WASB has a packet on how to promote that event, which President Spindler will share with the Board.

President Spindler welcomed the two new Student Representatives to the Board: Hannah Winegarden from

North and Jonah Giese from Memorial. He shared information on each student and welcomed them to the Board.

### **3. OTHER REPORTS**

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#### **3.1 Policy & Governance Committee**

At the recent Policy & Governance Committee meeting the group suggested amendments for policies dealing with tobacco use on school premises and in the workplace. These amendments were necessary due to a new city resolution that was passed which bans inhalants such as e-cigarettes. The committee also suggested amendments to the activity pass policy. A draft of a policy on fund balance was also reviewed. The committee will be looking at updates to the open enrollment policy because of new DPI regulations.

#### **3.2 Budget Development Committee**

The Budget Development Committee received a general overview of the different types of referendum that can be conducted as well as a timetable for upcoming election dates.

#### **3.3 Student Representative Report**

The Student Representatives shared ideas they have for the upcoming school year to get feedback from students on topics of concern to them.

#### **3.4 Legislative Update**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared information from the School Administrators Alliance which discussed Wisconsin's national ranking in K-12 education, which has declined, as well as the reduction in spending per student. In addition, she shared a document from the Wisconsin Budget Project Study, which reviewed shrinking resources for education. The study discussed Wisconsin's cuts to education, which have been among the largest in the country.

### **4. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

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Motion by Wendy Sue Johnson, second by Kathryn P Duax., to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of August 18, 2014
- Human Resources--Employment Report of September 8, 2014 as presented.
- Changing Appointment for Charter School/Diverse Learning Programs Committee
- 2014-15 Student Transit Contract Extension

Motion carried as follows:

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

### **5. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)**

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### **6. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE**

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### **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

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## 7.1 ECASD Family Climate Survey

Jim Schmitt, Director of Assessment & Technology, shared information about the Family Climate Survey, which was administered in March and April 2014 and covered such topics as academic preparation, academic programs, student support, school leadership, family engagement, safety and behavior, school operations, and additional programs and services. Mr. Schmitt shared the results of the survey as well as open ended responses received.

In summary:

- 80% of families graded their school as an A or B%
- 91% of families said they make sure their child does his/her homework
- Families support increased classroom support and challenge of coursework
- 89% report that there is an adult that their student can go to with a problem
- Families are asking for more frequent and consistent communications from principals and teachers
- Families feel principals & teachers should be more closely monitored and evaluated
- 92% of families feel welcome in their student's school
- 71% of respondents volunteered at least once during the school year
- 91% of respondents feel their student is safe at school
- 97% of respondents feel their school is clean
- Families responded that the District's teachers and programming are strong but there is room for improvement
- Families feel there are currently too many scheduled breaks and/or days off

Building principals will share survey results with their respective staffs, and building leadership teams will use survey results in their school improvement planning process. Results of the survey will be posted on ECASD's Your Voice page, and focus groups for students and families will be conducted in the future to share survey results.

The Board discussed alternate ways to encourage families to complete the surveys in the future. Offering the survey in other languages may not reach everyone. Perhaps providing during parent-teacher conferences would be another option.

## 7.2 Discussion & Possible First Reading of ECASD Policy 655.1 - Activity Passes

There have been discussions with the High School Athletic Council about the possibility of offering family passes for ECASD high school activities. Comparable information was gathered from other school districts in the Big Rivers Conference. It was felt that having family passes would provide a more affordable way for families to attend athletic and fine and performing art events; would increase attendance at events leading to increases in school spirit, pride and concession stand revenue; and would be a more efficient means for gate entrance and ticket selling. It was recommended that the pass cost \$150, which was in line with what other schools in the conference charge.

The Policy & Governance Committee reviewed the policy and a draft was provided for the Board's consideration. There were questions about offering reduced-priced passes for families that qualify for free/reduced meals. It was suggested that perhaps families could contact the District Office as they do with student fees if they are eligible.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle shared a first reading of Policy 655.1 - Activity Passes:

*Activity passes allow the holder entrance to all district-sponsored regular season athletic contests and fine and performing arts activities.*

*Family activity passes are available for purchase. This pass allows admittance for immediate family members who live within the household of ECASD students.*

*Employees eligible to purchase activity passes include regular employees, interns, people with emergency contracts, noon-hour supervisors, CESA employees assigned 100 percent to the Eau Claire schools, long-term substitutes, and regular substitutes working more than 50 days who receive the higher rate of pay either during the present year or the year prior.*

*Passes issued will be all-city passes and honored by North and Memorial high schools.*

*Senior citizens will be admitted free to school events by presenting their Platinum Activity Pass provided upon request.*

*In addition, all ECASD high school students will receive free admission to events with their current student ID.*

After this reading took place, there was additional discussion about adding the term 'guardians' to the description of family. It was also suggested that the phrase 'all city passes' be changed to 'all district passes' and that the word 'immediate' be taken out of the reference to family. The Board agreed to send this back to the committee to clarify that language.

### **7.3 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 522.1 - Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco-Free Workplace & Policy 831 - Tobacco Use on School Premises**

The Board received recommended revisions to Policy 522.1 - Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco-Free Workplace and Policy 831 - Tobacco Use on School Premises. The City of Eau Claire passed a resolution which prohibited using or inhaling any substance produced by a tobacco substitute such as a nicotine containing inhalant. Consequently, the Policy & Governance Committee reviewed the District's policies related to tobacco use. A sentence was added to policies 522.1 and 831 that said: "Using or inhaling any substance produced by a tobacco substitute such as a nicotine containing inhalant is also prohibited, for example e-cigarettes."

A first reading of that revision in Policies 522.1 and 831 was shared by the Board:

*"Using or inhaling any substance produced by a tobacco substitute such as a nicotine containing inhalant is also prohibited, for example e-cigarettes."*

There was consensus to move these policies forward on the Consent Resolution at the next meeting.

## **8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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8.1 Requests for Future Agenda Items - There were no requests.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

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9.1 Such other matters as may be brought before the Board.

## **10. ADJOURN**

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10.1 Adjourn the Meeting

Motion by Wendy Sue Johnson, second by Charles Vue, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried as follows:

Yes: Richard Spindler, Wendy Sue Johnson, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Kathryn P Duax, Charles Vue, Chue Xiong

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.