

Eau Claire School Board Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2018

Generated by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

Members present

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Lori Bica

Members absent

Kathryn Duax, Eric Torres, Charles Vue

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Selika Ducksworth Lawton talked about the Uniting Bridges Organization, which runs the Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance and the Juneteenth Celebration. She said they are partnering with various organizations, including the ECASD, to work on issues of racial bridging and bringing people together. They are hoping to hold some public panels on topics of importance and are working with the Chippewa Valley Museum to talk about lessons of history in today's locality. She said anyone interested in volunteering to work on racial bridging should contact Beryle Middleton or her.

Erica Zerr from the Initiative for New Directions in Education (INDE) group said they wrote a letter to the School Board to follow up on some of the questions and concerns the Board raised at the last meeting regarding the Little Red Nature School. She said they realize they will need a diverse array of voices during the planning, and they have been working with groups and individuals to build a strong and diverse planning team. INDE realizes that funding for the project is an important matter. They would like to submit the grant and do other fundraising. They hope the project will be cost neutral or even less due to the nontraditional program and cost savings. Their proposal would not include a principal, lunch preparation, or a custodian. INDE knows they must further develop their program so that educationally disadvantaged students can gain admission and succeed.

Karen Peikert and other parents who are officers of the newly-formed Special Education PTA were present to hear the discussion about placement of special needs students. The new group want to be partners with what is going on in the District with regards to special education students. She reminded the Board that the programs that will be discussed later in the meeting are for their children who have autism and are placed at the Academy or Caillier Clinic. Ms. Peikert said they are excited about the proposal for Little Red and hope that special needs students will be included in the program.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck reviewed the Board's calendar of upcoming events.

Dr. Hardebeck said that the District hosted Governor Walker last week to view youth apprenticeships in the District. They met at North, and staff and students showed off the work of the partnership with RCU at both North and Memorial. Students felt this program has been beneficial to them not only for career aspirations, but also for financial literacy. Memorial students discussed robotics and the partnership with Reality Works. There are other successful Youth Apprenticeships with Planke Enterprises and Xcel. These programs help provide post-secondary experiences for every student by the time they graduate from high school.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Hambuch-Boyle said there are seven candidates running for School Board. Three incumbents (Joe Luginbill, Eric Torres and Lori Bica) as well as Joshua Clements, John Plewa, Laurie Klinkhammer, and Tim Nordin. There will be four open seats; two full terms and two partial terms.

The Martin Luther King Remembrance event will be held on January 15th at 6 p.m. at St. James Church. The District is looking forward to sponsoring this event in the future.

The Board will hold a meeting on January 22nd. There will be a short business meeting and then a Work Session. During the February Work Session, the Board will conduct its Self-Evaluation.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Lauren Priem voiced support for the Little Red Nature School and for implementing the Martin Luther King Day of Service across the District. Lauren said the new Career and Academic Planning Guides were well done. She said there were meetings held with students at Memorial regarding class rank, GPA, and reward systems. She said she is looking forward to sharing those results with the sub-committee next week.

Ryan Cramer said discussions were held at North regarding weighted grades and class rank. They also talked about the SRO policy. Students felt they should be informed that they have a right to call their parents before any interviews with law enforcement take place.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 School Board Committee Reports

The Parent Advisory Council heard a presentation from Dani Claesges, District Homeless Coordinator, about the homeless program in the ECASD. The District served 183 families who experienced homelessness last year. Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, talked to PAC about proposed changes to Policy 445 – Law Enforcement Officers and School Resource Officers and received feedback from the group.

The Policy & Governance Committee discussed Policy 445 and reviewed some of the feedback that has been received from various groups on the policy modifications. They will continue looking at feedback from the Parent Advisory Council, ACLU, and Uniting Bridges groups on January 22nd and from principals on February 5th before bringing it to the full Board for discussion and a possible first reading in February. It has been suggested that a community panel discussion be held in March about the policy with the District, Police Department, and other organizations participating. This would give interested stakeholders an opportunity to learn more about the policy changes and allow them to give input as well.

5.2 Legislative Update

Joe Luginbill reported that during Governor Walker's recent visit to Eau Claire, he talked about his support for increased funding for Youth Apprenticeship Programs.

Mr. Luginbill said there will be a referendum question on the spring ballot to determine whether Wisconsin will continue to have a State Treasurer's Office. One of the fears is that even more power will be consolidated into the Office of Administration that would include control of the Public Trust Fund. This fund controls up to \$26,000,000 that goes directly into public education. This could be more money redirected to the voucher program or other places. If the Office of the State Treasurer is removed, Wisconsin would be the only state in the U.S. without a constitutional financial officer.

Assembly Bill 693, dubbed the "Teacher Protection Act" by its author, has been scheduled for a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Judiciary for January 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Comments can be sent via the legislature website on this bill. WASB and all major public education advocacy groups and advocates for students with disabilities oppose this bill. There is no Senate companion bill and AB 693 has no Senate co-sponsors.

Mr. Luginbill will present the District's voucher transparency resolution at the WASB convention in Milwaukee.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Lori Bica, to approve the following consent resolution items:

- Minutes of December 18, 2017
- Minutes of Closed Session - December 18, 2017
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Referendum Bid Approval Request
- Adopt New Policy 813 - Home Visiting

Motion carried

Yes: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Lori Bica

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Resolution Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Aaron Harder, to adopt resolution commemorating the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Motion carried

Yes: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Lori Bica

7.2 Little Red Nature Campus

President Hambuch-Boyle said the LEAP Committee is asking the Board to decide if it will continue program development for the Little Red Nature Campus, with advisement from LEAP and others on behalf of the ECASD.

Several questions were raised by Board Members:

- Can the proposal move forward without being tied to Little Red?
- If the group finds the site is not feasible during the exploration phase, would they propose a different location?
- Does the District need another middle school or should we work with the existing middle schools?
- Will FTE's from the existing middle schools support the program? What variables are under consideration?
- How will this attract students to the District? Would open enrollment be allowed or would enrollment be restricted to our students?
- Will middle school principals be involved in discussing this program?
- When can we engage the community or when can the Board give feedback?

Ms. Zerr noted that they won't have answers to some of the questions until they start building the academic program. And they can't do that until the Board gives support for a proposal being developed.

Some Board members felt there were some fundamental questions the Board will have to address about the LEAP policy that would be less related to this proposal and more to LEAP. A deeper discussion can be held about that at a future Work Session.

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Aaron Harder, to denote support for Initiative for New Directions in Education (INDE) to formally develop the proposal for the Little Red Nature Campus on behalf of the ECASD.

Motion carried

Yes: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Lori Bica

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 WASB Delegate Resolutions

The Board reviewed the resolutions that will be voted on at the WASB Delegate Assembly. Mr. Luginbill serves on the WASB Resolution Committee. He shared information about each resolution with the Board. Kathryn Duax will be the voting delegate at the assembly.

There was consensus to move forward to support each resolution.

9.2 Stage Curtain at Administration Building

The stage curtain at the Administration Building was purchased in 1925. It was purchased per building code specifications at the time. Larry Sommerfeld presented a recommendation that the curtain be removed. It has been inspected for asbestos and Air-Tech confirmed that it does contain asbestos. Gopher Stage Lighting also looked at the rigging and deemed it unsafe.

There is a picture on the curtain with two rivers joining together. It is uncertain whether this was an actual photo of the confluence in Eau Claire or whether it was a stock photo. Some interest was expressed in removing the curtain and placing it in the new Confluence Center if, in fact, the picture on the curtain was of the confluence.

Carrie Ronnander, Director of the Chippewa Valley Museum, was present. In her professional opinion, she would not recommend that the curtain be preserved due to the asbestos and the cost to preserve it.

Board members concurred that the curtain should not be saved. They noted that there will be an expense with disposing of it. Mr. Sommerfeld said that the District recommends disposal of the curtain to prevent asbestos contamination at a cost of approximately \$13,000. There is a line item in the five-year plan for asbestos abatement.

9.3 Alternative Educational Placements for Students in Special Education

Mandy Van Vleet, Director of Special Education, shared information on alternative educational placements for students in special education. She explained the role

that the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team plays in understanding the placement of students in special education. An IEP is developed based on disability-related needs identified by the team. The team must come together annually, but it can reconvene anytime to adjust supports for the student or discuss what they can do differently to help the student be successful.

The IEP team must determine the least restrictive environment for a student to succeed. They decide what a student should learn and where a student should learn. Not all students are able to be successful in the general education setting and the District needs to provide a continuum of services in special education for these students.

The Local Education Agency (LEA) is responsible for providing a continuum of services that allows the IEP team to determine an appropriate environment in which a student will learn. This includes a range of available special education services, related services, and supplementary aids and services; location within the school where services are provided; and the building or facility.

The IEP team often asks if the student is being successful and if they are making progress. The least restrictive option would provide universal curriculum and instruction aligned to the state standards with supports and services if needed. Next would be modified curriculum and instruction aligned to state standards, followed by replacement curriculum and instruction aligned to state standards. The most restrictive option would be for alternate academic standards: essential elements. The IEP team goes from level to level until they find an option that allows the student to be successful (i.e., the least restrictive environment).

In determining where a child should learn, the IEP team starts with the least restrictive environment (home school in a universal setting or a resource setting). When a student is not being successful there, they are moved along the continuum to a cluster site within the District. The next option would be a specialized school such as the Wisconsin School for the Deaf. The Eau Claire Academy Day School may be considered if additional behavior support is needed for a student to be successful. The Academy is also a residential treatment center; however, ECASD does not place students on the residential side. Students can be placed there if the family chooses that option or if the county places them there. The Academy Day School is private and accredited by the DPI. ECASD places students there along with 11 other districts, and the Academy typically has between 30 and 35 students placed there.

Day treatment is for a small number of students. It could be an option if a student is presenting behavioral concerns and could benefit from a therapist. These placements are within the community, and there are half and full day options.

Homebound services would be considered the most restrictive environment and is reserved for students who are unable to attend due to medical situations (illness or surgery) and can be used for the transitional period in between placements. The IEP team works together and moves students through the continuum. They

adjust a student's IEP and supports and services are provided as needed. Once the goals have been met for a student, a transition plan is developed by the IEP team to move the student back to their home school.

The Board discussed the process that parents would use if they had a complaint. Mrs. Van Vleet said that complaints of programming or supports/services would come through the IEP process. There is also a formal process when a family disagrees with the IEP process. Dr. Hardebeck added that the DPI has a formal mediation process for parents if they aren't satisfied with the action the District has taken.

The Policy & Governance Committee has been working on a complaint process with School Resource Officers. It was suggested that they also look at complaints that might be filed for outside agencies such as the Academy so there is uniformity with the process.

9.4 2018-2019 Budget Projections

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, provided an overview of the 2018-19 budget and what is known about the state budget. The known increase of \$250 per pupil provides about \$2.2 million. This is outside the revenue limit and doesn't fix the District still being below the state average.

The following are priority known expenditures:

- Technology refresh \$2,500,000
- Salary level movement \$1,200,000
- Building and Ground equipment requests \$ 325,000
- Year 2 mentor program \$ 240,000
- Musical instruments \$ 150,000

The current unknown expenditures include a CPI increase, which will be released at end of January 2018; health and dental rates; and five-year capital plan.

Budget Development is working on OPEB, health and dental rates, contract for substitutes, and athletic costs.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chris Hambuch-Boyle asked that the Board have a discussion about supporting the End Child Poverty Campaign to decide whether the District should endorse the campaign. Dr. Hardebeck said that the most likely way to endorse this campaign would be through a resolution and suggested that it be brought to the Policy & Governance Committee.

Lori Bica asked that Board members visit the Eau Claire Academy. Mr. Schmitt will arrange a tour.

The final recommendation for new members of the Demographic Trends and Facility

Planning Committee will be shared with the Board in the Friday Letter.

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Aaron Harder, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Lori Bica

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.