

Eau Claire School Board Minutes
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Generated by Patti Iverson

Members present

Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

Members absent

Aaron Harder, Charles Vue

Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM

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

No one signed up to address the Board.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Hardebeck reported that the District is celebrating Adult School Crossing Guard Week. She commended the adult crossing guards for their commitment to keep students safe as they come to and from school, and said they serve with a dedication that discounts the rigors of harsh weather, split shifts, and heavy traffic.

Dr. Hardebeck thanked those who volunteered at the Family Fest event on Saturday: Emily Cooper, Cassie Stoeger, Megann Gezella, Dave Oldenberg, and Megan Zich.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Hambuch-Boyle said she attended many wonderful presentations at the WASB Convention and she will work with those who attended the convention to put together a report on the sessions they attended.

Board members were invited to check out a copy of the *Raising of America* DVD. President Hambuch-Boyle encouraged them to watch it.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Lauren Priem said the Academic Recognition Sub-Committee met and began drafting a sample policy to share with the Policy & Governance Committee. She and Ryan Cramer also met with Mr. Schmitt and Dr. Bica to discuss student evaluations of AP teachers. Lauren said she looks forward to working with Mr. Luginbill about the possibility of dedicating the Memorial Library to a Memorial alumnus.

Ryan Cramer also talked about the meeting with Dr. Bica and Mr. Schmitt. He said they looked at the correlation between AP courses and course grades. They talked about giving students a survey going into each test and again after the tests to see how they are prepared. The North Student Council is making plans to hold a School Board Candidate Forum for the upcoming election. They are connecting with the Chamber as well as Parent Advisory Council about the possibility of doing a joint forum. The Student Council would like to inform the public about the candidates, share their brand, and give the public a good final product.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 School Board Committee Reports

The Budget Development Committee met with a benefit consultant to examine different post-employment benefits for staff members.

The Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation will have a training session next Tuesday about strengthening the organization.

The Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee welcomed new members at its last meeting and had an orientation for them. The committee had extensive conversation prompted by the Highclere Development and how that will affect elementary boundaries on the north side of town. This led into a conversation about all the factors that should be considered with elementary boundaries and how they impact middle and high school boundaries as well.

The Policy & Governance Committee discussed the facility use agreement. They followed up on concerns and questions that have been received from stakeholders. At the next meeting the committee will continue discussions about the law enforcement and school resource officer policy, and if time allows, they will look at policies on sexual harassment.

The Head Start Policy & Governance Committee has been working on their grant, which will be brought to the Board at the next meeting for approval.

All resolutions that were brought to the Delegate Assembly at the WASB Convention passed. The voucher transparency resolution that the Eau Claire School Board submitted passed without debate.

5.2 Legislative Update

Mr. Luginbill reported that the Assembly Education Committee has scheduled a hearing regarding various pieces of legislation. One of the items that will be discussed is the sparsity aid/low-revenue ceiling bill. The proposed legislation would increase the low-revenue ceiling for school districts from \$9,100 to \$9,400 per pupil and would increase the low-revenue ceiling by \$100 per pupil each year until it reaches \$9,800 per pupil in 2022-23.

Assembly Bill 830 relating to the education savings account program will also be discussed at the public hearing. This bill would introduce a new kind of voucher for Wisconsin students that would come as \$1,000 savings account to use by parents to receive extra-curricular programming outside the school day from private vendors.

The District's Voucher Transparency Resolution was brought forward at the WASB Delegate Assembly and it passed unanimously with no discussion. Tool kits are being developed with the Wisconsin Public Education Network so that school boards can see sample resolutions and web pages on this topic.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Kathryn P Duax, to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of January 8, 2018
- Minutes of Closed Session - January 8, 2018
- 2017-2018 Budget Adjustments
- Financial Report - December 2017
- Gifts in the amount of \$24,677.67 for the period of December 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$5,973,730.85 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,474,582.41 for the period of December 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Administrative Contract Extensions: Approve the administrative individual contracts of the following to commence on July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020: Joseph Eisenhuth, Heather Grant, Todd Johnson, Trevor Kohlhepp, Kimberly Lauterbach-Koller, Sarah Fisher Lynch, Kurtis Madsen, Colleen Miner, Laura Nicolet, Timothy O'Reilly, David Oldenberg, Peter Riley, David Valk, Mandy Van Vleet, Heidi White, Kaying Xiong, Dianna Zeegers, Michele Wiberg, Amy Zais, Abigail Johnson, Kay Marks, and James Schmitt. Approve the administrative individual contract of Andrew Thiel to commence on July 1, 2018 through September 6, 2018.
- Removal of Stage Curtain at Administration Building

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Schools/Programs Not Available for Open Enrollment

Mr. Leibham stated that each year DPI requires that districts identify programs or grade levels that are closed for open enrollment. Administration recommends that the Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School and Northstar's Arctic Zone be closed to open enrollment. In addition, it was recommended that the special education program's one-on-one programming in cluster sites be closed to open enrollment where there isn't space for nonresident students.

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Joe Luginbill, to approve schools/programs not available for open enrollment as presented.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

7.2 Five-Year Capital Selected Projects

Larry Sommerfeld, Director of Buildings and Grounds, said that since he presented the five-year capital plan in December, the heating system at Little Red has been failing. Alternate Plan 1 was developed that would delay \$180,000 of the window replacement project at the Administration Building to take care of the boiler and air handler at Little Red. One-third of the remaining window project would be done at the Administration Building next summer and the remaining work would be done the following year.

Mr. Sommerfeld said that after discussion by the Board about the culinary labs at its meeting in December, Alternate Plan 2 was developed. This would give the Board more time to discuss and explore the culinary labs, and the deferred projects could be completed rather than the culinary labs.

Mr. Sommerfeld presented a worksheet that showed the costs for equipment to complete the culinary labs. Equipment costs would be approximately \$148,000. The total cost for construction and equipment of labs at Memorial and North would be approximately \$848,000. Construction and equipment costs for the culinary labs, including the baking labs, would have a total cost of just over \$1.3 million.

Dr. Hardebeck said that the Board had requested that they be apprised of any decisions that might impact the budget in a significant way. She asked Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, to list other budget priorities for the Board's consideration. These priorities will have impact on budget planning for next year. Priorities included:

- Technology refresh - \$2.5 million
- Salary level movement - \$1.2 million
- Building and grounds equipment requests - \$325,000

- Year 2 mentor program - \$215,000
- Musical instruments - \$150,000
- Benefit changes – TBD
- CPI - TBD

Administration recommended that the Board hold off on the culinary projects due to the impact on the budget. Construction costs are almost 44% of the capital project budget. They felt that the Budget Development Committee could review the project to determine a plan with less financial impact. The plan and equipment list could be modified to reduce the costs.

Some Board members were concerned about putting the culinary projects off, saying that these projects had been delayed several times. They noted that enrollments in the culinary classes have increased due to student demand.

Jim Schmitt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning, said that the District worked with the National Restaurant Association and ProStart to categorize its equipment a few years ago. The ProStart curriculum can be done with residential equipment. Mr. Schmitt went on a tour of an exemplar program in Milwaukee while he attended the WASB Convention. They have seven residential ranges and one commercial range at that school. In Milwaukee they did a collaborative effort with community restaurants and the school district and raised about half the costs needed. This could be a strategy ECASD could consider. Mr. Schmitt said he could have the Advisory Team investigate that.

Superintendent Hardebeck suggested that there may be a way to do the improvements to the culinary labs in stages. Further study could be done on the projects, but this would allow other budgetary priorities to be addressed as well. Some Board members didn't want to take the entire culinary project out of the 2018-19 capital improvement plan and asked that further study be done. It was felt that the other projects in Alternate Plan 1 could be approved so Mr. Sommerfeld could get those projects bid and completed in summer 2018.

The Advisory Team could have discussions again on the culinary projects and involve those people who are in the programs as well. Mr. Schmitt will share what he learned while visiting the Milwaukee culinary school as well.

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Eric D Torres, to refer list of budget priorities presented back to the Budget Development Committee for consideration.

Motion failed

No: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Eric D Torres, to accept Alternate Plan 1, except for the Memorial and North culinary lab renovations.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Eric Torres asked for a report on the Dual Immersion Program. Dr. Hardebeck informed him that the report is on the draft agenda for a meeting in February.

9. ADJOURN

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Lori Bica, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Kathryn P Duax, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Lori Bica

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.