

Eau Claire Board of Education Minutes

Monday, October 3, 2016

Generated by Patrice Iverson

Members present

Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Member absent

Chris Hambuch-Boyle

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice President Joe Luginbill 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

John Jungbluth referred to a document included in the Board's packet about staffing for the choral program through the years. He felt that some of the numbers were incorrect. He asked the Board to consider adding more staff to the fine arts programs at the high schools.

Wendy Sue Johnson felt the agenda items related to budget and the fine arts were very much related, and said she understands the difficulty of funding all programs under current budget constraints. She also referred to a May 2015 recommendation from the Demographic Trends Committee to balance enrollments to expand core offerings between North and Memorial. She felt that by balancing enrollments it may help with the over staffing or large class sizes at Memorial. Ms. Johnson also discussed the school start times proposal and asked the Board to educate parents on the research related to making a switch. She hoped that the Board would get a very comprehensive report of all of the steps that need to be taken to meet this need for children. She felt the Board should put energy towards important academic efforts such as standard based report cards recently implemented by Chippewa Falls and project based learning implemented by Altoona.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Hardebeck recognized Mark Johnson, Memorial cross country coach, who was selected by the Wisconsin Cross Country Coaches Association as the recipient of the 2015-16 National Federation of High Schools Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year Award for Wisconsin. Award recipients were selected based upon a variety of

criteria including their coaching record, background, coaching honors, and involvement in community and school organizations. Last year Memorial's team won the state tournament. Coach Johnson, Coach Angie Rush and members of that team were present to be recognized.

Dr. Hardebeck had Patti Iverson review the referendum website so that Board members could direct people there for information.

3.2 Board Vice President's Report

Vice President Luginbill announced that referendum information sessions will take place in the next few weeks, and he invited everyone to attend. He also noted that the Board is asking community members to endorse the referendum and cards were available to do so.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

4.1 Student Representative Report

Angela Arnholt shared information about Memorial's upcoming homecoming week. Students recently donated \$475 and 234 pounds of food to the Feed My People Food Bank. Angela said that Memorial students were recognizing Deaf Awareness Week. She also reported that students have been using the after-school study lab and were pleased to have that available to them.

Ryan Cramer asked about funding and staffing for the choral programs. He felt there wasn't enough funding being designated to the program. Ryan felt that it would be difficult to grow the program to the level possible with the current staffing. He said the program means a lot to many students.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 Board Committee Reports

The Budget Development Committee discussed the ramifications that an unsuccessful referendum would have on the 2016-2017 budget. Abby Johnson will be bringing forward two budgets: one showing the deficit if it does not pass and another if the referendum does pass. The committee also discussed establishing a timeline to bring forward a cut list should the referendum not pass. Another topic discussed by the committee was the use of referendum funds should the referendum pass.

The LEAP Committee is working with CESA 10 to investigate creation of a collaboration among CESA 10 districts that are interested in developing learning environments, multi age grouping, and competency based assessments.

Policy & Governance continues to update policies. Dr. Hardebeck and Joe Luginbill

will go over the WASB policy checklist and make sure the committee is on track with its work flow.

5.2 Legislative Update

Commissioners Duax and Luginbill, Superintendent Hardebeck and Sue Brown had a meeting with Rep. Warren Petryk to talk about school funding, the District's referendum, school breakfast funding, and other relevant topics. It is hoped that these sessions will continue into the upcoming legislative year and that the Board can work with legislators, not just as their constituents, but as their partners and peers.

Vice President Luginbill said that WASB has developed a mobile app to update Board members on current events related to K-12 education at the State Capitol and elsewhere.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Jennifer Fager, seconded by Kathryn Duax, to approve the following consent resolution agenda items:

- Minutes of Board Meeting - September 26, 2016
- Minutes of Closed Session - September 26, 2016
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Revisions to Policy 447 - Student Discipline and Positive Behavior Interventions
- Language Modifications for Compensation Plan Documents
- Letters Regarding Referendum to Send to Print Media

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 2016-2017 Budget Presentation

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business Services, shared how the Strategic Plan is linked to the budget, what's been included in the budget, and how she is creating referendum and non-referendum budgets. She also shared new initiatives included in the 2016-17 budget.

Ms. Johnson explained revenue limits and equalized aids. She showed how the 2016-17 budget was built and the impact on state aid and property tax. She said

that preliminary estimates show that state aid is going up and property taxes are going down. Those numbers will be finalized on October 14th. The District's enrollment is estimated to increase by 68 students. The total projected revenues by fund shows \$145,629,912 in total revenues. Ms. Johnson shared the historical expenditures by fund and per student. In addition, she showed the salary and benefit expenditures as a percentage of the budget for the last five years and the historical student to teacher ratio, student to administrator ratio and the instructional expenditures as a percentage of the total budget.

Ms. Johnson shared a breakdown of fund balance information for the last six years. The auditors recommend that fund balance should not go below 25% of a District's operating budget. With an unsuccessful referendum and the need to dip into fund balance, the District would go below that recommended guideline of 25%.

Ms. Johnson discussed how the \$5,860,000 included in the referendum could be used in 2016-17. One option would be to balance the deficit. Because many of the items in the referendum would take time to plan and bid out, the District likely wouldn't get projects done in 2016-17. It could be beneficial to use the additional tax levy to balance the budget for 2016-17, which would also allow the fund balance to grow so that when the District bids out referendum projects, it could get a more favorable bond rating.

Ms. Johnson shared the timeline for adoption of the budget. The Board will receive budget books on October 7th and will be asked to give preliminary approval of the budget on October 17th. A special meeting and budget hearing will be held on October 24th to adopt two budgets: one that is referendum dependent and the other that is non-referendum dependent. After the November 8th referendum election, the Board will need to adopt the final budget on November 10th.

The Board talked about developing a cut list should the referendum not pass. That would be something the Board would need to be prepared to discuss right after the election should it not be successful.

9.2 Staffing of Performance and Fine Arts Programs

Dave Oldenberg, Director of Academic Services, said that significant reductions were made to the fine arts program after the failed referendum in 2007, including the number of FTE's for the program. He looked at course offerings at the middle and high school levels as well as the number of students enrolled in the programs. At the high schools, course offerings are driven more by student choice.

A Board member asked to get enrollment figures in the fine arts programs for five years before the failed 2007 referendum. Mr. Oldenberg was also asked to provide a breakdown of numbers at the middle school by grade and by program.

Kay Marks, Executive Director of Human Resources, shared the total student enrollment at the secondary schools' level by the type of class, number of students enrolled, percentage of students enrolled at each high school, and the average class

size. There are just over 16 FTE's allocated to the performing arts program for 3,046 students, which is about 57.5% of the students enrolled.

Joe Luginbill suggested undertaking some kind of strengths and gaps assessment in the fine arts area and perhaps an audit looking at the delivery system and other programs aligned to the social/emotional piece. The District could explore the creation of a partnership involving the music community that could possibly come up with a plan that looks beyond the walls of the classroom. Dr. Hardebeck said that with the confluence project, the District has been approached to work with the arts community in different ways. She felt a gap assessment could be a good thing for the District.

The Board talked about the increments that are offered to educators for the extra responsibilities they take on such as directing plays, Show Choir, etc. It was noted that the Increment Committee was charged with updating those increments, which have been frozen since 2010. Ms. Marks explained that part of the reason for creating these increments was because there isn't an overabundance of people qualified or certified in these areas who would come in for .3 or .5 position. The plan was to have the Increment Committee reconvene so changes could be made to increments by the end of the first semester of this year. However, Abby Johnson noted that with the additional work for the compensation transition appeals, that may not be possible this year.

Board members wanted a clear definition of where the District is seeing problems with the program. It was felt that it would be helpful to get a balanced look at where this program fits in terms of Board goals and how the arts support Board goals.

Administration will work on this and bring possible action items to the next Board meeting.

9.3 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 832 - Weapons on School Premises

The Board shared a first reading of Policy 832 – Weapons on School Premises:

No one shall use or possess a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, any destructive device, or other dangerous weapon (as defined under section 948.61 of the state statutes) in school buildings and other buildings owned, occupied or controlled by the school district, on school premises, in school provided transportation, or at any school- sponsored or school-supervised activity, except as otherwise specifically authorized in this policy. Any object which could be used to cause bodily injury or property damage and which has no school-related purpose for being in school or on school grounds, will be considered a weapon for purposes of this policy.

The following are exceptions to the policy prohibition:

- *This prohibition does not apply where state law prohibits a school district from restricting any individual's right to possess a firearm or other weapon in a location covered by this policy (e.g., a law enforcement officer who is acting in his/her official capacity and who*

possesses a firearm or other weapon that was issued and approved by the officer's employing agency; certain individuals 21 years of age or older who are licensed to carry a concealed weapon who have stored a licensed handgun that is unloaded and encased in their motor vehicle parked on school grounds).

- Any qualified current law enforcement officer who is off duty or any qualified former law enforcement officer may possess a properly licensed firearm provided that the individual meets all applicable conditions specified in the state and federal gun-free school zone laws. Although permitted, the Board generally discourages the intentional presence of such firearms, and strongly encourages such individuals to notify the District Administrator, building principal, or other activity supervisor of their possession of any such firearm in order to avoid misunderstandings should the presence of the weapon be identified by another person.*
- The building principal may allow a weapon on school premises for purposes of demonstration, educational presentations, or other pre-approved educational programming. This approval must be in writing and granted prior to the weapon being brought to the school. The weapon shall be maintained in the possession of the principal or the principal's designee except during the actual demonstration, presentation, or program.*
- Firearms or other weapons used for hunting may be allowed on school property for hunter safety classes, but only during non-school hours and after approval, in writing, from the District Administrator. The person(s) conducting the hunter safety class will assume responsibility for the safe handling and care of the firearms/weapons, and see to it that all firearms/weapons are removed from the premises promptly after the class.*
- Hunting may be allowed in the school forest when school or rental groups are not using the property and with written permission from the District Administrator. Hunting for a wild animal will not be permitted in the school forest when there is not an open season for that animal on land adjacent to the school forest. All persons authorized to hunt in the school forest shall abide by state and federal laws while hunting on school forest property including, without limitation, laws applicable to firearms and hunting, and shall abide by all District rules regarding the use of the school forest.*

A student who possesses a firearm or destructive device in violation of this policy shall be suspended from school, referred for an expulsion hearing, and expelled from school for not less than one year. The School Board may modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that the request for such an exception is also consistent with the discretionary exceptions authorized under state law. Students possessing other weapons in violation of this or any other policy or rule shall be subject to appropriate school disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion from school. A parent or guardian with access to student records will be notified of student weapons violations in all cases. A law enforcement or juvenile justice referral shall also be made for all students violating this policy.

Employees violating this policy shall be disciplined in accordance with employee policies and handbooks and referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution. Any other person violating this policy shall be referred to law enforcement officials for prosecution.

This policy will be brought forward for approval at the next meeting.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. ADJOURN

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Aaron Harder, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Aaron Harder, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.