

Eau Claire School Board Minutes Monday, November 19, 2018

Generated by Patti Iverson

Members present

Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President 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

Laura Hurd is a Roosevelt parent. She urged the Board to consider a third option to keep Roosevelt as a two-section building, use deferred maintenance, and implement boundary changes. The Roosevelt PTA met with the City of Eau Claire Planner to get information on new housing developments in the District. There is growth taking place within the current Roosevelt boundaries and there is more anticipated. Highview has opened and there is open land available by Jeffers Park. She felt there was a compelling argument that growth on the south side is equally matched on the west side. She asked that further analysis be completed on the proposal and noted that closing a school has long-term effects.

Kristyn Kersten recently purchased a home in the Roosevelt attendance area with the intention that her children would go there. They were deeply saddened to hear of the proposal to close Roosevelt. She said if the school isn't rebuilt as a three-section school, the Board should leave it as it is and make it safe. She felt boundary changes needed to be made. She asked the Board to consider this as another option. She said Roosevelt serves as a strong point of pride and is worth keeping open. She said the District's debt will drop in 2021 and the debt will be paid off in 2031. This plays out well for the District to consider future projects. She felt that boundary changes should be considered District-wide.

Pa Thao asked the Board to pass the resolution supporting the Hmong Education Bill. She said that Wisconsin has the largest Hmong population, with Eau Claire County having the fourth largest Hmong population in the state. According to the Action Center Report, 31.6% of Hmong people do not have a high school diploma. Pa wants to make sure all kids are ready for post-secondary education. The ECASD is paving the way for Hmong students to feel included with the creation of a Hmong history course at the high school level. Pa said if you want to have healthy, kind, smart adults who value differences, you must change the narratives about people who are different than their own background.

Cha Kong Theo-Degro is a seventh grader at Northstar and is Hmong and Puerto Rican. He said his culture is beautiful, and his grandmother makes sure they have

rice cakes to celebrate birthdays. He looks forward to taking the Hmong history class when he gets in high school. He will be happy to focus on school, sports, and music and not worry about not being accepted. The Board's passage of the Resolution Supporting the Hmong Education Bill is part of that hope.

Karen Peikert has a 19-year-old son in transition programming at Memorial and she is a founding member of Special Education PTA. She said there was a discussion about the budget deficit at a previous Board meeting, and comments were made about the increased cost of special education. However, no other comments were made about other areas with increased costs. She said that special education students receive legally-mandated services that they are entitled to under IDEA. She felt that singling the special education program out in the budget conversation was discouraging and revealing. During that same meeting there was a conversation about the need for more school-based 4K programming. She felt the District was willing to pay millions for that program, which isn't required by law. She encouraged the Board to focus on the structural deficit and those programs that are legally required.

Ben Holmen talked about the upcoming listening sessions. He asked the Board to consider getting feedback for Option 1 and not Option 2, which he felt was unrealistic to consider. At its recent meeting, the Demographic Trends Committee discussed a more modest and practical solution to keep Roosevelt as a two-section elementary school and to adjust the boundary lines. He asked that the Board consider that as an alternative to Option 2. He said the Board is responsible for presenting feasible, and not inconceivable, proposals.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck reviewed the upcoming calendar of events.

Dr. Hardebeck said there were several students from Memorial and North who were asked to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They will be in New York City along with director Eric Dasher. One of those students, John Stecher, was chosen from hundreds of students who applied to perform during the Today Show.

Dr. Hardebeck wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a restful holiday.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Luginbill extended congratulations to the newly-elected representatives and to Memorial alumni, Sarah Godlewski who will be the new State Treasure. He congratulated Amy Trainor who will serve on Tony Evers' transition team.

Transgender Day will be observed across the country on November 20th.

Mr. Luginbill said that in response to a concern raised about previous budget

discussions, people could review the October 22, 2018 minutes or view the discussion in BoardDocs.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Abby Green said a group of students have been working with a physical education teacher and principal Bushman to get a self-defense class provided for free for graduating seniors.

Gwen Heywood said Memorial students enjoyed the Veterans Day presentation. She added that they are having a Toys for Tots Drive.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 School Board Committee Reports

The Policy & Governance Committee discussed the draft policy presented by the LEAP Committee. They raised multiple questions and will be sending a draft back to the LEAP Committee for reconsideration. That item was asked to be removed from the agenda later in the meeting.

The LEAP Committee met and finished its policy work and sent a draft to Policy & Governance. They now anticipate getting it back and continuing work on the policy.

The Revenue Committee met and discussed its charge, the process and timeline to be used, and talked about the District's budgetary needs and deficit. Members shared ideas to streamline services and to provide additional programming to bring money into the District and modernize how the District operates.

5.2 Legislative Update

There was no legislative update.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Aaron Harder, to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of November 5, 2018
- Minutes of Closed Session - November 13, 2018
- Minutes of Special Meeting of November 13, 2018
- Financial Report - October 2018
- Gifts in the amount of \$19,517.56 for the period of October 1, 2018 through October 31, 2018.
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$6,522,066.08 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,631,800.16 for the period of October 1, 2018 through October 31, 2018.
- Human Resources - Employment Report

- Revisions to Policy 831 - Tobacco and Vaping-Free Zones on School Property and Events
- Revisions to Policy 811.1 - Family Engagement
- Revisions to Policy 447.1 - Staff Use of Physical Force/Restraint and Seclusion
- Revisions to Policy 821.2 - News Releases
- Revisions to Policy 674 - Online Solicitations/Crowdfunding/Crowdsourcing
- First Cash Advance on Line of Credit
- Student Transit Contract

Motion carried.

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

Dr. Hardebeck shared a biography for Sue Brown who will be retiring from the ECASD. She wished her well in retirement and thanked her for her leadership with the food service program.

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Revisions to Policy 185 - Board and District Committees

After the first reading of Policy 185, some amendments were made:

- The term limits for citizen member appointments was changed from two consecutive three-year terms to a three-year term.
- The title of ex-officio will be kept but it will indicate that these are non-voting members.

It was clarified that the transition of committee members will be addressed in the School Board Handbook.

Motion by Aaron Harder, second by Charles Vue, to approve revisions to Policy 185 - Board and District Committees as presented.

Motion carried.

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

7.2 Resolution Supporting the Hmong Education Bill

President Luginbill read the Resolution Supporting the Hmong Education Bill.

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Eric D Torres, to adopt the Resolution Supporting the Hmong Education Bill as presented.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

7.3 Format for Listening Sessions to Obtain Feedback on Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee Recommendations

Kim Koller said that after the Board's discussion at the last meeting, it was determined that listening sessions would provide time for feedback and potential solutions. The Demographic Trends Committee met again and discussed how elementary boundaries would be presented in each option and looked at scenarios for maintaining geographic boundaries or feeder programs. Projections and architectural services would be developed by Larry Sommerfeld.

The Family Advisory Council also was asked for feedback, and that was shared with the Demographic Trends Committee.

A proposal was drafted to hold four listening sessions throughout the District focused on 4K enrollment and elementary facility needs. They suggested holding a special session at Roosevelt or a larger fourth session at Memorial. To accommodate family needs, it was proposed to hold the sessions in February and March. Following the sessions, the committee would like to come back to the Board in April, which would give the Board time to vote by the end of the school year. The format for the sessions would be a 20-minute overview, in-depth topic for 10 minutes, and questions/ideas from the community for 60 minutes. The sessions will be recorded.

The topics for the overview included sharing a road map of recommendations, District wide perspective, exploration of options, and the impact of options.

The Board and Demographic Trends Committee asked for an in-depth focus at each session around proposed new boundaries, expansion of elementary schools, middle school boundaries, and supporting schools and families through transition.

Board members stressed the importance of connecting with families to make sure all are engaged in the process. It was also suggested that accommodations be made to provide childcare at each session and to add sessions in Hmong and Spanish. The concept of having concentrated topics at each session was also discussed.

Kim Koller said that the committee is also looking at the potential for a third relief option. This would maintain Roosevelt as a two-section school and redraw boundaries in many neighborhoods. Several Board members agreed it would be good to provide another option. They asked that Option 3 be added in the topics for overview at the listening sessions. A session would be added specifically for Roosevelt families and one session would be done in Hmong and another in Spanish at different schools. Childcare will be provided on site at each session and an ASL interpreter will be present.

Motion by Aaron Harder, second by Eric D Torres, to approve the format for listening sessions for the community-wide discussion of PreK-Elementary enrollments and facilities as modified.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Five-Year Capital Selected Projects

Mr. Larry Sommerfeld, Director of Buildings and Grounds, presented the District's five-year capital plans and reviewed what items are currently scheduled to be done in the 2019-2020 budget year. The 2019-2020 five-year budget has been reduced to \$640,000 this year from previous years \$1.6 million to work on the referendum projects. The proposed projects include culinary lab construction for North and Memorial high schools. There are some funds set aside for health and safety as well as architect and engineering services for projects.

Mr. Sommerfeld reviewed the projects on the proposed 2020 deferred maintenance list as well anticipated projects for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years.

The Budget Development Committee has put an emphasis on finishing all referendum work. Mr. Sommerfeld said all projects should be completed during the summer of 2019.

Board members asked about making upgrades to the gender-neutral restroom at the Administration Building. Work is already progressing to replace the tile in the next few months. Money for the project is being phased in from the operating budget.

Questions were also asked about the Family Services Conference Room as well as the Board Room. The Board Room has been reviewed in the past, but updates were not made as a budget saving measure. A follow-up on that can be obtained.

An item will be placed on the consent agenda at the next meeting to approve this plan.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chris Hambuch-Boyle said that if any Board member wanted to do a book study or have conversation around the Split Screen strategy, they should let her know.

11. ADJOURN

Chris Hambuch-Boyle moved, second by Charles Vue to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.