

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, DECEMBER 20, 2010  
PRESIDENT CRAIG PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Craig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed and was in compliance with the open meeting law.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel (arrived at 7:05 pm), and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representative Joe Luginbill was not present; Rebecca Giles was in attendance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

ECAE President Ron Martin had some concerns with several items on the agenda. He said there was a recently-created position on the Employment Report that had an original funding source from grant monies and is now being funded through the district's budget. He said it was frustrating to see some positions eliminated while others were created and funded by the district budget. He cited the elementary art cuts where staff was told there could be no additional money and that possible solutions had to be cost neutral, and the inequities in specialist time for kindergarten teachers. Mr. Martin was also concerned with the proposed revisions to Policy 321. He encouraged the Board to match policy language with the master contract between teachers and the Board so the policy was in compliance with what was negotiated. As a teacher at South, Mr. Martin had issues with the summer 2011 capital improvement projects. He suggested that new carpeting at South be added to the list of projects as it is deteriorating in many locations and has been a safety hazard. They have had to duct tape holes in some classrooms.

Emily Long has a son who attends Putnam Heights Elementary and she was very interested in the ENGAGE charter school. Her son is in the gifted/talented program and loves art but feels his needs are not being met. She felt her son would thrive in a situation like ENGAGE, and it would be an incredible opportunity for him.

Trish Cummins is a member of the ENGAGE Steering Committee. She has a child attending Wildlands Charter School in Fall Creek and she will have three of her children there next year. She said that over the last several years she has gotten many calls asking about Wildlands or home schooling. She has now heard from dozens of people asking about ENGAGE. She noted that some families are in the parochial school system, some are home schooled and others are currently in the district or are attending Wildlands through open enrollment and would like an option in their district. She felt the district could capture money from some of these private school/home school students by offering this charter school.

Kristen Dexter is a member of the Governance Board for ENGAGE. She said the country and world faces immense challenges, and countries that can solve these challenges are countries with a strong economic future. She said that for those challenges, workers and students need to be flexible and adaptable and possess good interpersonal skills, working collaboratively, and using technology to do this. She felt that including arts is equally important and ENGAGE will be a vehicle for doing that. She said it is good to have options and choices for kids. She asked that the Board give the charter school its full consideration.

## **BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann asked Eau Claire Public School Foundation Board Trustee Jef Munger to come forward. Mr. Munger introduced the new Executive Director for the Foundation, Carole Halberg. Mrs. Halberg recently worked at St. Mary's Foundation in Madison and prior to her service there, worked as the President of UW-Eau Claire's Foundation where she led a fundraising campaign that raised more than \$53 million. Mrs. Halberg said it is a privilege to help the district have a vibrant, robust foundation and she will do what is necessary to benefit the students, faculty and community. The Board welcomed Mrs. Halberg.

Dr. Heilmann reminded the public to provide the Board feedback regarding its meetings by completing the form available outside the Board Room.

Dr. Heilmann referenced a national study conducted by AASA entitled, "Surviving a 1000 Cuts: America's Public Schools and the Recession." It concluded that the continued and increasing budget cuts threaten the capacity of schools to deliver essential services and threaten the gains schools have made in student achievement and narrowing the achievement gap. The study said that states and districts will face extremely slow recovery in state revenue and cessation of federal ARRA and EduJobs dollars, and suggested that federal legislative priorities should include full funding of IDEA and ESEA reauthorization.

The US Census Bureau has released its 2009 income and poverty estimates for all counties and school districts and 20 Wisconsin counties, including Eau Claire, had a statistically significant increase in poverty from 2007-2009.

Dr. Heilmann said that the district continues to prepare Frequently Asked Questions brochures for the April 5, 2011, referendum. It is expected that there will be four to five brochures published before the election. The second one will be available after the winter break. Citizens are encouraged to contact the ECASD with questions that are not covered in these brochures so that timely answers can be provided. Several other districts are considering referendums in 2011 including River Falls, Mondovi, Melrose-Mindoro, Bruce, Onalaska, Sevastopol, and Southern Door.

A recent article in *Education Week* said that elementary students are encouraged to raise college expectations. It said that by creating a college-going culture in elementary school, the hope is that students will aspire to a lifelong path toward higher education and deeper learning that ends with a degree. Schools are partnering with colleges to give students an early college experience.

Dr. Heilmann reviewed the procedures for monitoring winter weather conditions. He said that when a decision to close schools is made, the public can hear about it through the local media as well as on the ECASD website, Facebook & Twitter.

School will not be in session from December 23 through January 2. Dr. Heilmann wished everyone a safe, prosperous and family-centered winter holiday season.

#### Student Representative Report

Becca Giles said that she and Joe Luginbill met to discuss future initiatives as student representatives. They plan to hold "State of the School" meetings at both schools in late February/early March to discuss why the referendum is important for the district and to answer any questions students might have. They will also address other significant topics like the technology policy.

#### Other Reports

##### Policy and Governance Committee

The committee has a variety of policies they will be addressing in the near future.

### **CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 from the consent agenda.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to approve the consent resolution agenda consisting of the following items:

- ◆ The minutes of special meeting of December 1, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of December 6, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of December 6, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ New ECASD *Policy 825 – Distribution of Non-School-Related Materials*

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

### **INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS**

#### Resolutions #4, #5, and #6 – Financial Report, Budget Adjustments and Gifts

The Board did not receive documentation for these resolutions via email, so they will be acted on at the January 10, 2011, meeting.

### Resolution # 7 – Employment Report

The Board discussed the Blugold Beginning position. It was explained that this position was approved under the auspices of the AmeriCorps grant but there were some technicalities. It was determined that this position would be funded with district dollars this year and then will be funded by federal dollars next year. This position will help to increase student exposure to post-secondary readiness opportunities and fits with the district's PSR initiatives. It was suggested that when positions like this are added to the employment report, they be flagged so the Board is aware of the addition.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to approve employment report of December 20, 2010, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### Resolution #8 – ECASD Board Support for WASB Resolutions

The Board discussed the packet of information it received from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards regarding resolutions that will be acted on at the state convention in the Delegate Assembly. Board members were asked if there were any resolutions they would not support. After review, the majority of the Board did not support Resolutions #11 and #12.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, for ECASD to support WASB resolutions as presented with the exception of Resolutions #11 and #12. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Aye: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, and Wogahn. Nay: Johnson and Shiel.

### Resolution #10 - Summer 2011 Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Kramer was asked to explain the carpet situation at South. He said that carpet didn't surface to the top for South's building requests. He said they had more emphasis on building control issues. He added that South is considered a project school and similar repairs that are part of the DeLong referendum proposal will be needed at South in the future. Dr. Heilmann pointed out that there are many maintenance issues that need attention, but when you are limited to budgeting \$1.6 million in needs every year to address over \$30 million in on-going facility needs, it is difficult to catch up.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to approve summer 2011 capital improvement projects as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### Resolution #11

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to pay all bills in the amount of \$4,537,849.87 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,328,024.75 for the period of November 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Abstained: Faanes.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN  
DECEMBER 20, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representative Rebecca Giles was present; Joe Luginbill was not.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Discussion of Proposed ENGAGE Charter School for Creative Arts & Culture Contract

Mike Huggins, chair of the ENGAGE Governance Board, shared a copy of the proposed charter contract as well as additional handouts for the Board's perusal. He said that ENGAGE gives students another choice, and that's important as a community because it shows that the district is innovative and adaptive in education.

The group has been negotiating on several sites downtown. They feel this area is important because of the collaboration with the arts community and the connection to the city transit system. They are estimating approximately 1900 square feet as the space needed. Some Board members were concerned about the costs for a location and wondered if any district facilities could be utilized. Mr. Huggins said they are working on partnerships that would substantially reduce the cost for facilities.

As far as professional development for staff, Project Foundry will be used to train staff on project based learning between January and March. The group has visited all elementary schools and had a chance to talk to interested teachers about joining the charter. During the summer additional training will be provided through the grant.

The Board asked where the development of the curriculum is at. Mr. Huggins said that part of the curriculum and specific projects will be developed when staff and students are identified. All examples of curriculum are project based. The DPI consultants are encouraging ENGAGE not to lock into a curriculum at this point. Staff would be asked to take part in a four to six week intensive training in the summer to finalize the curriculum.

In explaining the budget, Mr. Huggins said it will depend on where the students come from and the number of students that enroll. With estimates of \$10,000 per pupil, if 44 students enroll that would be an overall budget of

\$440,000. Facility costs would be added to that. The implementation grant will cover some costs.

There were some concerns expressed by the Board about budget matters. It was understood that in accordance with Board policy, it couldn't be funded at a rate higher than what is provided for other students. Beyond that if the 44 students are already attending our district, savings would have to be found in other ways.

Trish Cummins said that charter schools get additional grant money. The district is responsible for salary and rent but everything else comes from the grant. Things such as kilns, looms, etc. are paid by the grant. She said the models the group is looking at are teacher co-op models. The hope would be to bring in more money from home schooled students or students from other districts.

The information provided to the Board indicated an administrator would be needed. Mr. Huggins said that the group will focus on a lead teacher model. It was asked that this be clarified in the contract so there is not additional administrative time needed.

The length of the contract was also discussed. Com. Shiel felt it should be a two year contract rather than five years. He said the district will be facing a difficult financial situation when the ARRA funding runs out, and he hoped the Board could financially support the charter. He felt a shorter contract may be a wise move in the short term. Com. Wogahn thought five years would be appropriate because the charter would need time to establish itself.

It was suggested that language be included that ties student evaluation to post-secondary readiness standards.

Mr. Huggins explained that Section 8 addresses staffing and there will be position descriptions that should satisfy the bargaining language. A memo of understanding would have to be addressed with the teachers' union.

The projected enrollment for the charter was discussed. The goal for the first year would be to enroll 44 students; 11 would be added the next year and 11 more the year after that with a cap of 66 students. The Board asked that some idea of a minimum enrollment also be listed.

It was explained that when un-enrolling a student from the charter, they would still be eligible to come back to this district or go to other districts. A student recommended for expulsion would follow the same procedure as other ECASD students—going through the superintendent for consideration of expulsion and ultimately the decision is made by the Board of Education.

Under the termination of contract section, it was asked that a similar statement for 'terminating because of insufficient' enrollment be added to the ECASD-BOE language. It was also clarified that at the end of a fiscal period, if the contract is terminated, ENGAGE could look for another district to support it.

It was asked that a commitment be made to collaborate with other staff to share best practice. It was also noted that a recent Board policy would prohibit an employee from being on the Governance Board rather than stating that a majority of the Governance Board wouldn't be employees of the ECASD.

There was concern expressed by Com. Craig about the statement that the ECASD 'may' provide transportation and it was asked that the word 'may' be taken out of Section 17.

On page 7 it says that ENGAGE shall approve budget amounts for staff based on negotiations. There was some question on whether two Board appointees would negotiate the contract, which doesn't follow current practice. Mr. Huggins said they would clarify that process.

Food service could be a challenge as some locations don't have full kitchen facilities. Fundamentally it can not cost more to provide food service than what other ECASD students pay. Language could be added saying costs would be 'contingent on food transportation costs.' If costs are prohibitive, other alternatives could be sought. Students could be enlisted in the nutrition program and take ownership in meal planning. Mr. Huggins said it would have to be clarified in the contract if there are threshold limits for costs and what the obligation of the district would be.

Becca Giles felt it was a great opportunity for students interested in other types of education.

Mr. Huggins said there will be informational meetings for parents where they can find out what ENGAGE is about, receive enrollment information and make sure they understand what the charter could provide for their children. Counselors will also be utilized and Hmong Mutual Assistance Association and the Latino community will be asked to assist in getting information out.

The group will work on the proposed changes with a goal of bringing this back to the January 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting for approval. In order to meet the deadline for open enrollment, ENGAGE wanted to move forward on this.

B. Update on SAGE Information

Kris Dimock provided a summary of the 2010-11 SAGE program that included enrollments at the five SAGE schools, the number of staff required, SAGE reimbursement amounts, actual costs for SAGE teachers, and the number of classrooms utilized for SAGE. She also included free/reduced students by grade level as well as longitudinal WKCE data.

It was noted that the increase in students eligible for free/reduced meals was significant. However, there is a big gap between the numbers at the elementary and high school levels. Students in high school are not always willing to take advantage of free/reduced meals. They can also access meals off-campus at a similar price so many students do that. There is a similar trend state and nation-wide.

The WKCE math scores jumped significantly between 2007 and 2008. Ms. Dimock said that a new math program was adopted and typically you will see an implementation dip in scores for three years and then it begins to pay off as teachers learn the program and instructional strategies are implemented.

C. Further Discussion of Policy Change/Interpretation Regarding Transportation Under ECASD *Policy 331 – Charter School Guidelines*

President Craig said she asked to put this item on the agenda for discussion. She wanted to advocate for transportation being provided to charter school students. She said *Policy 331* states that transportation will be provided in a manner it is offered to other students in the ECASD unless it is exempt in the charter contract. In her opinion, she felt that would be interpreted as saying that transportation will be provided to these students, and she felt the majority of the Board wanted transportation provided when it adopted that policy. She said the 'exempt' wording was added for the benefit of unique charters that do not need transportation. She felt that economically disadvantaged kids would not be able to access charter schools if they don't have transportation and pointed out that Montessori has the lowest number of students who are eligible for free/reduced meals. Com. Faanes asked that the free/reduced numbers for students who were enrolled at the Technology Charter School be obtained.

Board discussion ensued regarding the transportation of charter students. Four of the Board members felt it should be provided and cited discrimination concerns and socio-economic inequities by creating barriers for those who can't afford it. The three who wanted to leave the policy as written mentioned concerns with spending money on a small group of students as opposed to something with district-wide impact such as elementary art. In the case of Montessori, it is at capacity so it would be a



subsidy for those already going there. They questioned what additional cuts would have to be made to provide transportation.

Trish Cummins thought the policy meant that the district would provide transportation to charter school students unless the charter contract opted out of it. She said she would like to see transportation provided for charter students.

Mr. Leibham said that the issue of equity goes beyond bussing. Things like varsity level competition and training leading up to high school, ability to buy outfits for show choir or dance, band programs, etc. all cost money. They provide students great opportunities; however, they are not fundamental to the educational program. Public school pre-K/12 education is a fundamental experience the state requires.

Becca Giles said that changing policy to include transportation for charter school students would set precedence. However, she said it was important to allow opportunities for students regardless of their socio-economic status as long as the district has the ability to provide to all students.

It was suggested that the Board may have to get creative to find transportation options, such as having students bussed to centralized locations and then having teachers pick them up in passenger vans.

President Craig asked for feedback on how to address the situation giving the leaning of the Board. Com. Faanes said it would require a policy change.

D. Discussion of Recommended Revisions to ECASD *Policy 321 – School Calendar*

A draft copy of an update to *Policy 321 – School Calendar* was provided to the Board. It was asked that parents be included in discussions about the calendar. It was pointed out that the policy does not comport with language in the teachers' contract. The policy committee will review the contract and make necessary changes to the policy.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Faanes asked to see free/reduced data for students who attended the Technology Charter School.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

Com. Janke moved, seconded by Com. Johnson, to adjourn committee meeting.  
Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm.