

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, FEBRUARY 15, 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: Bollinger, Craig, Duax, Faanes, and Shiel. Absent: Johnson and Wogahn. Student Representatives Marcus Liddell and Brittany Landorf were also present.

**NOTICE OF CLOSED SESSION**

President Craig announced that the Board would go into closed session following the committee meeting under 19.85 (1) (c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for Superintendent Evaluation Feedback; 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; and 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Chris Hambuch-Boyle, 1822 Crestview Drive, teacher and Vice President of Eau Claire Association of Educators, said that DeLong teacher Catherine Anderson recently completed the very difficult renewal process with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Sherman teacher Nick Sirek also became a National Board Certified Teacher along with his mother who teaches in Rice Lake.

Ms. Hambuch-Boyle invited Board members to the Legislative Banquet, which will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Florian Gardens. Julie Ewert, the senior advisor to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, will attend the banquet. There will be a brunch briefing at noon and the banquet will be held in the evening. Legislators will be introduced and after dinner a panel discussion will take place.

Jeremy Harrison, 6487 Markgraff Road, Fall Creek, invited Board Members to attend the Artist of the Month Open House at Montessori Charter School on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm. Artist Jeffrey Zachmann will be featured. Mr. Harrison also advocated the Engage Charter School proposal.

Sandra Benedict signed up to speak but was not present when called upon.

Eric Dasher, 2058 E. Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire, is the Memorial band director. He spoke on behalf of the Engage Charter School. Mr. Dasher serves on the planning committee and asked the Board to be open to the idea of this charter school proposal. He said he is very excited about the prospect of this particular school because it can reach a section of students who may not have their needs met in the regular school setting.

Kim Wilson, 4896 Hobbs Road, Eau Claire, taught kindergarten for 32 years in the district and is now retired. She said the Engage Charter School concept is wonderful and the committee asks for the Board's approval to start the planning process. She said time is needed to show how well the school could work and how students could benefit from it.

## **BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann shared information from *Education Week: Quality Counts*, which shared opinions of four eminent educators on the issue of national standards. They expressed several concerns about these standards.

An economist and school finance expert at UW-Madison said the Wisconsin's property tax credits are a highly inefficient means of delivering property tax relief. They are expensive with \$900 million per year coming out of a \$13 billion general fund budget. Mr. Reschovsky said that the Wisconsin legislature may want to phase out the school levy credit and the first dollar credit and use the resulting budgetary savings to help finance the reform of education funding and to expand the existing homestead credit.

Pam Gardow, media specialist at Memorial High School, has been recognized by Wisconsin Educational and Media Technology Association for achievement in planning and implementing an exemplary media program. She will be honored at the upcoming WEMTA state conference.

Five ECASD students are National Merit Finalists: Aimee Lace, Marcus Liddell, Isaac Shemm, Thomas Morgan and Elizabeth Westendorf. Dr. Heilmann said this is an extremely high honor for these students, and to have five finalists from one school district is outstanding!

### Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig asked the Board if it would like to be part of the Chamber's Business Expo again this year. There was agreement to participate.

## Student Representative Report

Brittany Landorf said that Memorial has four students and two teachers interested in serving on a group to review the district's cell phone policy. North has also submitted names for this purpose. Dr. Heilmann said he brought this issue up at the last SAC meeting and wants to review the policy to see whether it is 21<sup>st</sup> century friendly. President Craig reminded them that they should be in contact with the Policy & Governance Committee before this information is brought back to the Board.

## Other Reports

### **State of the Schools Report – Lakeshore Elementary School**

Principal Bob Hehli shared the school goals for Lakeshore Elementary School. The first goal was to implement a school-wide positive behavior supports system so that 70% of students attain "self manager" status by June 2009, 80% by June 2010 and 90% by June 2011. This goal ties into the Transformational Readiness Standards. Mr. Hehli showed a sample of a self-manager contract that included student expectations and reviewed progress made on the goal this year. Data is also gathered on a Code of Conduct form, which assists staff in identifying areas of concern and types of inappropriate behaviors. There has been ongoing staff learning and reflecting on culturally relevant instructional strategies to improve the social/emotion skills of students.

Lakeshore's second goal was to raise reading achievement of all K – 5 students by 5% as measured by the end of the year common assessments. Staff implemented administration of school wide common assessments using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory), and Phase I of the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) training. There was also an increase in the quality of collaboration amongst grade level teams. Staff identified a strong need to be more consistent in the implementation of a universal curriculum. There will be ongoing staff learning and reflecting of culturally relevant instructional strategies to improve academic skills.

Lakeshore has a Student of the Month recognition program where teachers identify one student monthly who demonstrates the current school and community core values being focused on. There were 198 students honored last year, and over 405 family members came to school to celebrate those student successes.

### **Gifted & Talented Program**

Pam Cernocky, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, said that the readiness standards focus attention on learning rather than teaching. They recognize that instruction and programs are modified to meet the needs of each student, rather than the student being expected to fit in the structure of the school. The

Transformational Readiness Standards provide the framework for Gifted Education identification and programming.

Ms. Cernocky said the GT department focuses on the question, “What will we do when they already know it?” They collaborate as part of the Teaching & Learning Department participating in curriculum writing and common assessment committees because they also need to know, “What do we want students to learn?” and “How will we know when they have learned it?” Once that can be determined, then GT staff needs to decide: when the students knew it, how they knew it, what pacing is appropriate and what are the recommendations for rigor?

To prepare all students for post-secondary readiness the GT staff must identify and develop social/emotional assets especially persistence, motivation and struggle; increase academic rigor and proficiency; and identify and develop evidence-based interventions for students who have met district standards. This includes common assessments, enrichment classes, and curriculum support materials.

Ms. Cernocky shared the student achievement target the GT department is aiming for moving forward to appropriately place students into courses or enrichments when the students are ready. She said there has been an over-representation of certain student populations in special education across the country, and this same population is the gifted education’s under-represented group. In order to address this, GT staff has systematically reviewed the identification process, updated screeners and parent information materials, and are developing talent development options.

She explained that GT interventions include acceleration of learning, are research/evidence-based, provide additional instruction to the core program, focus instruction over a limited period of time, and are implemented with fidelity by a highly trained teacher. The focused enrichment is determined by assessment data showing that the student has surpassed the expected level.

Ms. Cernocky shared an academic concept map for the GT department as well as a summary of identification and programming which gave examples of appropriate enrichment or placement options within the district. She also described many great opportunities for collaboration in the community.

About 15% to 20% of the student population is served by the GT program, which is about average across the state. The amount of time provided to each student depends on the time the GT teacher is in the building each week.

### **Policy and Governance Committee**

The committee is working on the bidding and advertising policies and will soon be bringing them to the Board for review.

### **Budget Development Committee**

Com. Shiel said the Budget Development Committee met. There is an anticipated budget deficit in the \$2.7 to \$3 million range for 2010-11. There has been discussion about using working capital until the Transformational Readiness Standards are in place. That may leave the district with a very large deficit in 2011-12. The committee felt the first focus for 2010-11 would be to try to contain non-personnel costs and then FTE related costs. The TSR will provide a helpful lens for making budget decisions. Using that framework the Board should have something to address the use of working capital in the near future.

President Craig asked if the committee will review the original list of 80 budget reductions proposed last year. Dr. Heilmann said there will be components of that list that will be brought forth but some of the items have been taken off the list or given a low priority because they would compromise the TRS. President Craig wanted to be able to show the public which items have been acted on or modified/deleted and the rationale for those decisions.

### **CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 8, 11, & 12 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of closed session of January 18, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of February 1, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of February 1, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of February 4, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The budget adjustments as presented.
- ◆ The financial report as presented.
- ◆ The gifts in the amount of \$144,034.85 for the period January 1, 2010, through January 31, 2010, as presented.
- ◆ The contract with CESA 6 as presented.
- ◆ The contract with CESA 10 as presented.

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

### **INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution #8--Employment Report**

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to approve the matters of employment of February 15, 2010, as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

### Resolution #11-- Revisions to ECASD Policy 830 – Use of School Facilities

Com. Duax proposed an amendment to replace the last sentence in the third paragraph with: *Information about school facility reservations and utilization priorities shall be on the district's website.*

There were still some concerns expressed about fees. Mr. Van De Water said he could have a draft proposal for fees at the next meeting that fits the Board's policy. These will be part of the rules & regulations. He said the policy is in levels; it says there will be uniform rates assessed to cover costs. Then it says those fees will be differentiated based on operating and non-operating hours. It is further broken down to differentiate whether the facilities are used by school age children or adults. Each level interacts with the others. He will work to put together a matrix that identifies different unique situations for the Board's perusal.

Another suggestion was to add 'and fees' to this sentence: "Specific priority designations and fees shall be approved annually by the Board and shall be found in the regulations associated with Policy 830."

Com. Faanes said he would be more comfortable if the policy read...."uniform rates *MAY* be assessed." President Craig said it was predicated on uniform rates for everyone to use. She felt the term 'may' could lead to lack of predictability and consistency. She said it was the intent of the Policy & Governance Committee that some groups may not be charged more than the reservation fee and stating that "uniform rates 'shall' be assessed" could mean there is nothing charged. Com. Duax asked if the word 'assessed' could be changed to 'established?'

Com. Bollinger called the question.

The original motion to adopt *Policy 830—Use of School Facilities* failed by the following roll call vote: Nay: Bollinger, Duax, Faanes. Ayes: Craig and Shiel.

Proposed changes will go back to the Policy & Governance Committee and will be brought back to the Board.

### Resolution #12--2010-2011 Component of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Com. Bollinger moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to approve the 2010-11 component of the five-year capital improvement plan.

There was some concern about approving the capital budget before discussions take place about the \$2 million-\$3 million deficit.

Com. Bollinger said there are certain kinds of baseline projects to allocate in the budget that must be done regardless of the budgetary situation. The \$1.6 million

has already been scaled back dramatically from normal maintenance. This list reflects the most severe facility issues. He said this has been a philosophical choice the Board has made to keep a predictable funding level for facility maintenance.

There was discussion about the repairs to the track versus tennis courts at Memorial. Com. Faanes thought that when the decision was made to replace the tennis courts at North, the next project on the list would be the Memorial track so there would be a venue in town for both track and tennis meets. He said that soon there won't be a track available in town because both tracks are in poor shape. Mr. Kramer said staff was able to make some repairs at both tracks and they are usable. The tennis courts at Memorial can no longer be patched by maintenance staff.

There was also some concern about approving the replacement of pool covers given budget discussions about the costs of maintaining pools. It was pointed out that the Board discussed the possible reduction in the number of pools last year and it was determined at that time that it would not be appropriate to shut down a pool because the curriculum could not be met.

It was noted that the Montessori, Longfellow and roofing projects would use ARRA funds.

Com. Bollinger moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to amend the motion to maintain the base level of funding the capital plan and only approve the Longfellow, Montessori and roofing projects at this time. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Bollinger, Craig, Faanes, and Shiel. Nay: Duax.

#### Resolution #13—Bills Payable

Com. Bollinger moved, seconded by com. Shiel, to approve the payment of all bills in the amount of \$4,158,785.87 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,132,799.62 for the period of January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010 as presented. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Bollinger, Craig, Duax, and Shiel. Abstained: Faanes.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN  
FEBRUARY 15, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Members present: Bollinger, Craig, Duax, Faanes, and Shiel. Absent: Johnson and Wogahn. Student Representatives Brittany Landorf and Marcus Liddell were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Status of Engage Charter School

JoEllen Burke spoke on behalf of the Engage Charter School group, which has over 100 community members, parents, teachers and artists dedicated to fostering creative arts in our schools and community. The group began exploring the idea of a creative arts and culture charter school in the Eau Claire area in August 2009.

She shared a proposed timeline for the group that covered establishing a tentative curriculum, working with administration on budget and facilities, and writing a DPI grant which is due on April 15. The group asked the Board to be the authorizing agent. It was noted that at any given point in the grant-writing or planning grant process, the authorizing agent may chose to terminate its involvement. If the grant is approved, Ms. Burke shared the proposed timeline for proceeding with curriculum planning, establishing and training a governance board, hiring staff, reviewing facility options, and developing a professional development and business plan. It would be the hope of the Engage group to open the Engage Charter School to sixth and seventh graders in September 2011.

Ms. Burke explained that the planning grant has to have an authorizing agent and the contract with the district would be created during the year when the planning grant is being implemented. The DPI grant would cover up to \$175,000 for three years.

Ms. Burke shared their expected outcomes and objectives for reaching those outcomes. She also reviewed the DPI grant criteria and the financial viability for the project. If there were 100 students enrolled, the grant would be for \$175,000 per year for three years. The target is to double the enrollment in years two and three. The maximum enrollment would depend on facilities available. Typically if



the planning grant is approved and you are doing a good job, there would be future funding available for three years.

The Governance Board would work with ECASD administration to identify items that could be supported with alternative revenue sources to address the issue of sustainability. A fund development committee would be charged with meeting financial needs. Activities of this group may include grant applications, event fundraising, corporate or business sponsorship of events, and gifts or donations.

It was estimated that the charter school would need approximately 5,000 square feet of space. Potential facilities could include an existing secondary school that has available space for two years. Space in the downtown area could provide access to the library, after school programs, Eau Claire Regional Arts Center, and the Foster Gallery. The ECASD Administration Building could be a possibility. The DPI grants would not cover rental costs but grants could be written to cover those costs.

The Board asked about the potential administrative time needed for this project between now and April 15. Ms. Hildebrandt estimated approximately 12-15 hours.

Board members asked for specific information on four of the DPI criteria including the extent of community support, the strategy for assessing achievement of school goals, the five-year professional development plan for teachers and administrators, and the five-year business plan detailing the projected expenses and revenues and how the school will be sustained during the contract.

The Board asked that the Engage group provide a specific model to look at and the criteria that will be used for student eligibility as well as a rough sketch of a business plan. Administration was asked to provide a statement of the likely impact on their responsibilities to assist with this project.

**B. Review of Feedback from Various Groups & BOE Discussion Prior to Formal Adoption of Revisions to *ECASD Policy 345.3 – Homework***

Ann Franke, Director of Secondary Education, said the Policy & Governance Committee met with staff from the Teaching & Learning Department and the ECAE collaboration group to review the draft homework policy. The groups were generally supportive of the changes and gave some suggestions on language revisions. One of their main concerns was use of the term “extended learning opportunities” rather than “homework.” The P & G Committee felt it

was important to keep the extended learning opportunities piece. PAC also reviewed the draft and suggested some wording changes to keep in mind. They were most interested in the rules and asked for consistency at all levels.

The group shared another draft of the policy taking comments received into consideration. The main difference was the last bullet which read, "Ensure extended learning opportunities/homework shall not be dependent on parent/guardian participation."

The Board felt the policy could come forward for the first reading at the next meeting.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

Com. Bollinger moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Bollinger moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to go into closed session under 19.85 (1) (c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for Superintendent Evaluation Feedback; 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; and 19.85 (1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.