

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, JUNE 7, 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, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representatives Joe Luginbill and Rebecca Giles 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)(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 to discuss employee negotiations and 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.

PUBLIC FORUM

Joseph Liegel is a student at Memorial and a member of the tennis team. He said the team has had over 20 state tournament appearances. He said the cracks on the courts at Memorial are very large and the courts are unsafe and unplayable. Tennis players have to travel to North, Northstar, South and UW-EC to practice and compete, which becomes tedious.

Bruce King said that North dance parents and athletes recently found out that the dance program at both high schools will no longer be recognized as a sport and will be considered a club. The perception is that other programs are given a higher priority. The dance team will have to practice on concrete in the commons because they will no longer be able to use gym space to practice. He was concerned that an administrator showed lack of respect for the dance team by throwing away 30 years of trophies that had been earned. He said that dance is an athletic activity and has been recognized as a sport for over 20 years in the district with students being able to earn a letter for dance.

Michael Roden is one of the captains of Memorial's tennis team. He urged the Board to reconsider its vote and fund the tennis court project. He said it has been challenging to find courts to practice and hold meets on. Michael said he was looking forward to

competing in the state team meet on Friday and said he was proud to represent the district and community.

Matt Reagan said that having home tennis courts at Memorial would create a great atmosphere for practicing because all of the various teams would be at the sports complex. He added that the courts would be used by the community, for tournaments, and for lessons. He said he would use the courts every day with his friends if they were built.

Annie Reagan and Stephanie Smith represented the Memorial girls' tennis team. They said the courts are an eye sore with tattered wind breakers and cracked courts. They added that it is difficult to drive all over town to other venues to practice and play. The older students have to drive the younger kids. This wastes gas and is very inconvenient. They felt a major part of the high school experience is playing on home courts. They also said that during physical education classes, students have to play 'imaginary tennis' because they can't play on the courts.

Yuri Ripeckyj appealed to the Board's sense of fairness for not only the 75 tennis team players, but all the students who use the tennis courts for physical education or just for fun. Students can learn a lifetime sports in high school. He felt the funds should be spent in an equitable manner. Tennis courts are a multi-year investment but it is a good deal.

Christian Phelps plays tennis at Memorial. He said it has been fun, competitive and physically and mentally challenging. He has made some very good friends on the team and felt that having home courts at Memorial could bring the group together as a whole. He felt the program would disintegrate over time if there aren't home courts.

Tom Siedow said the tennis courts are important to the community. He said the bids came in over budget and asked the Board to consider committing to the original amount of money for the project and giving parents and the community an opportunity to have a fund raiser to make up the difference.

Shelley Waughtal has a daughter on the North dance team. She was disappointed to hear last week that it would become a club rather than a sport. She said the girls work as hard as any sports team and practice in the off season as well. She said that the dance team fosters self esteem and team building. She felt that becoming a club would cost parents more than the current sports fee because the team will not have the support of the Booster Club. She added that not having athletic code enforcement could also become an issue. She urged the Board to keep dance as a sport.

Corrine Liegel encouraged the Board to approve the tennis court bids. She said Memorial is probably the only Division I team without home courts. Memorial hasn't been able to host its own tournaments. She was also concerned about the liability of piling kids into vehicles to practice tennis all over town. She said this doesn't just affect

Memorial but the whole city because there is only one set of courts south of Clairemont Avenue. Many people use the courts in the city.

Amy Pieper was an alumni of the North dance team as well as a coach. She said that even though she is no longer coaching after this year, she is still a dance advocate. She said dance has been considered a sport in the district since the 1980's. Ms. Pieper said there has been much disrespect that started with the new AP throwing away 30 years of dance trophies. She said over the years the girls have had to defend their sport but giant strides have been made. She said these kids are athletes that train, compete and deserve respect.

Megan Brown said she wanted to be part of the North dance team since she was little and now that she has made the team, it is being turned into a club. She felt that was degrading and asked the Board to keep dance as a sport.

Joanna Gohlke is open enrolled from Chippewa Falls so that she could be on North's dance team. She said the team must buy costumes and attend camps. If dance is turned into a club, they won't be able to afford the buses. The team works hard and practices all summer long.

Paula Brown said she was on the dance team in the 90's. She said back then they had to live with it not being as important as other sports, but big strides have been made. She said these students are athletes and felt that if it were considered a club, it would be discrimination.

Kari Winkler is the Physical Education Department Chair at Memorial. She said that freshmen physical education has an 8 to 10 day unit on tennis. There were over 735 students who played tennis as part of the physical education curriculum during the year. Memorial would like to offer a similar program as North. In addition to tennis classes, the courts are used for fitness and weight training. They also offer an outdoor teaching space as well. She said the physical benefits of tennis include increased cardiovascular and improved hand/eye coordination. Tennis is easily accessible and cost effective.

Lisa Frank was disappointed to find out that they were considering changing North dance to a club. She said there was no communication and the team was treated disrespectfully. She said the team works hard and has been a source of pride to the district. She urged the Board not to change dance to a club.

James Martin is the chair of ECAE's negotiation team. He said he appreciates what the Board has done to get a settlement. He shared highlights of the contract which included an improved school calendar with two additional days of instructional time, an improved supervision model, and a voluntary salary freeze for the current school year with added costs to teachers for health insurance. Mr. Martin said he is proud of the district's stellar record and its programs, teachers and students.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann said the Board Forward will take place on June 10th at 6 pm. The agenda includes reviewing and discussing the 2009-10 BOE annual goals and determining strategies and timelines for development of 2010-11 goals.

Wisconsin was 1 of 36 states that applied for round two of the Race to the Top funding. Dr. Heilmann said this application addresses the needs of the ECASD students, and he felt there would be a benefit to sign on. The district could receive up to \$1.7 million and 10 to 15 states are expected to be awarded grants with winners announced in September.

Dr. Heilmann said there has been some talk about using a different term to describe Transformational Readiness Standards. He said some of the alternatives include 21st Century, Life Skills, Core Common State Standards, and Education Reform. He did not favor these options and said that TRS is becoming recognized across the country.

One of ECASD's most valued partners is the Eau Claire School Library Friends. The group helps with fund raising and conducts a library sale to reutilize library materials and text books. Over 25 volunteers worked 478 hours and raised more than \$5,000.

ECASD is also part of the YMCA's Achieve Program. The district and a variety of community agencies and businesses have partnered to discuss policy, environmental and system changes within our community, and increase opportunities for healthier lifestyles.

Memorial's graduation will be held on June 8th at 6 pm at Zorn Arena and North's will be June 8th at 7:30 pm at the Doghouse. Dr. Heilmann congratulated all the graduating seniors.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig said that Patti Iverson organized a Board planning binder to assist with the Board Forward. Board members should bring it to the June 10th meeting. Com. Janke will receive one as well.

Student Representative Report

Com. Johnson was involved in the interviews with the student representatives and said that the committee is recommending two outstanding candidates: Becca Giles from Memorial and Joe Luginbill from North. She said they will be great student advocates.

Joe Luginbill said they are setting up Facebook pages for students in the community to contact the student representatives and post information. Becca Giles added that they

will also be holding semi-annual State of the School meetings and will be contacting the middle schools to get even more involvement.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

There was no report.

Budget Development Committee

There was no report.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 4, 5, 7 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 Board meeting of May 17, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of May 17, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of May 18, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ 2010-2011 ECASD Student & Teacher Calendar

Consent resolution agenda items approved by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel and Wogahn. Abstained: Janke.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #4 – Employment Report

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com Shiel, to approve the matters of employment of June 7, 2010, as presented.

Com. Faanes said that there were a number of changes with regards to SAGE on the employment report. He said he would like to hear a report on the status of SAGE and suggested that these positions be removed from the employment report until a discussion takes place.

Dr. Weissenburger said there were a number of emergency people who were hired using SAGE funds last year and those people will no longer be working for the district. Administration took existing staff members who were funded by district funds and shifted them to SAGE funding. Dr. Heilmann respectfully requested the Board not to approve the amendment as it may slow down the hiring process. Board members asked for more detailed information to be provided on SAGE. Dr. Heilmann said administration could prepare a presentation about the status of SAGE in the district. Because of recent

legislation changing the pupil/teacher ratio to 18 to 1 rather than 15 to 1, it will take fewer dollars to fund Sage than in previous years.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to amend the approval of the employment report by eliminating those positions that are funded by SAGE. Motion failed by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Faanes and Johnson. Nay: Craig, Duax, Shiel and Wogahn. Abstained: Janke.

Original motion to approve the employment report of June 7, 2010, carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Johnson, Shiel and Wogahn. Abstained: Faanes and Janke.

Resolution #5—2009-2011 Contract Between the Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) and the Eau Claire Association of Educators (ECAE)

President Craig said the negotiation process was respectful and reflected community values. She was pleased to bring a contract settlement forward.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to approve the 2009-11 contract between the ECASD and ECAE as presented. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Janke, Johnson, Shiel and Wogahn. Abstained: Faanes.

Resolution #7 - Five Year Capital Improvement Project Bid

Com. Janke moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to approve the five year capital improvement project bids for Davey, DeLong, Montessori and Memorial as presented.

Mr. Kramer said there was an error on the five year capital budget overview when he transposed numbers from the bid tab. He showed a corrected document; the total should be \$1,640,075. Mr. Kramer explained why the Memorial tennis courts project came in over estimates. There have been a number of issues with sink holes in the past on the present site. Consequently, it was recommended that the courts be moved to a different location and the storm drain also be moved.

Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, to amend the motion to only include approval of the capital improvement project bids at Davey, DeLong and Montessori. Carried by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel and Wogahn. Nay: Janke.

Com. Faanes said he has been in favor of having at least one playable venue for both track and tennis in town and therefore he preferred to complete the Memorial track project first. Because it was too late in the year to make the changes for the track project, he asked that the Board commit to funding both tracks in upcoming years.

The Board discussed the bids for the Montessori HVAC upgrade. The bids were higher than the estimate because when the plastered ceilings were removed in March, they

found that the duct work was substandard and there were numerous issues with the air handling unit. They looked at a 25 to 30 year solution for the whole building, which included air conditioning in the old section. Mr. Leibham said that given the natural growth of Montessori and the space needs the district will be facing, he sees that building being used well into the future. President Craig added that the building is a good financial investment for the district.

Amended motion to approve five-year capital improvement project bids for Sam Davey Elementary School fire alarm, DeLong Middle School pool doors, and Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School HVAC upgrade carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to approve the Memorial High School tennis court bids as presented passed by the following roll call vote: Ayes: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson and Wogahn. Nay: Shiel.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
JUNE 7, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Members present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn.
Absent: None. Student Representatives Joe Luginbill and Rebecca Giles were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Update from the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Advisory Council

Tim Leibham provided an update from the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Advisory Council. The council decided that it would keep its current membership for one more year to maintain consistency.

Included in the Board's information were a number of working documents. Using information from the Applied Population Laboratory and district enrollment projections, an elementary enrollment capacity was developed for both five and ten year projections. With SAGE there would be four schools that would be able to absorb students from other schools in terms of capacity (Davey, Longfellow, Manz, and Northwoods). With the addition of Little Red, those five schools could accommodate 264 students for the next five years. When considering buildings that would be over capacity, an additional 23 classrooms would be needed and if Little Red was re-opened, 17 would be needed. When looking at the numbers without SAGE, there would be 6 classrooms needed by 2014-15 or a zero sum balance with Little Red.

When reviewing ten year projections, the district would be short 43 classrooms, and if Little Red was re-opened the district would be short 37 classrooms. Without SAGE, the district would need 26 classrooms or 20 with Little Red.

One of the concepts explored was year-round schooling. The elementary enrollments would be divided into fourths and would move through the facilities on a rotating basis. It could increase elementary capacity by 25% but scheduling would be very complex. There would need to be waivers for the calendar because students wouldn't have 180 days of school and for testing students during the specified two-week period. Mr. Leibham shared the reasons why the council did not favor this option including child development, programming, transportation, physical plant, and the impact on families and the community.

The council came up with several short-term solutions that could provide the district four to seven years of enrollment relief. Each of these solutions would require some degree of enrollment/boundary shifts. Mr. Leibham stressed that short-term solutions were defined as such only when a long-term solution was identified. The options include leasing space, using portable classrooms, boundary changes, moving grade 5 to middle schools, and re-opening Little Red. Mr. Leibham reviewed each option.

Mr. Leibham said as enrollment projections indicate, each elementary school would be at capacity in five years. Middle schools will also have increased enrollments thereby limiting options of moving fifth graders to the middle schools. Family concerns about transferring schools, especially with short-term solutions, are legitimate and of significance.

Ron Martin met with ECAE reps and looked at pros/cons for short-term solutions. A copy of that document was provided to the Board. Their concerns were similar to what the council came up with as a whole.

The council will continue meeting and will involve parents and the community in short-term solution discussions. President Craig asked if the Board should give direction to the council before they go out in public to discuss it. Mr. Leibham said the council said they would share an overview of what has been done and give the public a chance to respond. The Board will ultimately say what direction the council should go. It is hoped that over the summer and fall people can get involved in the discussions and some decisions will need to be made by January. President Craig thought it would be helpful to project tentative timelines and some Board responsibilities regarding any decisions on short-term solutions.

The long-term issues were also discussed. As noted, elementary enrollments will exceed capacity in about five years. The middle school enrollments are stable for one more year and will then begin to slowly increase. The high school enrollments will continue to decline for three or four years before they begin to increase and will be back to 2009-10 levels in ten years. There will be a need for an early learning site and a centralized site would reduce transportation costs. Little Red is owned by the district and is a viable option; likewise, the Administration Building has two vacant floors. A minimum of three classrooms or comparable space may be needed for the ENGAGE charter school.

Mr. Leibham said the other option is to concentrate efforts on making it work with the current space available. This would not be educationally ideal and would cause organization/instructional problems but the parameters would be known.

Mr. Leibham said that in March the Board committed to keeping five SAGE schools for the foreseeable future. It was also suggested to have an early learning center. Given the Board's response at that time, those two parameters were used. The Board asked to have at least a yearly report on SAGE.

The Board asked to get a copy of the district map with the boundaries laid out on it.

A community member suggested that the district move away from bussing students, so that more students walk. This would help with the obesity issue and maybe kids wouldn't be as overexcited in class.

B. Report on Elementary Field Trips with Relevant Data Regarding All Trips Taken and Alternative Options

Kris Dimock said the Board requested feedback from teachers about field trip options. She reviewed the data obtained and shared which trips the teachers thought had the most impact on student learning. She also summarized comments received from teachers about field trips at each grade level.

Ms. Dimock also gave a list of field trips that schools have provided their own funding for. There are many trips taken that are either funded by PTA/PTO, private donations, grants or costs charged to students.

The majority of Board members favored Option A, which would give a field trip at each grade level. Because of the overwhelming feedback from teachers, the fourth grade trip to the Ice Age Trail would replace the high school music opportunity with an additional cost of \$4,000. Some Board members also asked about getting feedback from art, music and physical education teachers about other additional opportunities. It was also suggested that sponsors be sought for field trips, whether that be a community sponsor or even naming rights for field trips.

Com. Johnson agreed to head up a project group to use the list of donors from the Eau Claire United PTA/PTO and solicit them as possible sponsors. It was suggested that the Chamber also be contacted.

President Craig suggested using capital reserves on a one-time basis for next year.

C. Report on Further Collaboration with Elementary Art Educators

Kim Hill Phelps develops elementary art schedules across the district. She said that next year they will schedule art to teach the SAGE sections. A

committee meeting was held with art teachers, union representatives, and Teaching and Learning staff. Two specific actions came out of that meeting: 1) Ms. Hill Phelps will work with elementary principals to request that signing day be available to art teachers as another preparation day to get their art rooms set up. 2) Ron Martin will work with the union to develop a process for addressing elementary teaching specialist concerns. There is currently not a union process for addressing concerns at the building level for elementary art teachers and other specialists. The next issue the committee will address is assessment concerns due to the increased number of students each art teacher works with each week.

President Craig asked to have another update on the elementary art program in October 2010.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

President Craig asked to have a committee report on the dance team becoming a club activity. The Board asked to have a discussion about the viability of sharing high school facilities. That will be included in the five-year plan discussion.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to go into closed session under 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 to discuss employee negotiations and 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. Carried by the following roll call vote: Aye: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Johnson, Shiel and Wogahn. Nay: Janke.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm.