

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, MAY 3, 2010**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Dan Van De Water called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He 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 Representative Marcus Liddell was also present.

Mr. Dan Van De Water called for nominations for President of the Board.

Com. Janke nominated Brent Wogahn for President of the Board. Com. Duax nominated Carol Craig for President. There being no other nominations Mr. Van De Water called for nominations to be closed and a ballot vote taken. Mr. Van De Water tallied the votes and Carol Craig was declared elected President of the Board of Education.

Nominations were called for Vice President of the Board. Com. Johnson nominated Ken Faanes for Vice President of the Board. Com. Duax nominated Brent Wogahn for Vice President of the Board. There being no other nominations President Craig called for nominations to be closed and a ballot vote taken. Mr. Van De Water tallied the votes and Ken Faanes was declared elected Vice President of the Board of Education.

Nominations were called for Clerk of the Board. Com. Wogahn nominated Adam Shiel for Clerk of the Board. There being no other nominations Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, that nominations be closed, rules suspended, and a unanimous ballot cast for Adam Shiel. Carried by unanimous roll call vote. Adam Shiel was declared elected Clerk of the Board of Education.

Nominations were called for Clerk Designee of the Board. Com. Duax nominated Dan Van De Water for Clerk Designee of the Board. There being no other nominations Com. Duax moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, that nominations be closed, rules suspended, and a unanimous ballot cast for Dan Van De Water. Carried by unanimous roll call vote. Dan Van De Water was declared elected Clerk Designee of the Board of Education.

Nominations were called for Treasurer of the Board. Com. Faanes nominated Brent Wogahn for Treasurer of the Board. There being no other nominations Com. Shiel moved, seconded by Com. Duax, that nominations be closed, rules suspended, and a unanimous ballot cast for Brent Wogahn. Carried by unanimous roll call vote. Brent Wogahn was declared elected Treasurer of the Board of Education.

Nominations were called for Secretary of the Board. Com. Wogahn nominated Patti Iverson for Secretary of the Board. There being no other nominations Com. Wogahn

moved, seconded by Com. Shiel, that nominations be closed, rules suspended, and a unanimous ballot cast for Patti Iverson. Carried by unanimous roll call vote. Patti Iverson was declared elected Secretary of the Board of Education.

The Board members drew numbers to determine seating arrangements for future meetings.

Organizational meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, MAY 3, 2010
PRESIDENT CRAIG PRESIDING**

President Craig called the regular meeting to order.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: None. Student Representative Marcus Liddell was 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 to prepare the arbitral final offer to ECAE and bargaining strategies for negotiations with Local 560 – Buildings & Grounds and Local 560-B – Food & Nutrition and under 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

No one signed up to address the Board.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann reviewed the proposed 2010-11 school calendar. He noted that there are seven days for winter break, five days for spring break (which also aligns with UWEC) and 180 student contact days including four half-day professional development days. The calendar will be placed on the district's website and the public will be given an opportunity to comment on it before the Board approves it on May 17, 2010.

North French teacher and forensics coach, Bonni Knight, recently received the Wisconsin Forensic Coaches' Association "Bill Hintz Memorial Coach of the Year Award." Ms. Knight has coached forensics for 30 years. Nick Sirek, Memorial High School forensics coach and Sherman School teacher, was awarded the "Ethel Heise Young Coach Award" by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. Seven Eau Claire Area School District students were among the top scorers in Wisconsin in the 2009-10 Midwest Academic Talent Search, an out-of-level testing

program for gifted students in grades 3-9 including Pitchaya & Veeraya Tanawattanachoen, Samuel Larson, Hannah Zehms, John P. Nelson III, Peter Rentzepis, and Adam Stapelmann. These students were nominated for participation through one or more criteria indicating potential for high academic achievement. Approximately 6,000 students participate each year and these ECASD students scored among the top 5% in the state. The students will be recognized at the WCATY Awards Ceremony at UW-Madison on May 8, 2010.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig welcomed newly-elected Board Member Robert Janke.

President Craig said that the WASB Spring Academy will be held in Wisconsin Dells on May 8th. Board members were encouraged to attend if possible. She also said that the list of current Board Standing Committee Members was included in the Board's materials. She will talk to the commissioners about where they would live to serve and make assignments.

Coms. Wogahn and Johnson agreed to serve on a committee to choose the student representatives for the 2010-11 school year.

Com. Janke said he felt the Board should not write its own Conflict of Interest policy. He felt that would be a conflict of interest in and of itself. He felt the Board would be better served by having an attorney draft the policy and then having it approved by the Board.

Student Representative Report

Marcus Liddell said he has received a lot of positive feedback from students about the possibility of holding a referendum.

Other Reports

State of the Schools Report – Robbins Elementary School

Robbins Principal Andrew Thiel said there are 460 students at Robbins; 93% are Caucasians; 12% receive special education services; and 5% are eligible for free/reduced meals. The average class size in grades K-2 is 22 and in grades 3-5 is 25.

A past parent survey indicated that Robbins is a good school. Test scores are good and there is a strong, talented staff with 22 teachers having their masters and 1 being nationally certified. K-Kids in grades 3-5 are showing great leadership skills on service learning projects and all students are improving on effort and neatness.

Mr. Thiel shared a poem entitled, "Pretty Good" written by Charles Osgood. Robbins staff has had discussions about whether pretty good is good enough. When looking at math and reading scores, students were above district and state averages in most

areas. However, two years ago staff started moving away from looking at overall percentages and focused more on reviewing scores for each student. By doing so they learned more about each student, themselves and their teaching skills. Staff are very proud of scores but want to move those that are proficient to the advanced level and also not forget about kids in the minimal range. They have really focused on underachieving students and have had discussions about the differences between someone's ability and their achievements. Robbins staff believe that all kids can succeed (excel) and there are no exceptions.

Mr. Thiel reviewed the Robbins Behavioral Expectations matrix. He said that all children are held accountable for their behavior. The matrix helps staff determine when most instances occur so changes can be made. They also use a Student in Need Form which allows staff to look at kids' academics, behaviors, etc. This is kept on file and referred to from time to time.

Robbins has a Staff/Student Mentoring Program where staff meet with certain students one-on-one on a weekly basis for 10 to 20 minutes. This has proven to be very successful.

Policy and Governance Committee

Coms. Johnson and Duax met with the Teaching & Learning staff as well as the administrative staff regarding the advertising policy. The Parent Advisory Council will also discuss it at the May meeting. The Board will receive a draft to provide input in the near future.

President Craig said the Policy & Governance Committee is looking at Conflict of Interest policies throughout the state. Steve Hintzman from WASB has also provided information. Board members will have a chance to review the draft policy. Com. Janke felt it was inappropriate for the Board to develop its own policy on this matter and felt an attorney should draft it.

Budget Development Committee

There were no updates from this committee.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolution 7 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of April 19, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of April 19, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of closed session of April 22, 2010, as mailed.

- ◆ The matters of employment of May 3, 2010, as presented.
- ◆ New Contracts for Health & Dental Insurance
- ◆ Revisions to *ECASD Policy 672 – Purchasing*
- ◆ Five-Year Capital Improvement Project: Memorial HS Storm Water Plumbing

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #7 – ARRA & District-Funded Construction Bids

Com. Duax was concerned that the bid totals were far apart. Mr. Charlie Kramer said that they checked with the contractor to make sure their bid was right and they were comfortable with their bid.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Faanes, to approve ARRA and district-funded construction bids as presented. Carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
MAY 3, 2010**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Members present: Craig, Duax, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn.
Absent: None. Student Representative Marcus Liddell was also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Update on Service Learning Grant

Mary Kay Kopf has been coordinating the Learn and Serve (L&S) grant for the district. This grant is federally funded from the Corporation for National and Community Service and is administered by DPI. The current focus of the L&S grant is to support ongoing professional development and establish an infrastructure to nurture the practice of high quality service-learning as an instructional methodology. Over \$72,000 has been awarded through the L&S grant in the last four years. The district is eligible to receive grants for two more years and it is projected that an additional \$40,000 will be awarded.

Ms. Kopf said that when academic service learning is applied within the intent of the standards in a structured classroom setting and then connected to skills, the community and kids benefit. Students gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their community and society. There are a growing number of teachers who are using service learning as a teaching pedagogy. They are becoming familiar with the five components of good service learning: investigation, planning, action, reflection, and demonstration/celebration where students show others in the public setting what they've accomplished.

Ms. Kopf shared examples of service learning projects that students are working on, which included many great partnerships with agencies like Bolton Refuge House, Hope Gospel Mission, Humane Association and St. Francis Food Pantry. Locust Lane teacher Rob Modjeski and student Kennedy Kleist talked about their Pennies for Peace project where students read about hardships that kids in Afghanistan and Pakistan were facing and did something about it by raising over \$600. Fifth graders planned age-appropriate presentations for each grade level. A large part of the project was learning about culture and what these students in other countries experience on a day-to-day basis. Students used core values learned in school to explain to others the importance of the project and why it is important to recognize that others need help.

Board members asked for a list of service learning projects and the partnerships that have been developed in the community.

Ms. Kopf said the remaining funding will allow any teacher who wants information on service learning to receive it. Teachers typically receive some staff development information prior to starting a service learning project. She said there are a variety of things planned for next year. There have also been discussions about where service learning fits in with the curriculum. Some type of service learning is going on at all schools in the district.

It was noted that the grant money will run out in two years. The state would like to fund districts for six years. At the end of that time, they feel districts should be able to institutionalize the service learning goal. Eau Claire is working towards that goal so that service learning can be incorporated into daily activities when the grant money run outs.

B. Update on Transformational Readiness Standards

Executive Director of Administration Tim Leibham said that through the extensive budget reductions made since 1993, the district has now come to the point where if it wants to implement what it wants for all students, it will come at the expense of something else. He said it is important for the Board and community to begin to identify how to go about making those decisions. Budget issues are beginning to be discussed through the lens of each student accessing post-secondary education. He said the Board must discuss whether it is willing to reallocate money for those kids who aren't achieving at the expense of those who are.

Mr. Leibham said that administration continues to make school visits providing information and answering questions about the TRS. District administrators and staff also continue to reflect and train in culturally responsive practices. District and school-level Continuous Improvement Plans are being formulated using standards-based data to set educational goals and priorities.

The Pre/K-12 math and reading benchmark standards continue to be developed, along with the development of common assessments, to measure and monitor the academic achievement of students in each area. Math benchmarks and assessments are projected to be completed by the end of 2010-11 and reading benchmarks and assessments are projected to be completed by the end of 2011-12. Reading and math interventions are expanded at the secondary level and these interventions are funded with district funds. EXPLORE tests will be given to all eighth and ninth graders in 2010-11.

District administration has been establishing partnerships with community agencies such as UW-Eau Claire, Northwest Directions, Clear Vision, and the County Health Department to provide supplemental and essential services to students.

Board members asked for more concrete information on the types of budget impacts necessary for the transformational readiness process. Mr. Leibham said that this is where the community must have discussions and awareness that the district can't provide everything it wants with the dwindling resources. Dr. Heilmann added that rather than looking for a list of what cuts will be, this is about looking at everything we do through the transformational readiness lens and what the district must absolutely provide.

The Board asked about the plan and steps that will be taken to get to the November timeline. It was suggested that some of the discussions happen separate to budget discussions to set goals and priorities and lay some of the ground work.

The Board also asked for statistics and quantification of what really affects the success of young people. Included in this could be programs that get students "hooked" and motivated to learn. It was also asked whether there is information about things the district may not be doing but should be.

The Board remains committed to TRS. Members talked about involving the community in the discussions. They also asked about having union representatives talk to the Board about the perception of staff with implementing TRS.

Mr. Leibham asked if there would be a benefit to having general context questions about what the district values and if the Board is willing to limit resources to some kids who have what they need in order to provide for those who do not. President Craig suggested that within the next few weeks/months the Board have some philosophical discussions to move forward with some prioritization. Then the community could also get involved in the discussions.

Ms. Dimock said the district is close to identifying benchmarks at the elementary level and now those will need to be assessed. In math they are looking at something to provide information with one-time costs. Although there isn't a clear picture of the costs associated with the vision, it is becoming more defined. Mr. Leibham said he can put together a list of resources the district is using Pre/K-12 that are grant funded so the Board can see what's being done, who's doing it, for what purpose, and at what cost.

Chris Hambuch-Boyle said the bigger picture is about funding reform for education. She felt districts should take a stand and contact others to say they aren't going to cut anymore.

C. Discussion of Resources for Referendum Planning

Superintendent Heilmann said administration recommends that the Board identify its desire for professional consultation services for a referendum and identify next steps in the planning process. Specifically, the following factors were identified by administration:

- The need to merge/collage/integrate information from a variety of sources into one place.
- Identify and prioritize needs. (Needs must be linked to transformational readiness standards.)
- Overlay needs with reasonable timeline to achieve the plan.

Com. Janke felt the district needs a referendum but didn't believe it should happen for a while. He felt the economy was still faltering and the district must work on its image.

After discussions, there was general consensus from Board members to move forward with planning a referendum in April 2011 at the earliest.

Dr. Heilmann was asked to contact Don Lifo at Springsted to see what survey questions he felt would be germane and to present some valid information or research to determine whether survey data helps. He will get the estimated cost for their services. The Board asked for information from comparable sized school districts about whether or not they used professional consultation services and their successes.

The Board also asked to gather information about the status of the "Our Schools, Our Future" group that worked on the last referendum and to see if the group would be interested in working on the next campaign. Eau Claire United PTA/PTO said they would like to redirect their efforts into the referendum and Dr. Heilmann said the Chamber of Commerce expressed significant interest as well.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Johnson asked that in the future agenda items that have more importance be moved up on the agenda so they can be discussed while the media and public are still present.

4. Other Business

The Board scheduled a “Board Forward” to review annual goals on June 10th from 6 to 9 pm.

5. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Faanes moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to go into closed session under 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 to prepare the arbitral final offer to ECAE and bargaining strategies for negotiations with *Local 560 – Buildings & Grounds and Local 560-B – Food & Nutrition* and under 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 unanimous roll call vote.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.