

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, NOVEMBER 15, 2010
PRESIDENT CRAIG PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Craig called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn. Absent: Faanes. Student Representative Joe Luginbill was present; Rebecca Giles was not.

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 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 to discuss bargaining strategies.

PUBLIC FORUM - No one signed up to address the Board.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Heilmann reminded the public to provide the Board feedback on its meetings by completing the form found outside the Board Room and dropping it in the box.

Administration is beginning the program development process for the 2011-12 budget and will be sharing that information with the Board's Budget Development Committee before the winter break. The budget will be reviewed by the entire Board in January.

The Community Roundtable and Parent Advisory Council groups held a joint meeting recently to review the progress on the referendum. Highlights of the meeting included reviewing the first FAQ brochure, the use of federal education money, and each school's physical plant capacity. They also discussed how many questions will appear on the ballot; the good, better, best approach; and how 4K needs are linked to the District's space needs. A 30-question document is being prepared which will be linked to the referendum page on the District's website.

State Superintendent Tony Evers will be at North High School on November 16, 2010, at 2 pm in the auditorium to address his "Fair Funding for Our Future" proposal. Under his plan, every school district will receive more state aid, which will reduce tax levies.

Dr. Heilmann congratulated several North band students who participated in the UW-Eau Claire Honors Band Program recently.

The Library of Congress will bring a traveling exhibit entitled, "Gateway to Knowledge" to the Oakwood Mall area in Eau Claire on November 19 and 20. It will feature facsimiles of the 1455 Gutenberg Bible, the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence in Thomas Jefferson's handwriting with edits by Ben Franklin and John Adams, the 1962 drawings for the comic book that introduced Spider Man to the world, a handwritten manuscript of Jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton, and Walt Whitman's poem, "Leaves of Grass."

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig said this will be *Leader Telegram* reporter Alyssa Waters' last meeting as she has accepted another job. The Board wished her well and thanked her for the fine reporting she has done.

Dr. Craig reviewed the notice of the April School Board Election. She said there are two at large positions currently held by Coms. Shiel and Craig. Anyone interested in running for School Board should pick up nomination papers after December 1st and submit them by January 4, 2011.

Dr. Craig attended the WASB Advocacy Convention last weekend. She shared some handouts she received dealing with school finance reform as well as an Advocacy Book. She said Board members must be advocates for quality programming and funding in education. It was suggested that Eau Claire take the lead and schedule a meeting with area legislators and School Board members from Eau Claire, Chippewa, Altoona and Menomonie to talk about school finance reform. She is hoping to schedule something the first week in December.

There was a sign-up sheet for Board members to indicate what Board with Your Coffee events they could attend and also signing up for informal visits at each school. She apologized to Locust Lane staff for not having a Board member at their recent meeting.

Student Representative Report

Joe Luginbill said that Dr. Heilmann and Mr. Scidmore met with North High's Student Council to talk about the technology policy and how students can get involved in the implementation process. There were 16 students who agreed to serve on a committee to formulate rules. Memorial's Student Council has already drafted a set of rules and has submitted them to Mr. Scidmore. The draft was presented to the Parent Advisory Council last Monday and was well received. Joe said that he will be joining the referendum PAC group.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

President Craig said that Ann Franke has found some abstracts on late starts for secondary school students. It was the consensus of the Policy & Governance committee that the school start issue is not a top priority; it will likely be considered in the summer. The committee has received information on summer camp rules and policies as well as the school calendar policy.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

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

- ◆ The minutes of special meeting of October 25, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of November 1, 2010, 2010, as mailed.
- ◆ The financial report as presented.
- ◆ The gifts in the amount of \$9,347.37 for the period October 1, 2010, through October 31, 2010, as presented.
- ◆ The matters of employment of November 15, 2010, as presented.
- ◆ The payment of all bills in the amount of \$5,736,178.58 and net payroll in the amount of \$4,979,362.62 for the period October 1, 2010, through October 31, 2010, as presented.

Consent resolution motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

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

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Duax, Janke, Johnson, Shiel, and Wogahn.
Absent: Faanes. Student Representative Joe Luginbill was present; Rebecca Giles was not.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. ENGAGE Update: Status of Governance Board/By-Laws/Facility, Project Foundry & Visual Presentation of Project-Based Learning

Jo Ellen Burke said that a Governance Board has been developed for the ENGAGE Charter School that includes officers Mike Huggins as President, Trish Cummins as Vice President, and Margaret Melrose as Treasurer. Also included on the Governance Board are Steve Anderson, Bob Carr, Jeremy Harrison, Nicole Lasker, Nick Meyer, and Kim Wilson. The by-laws have been adopted and they are scheduled to meet with an expert on contract formulation. The Planning Committee and Governance Board have been looking at the curriculum, examining what they learned from Project Foundry, working on a marketing plan, and visiting schools to inform staff about the charter school and disseminating information.

Ms. Burke shared a chart with possible facilities for the charter school that the group has looked at or discussed. They are committed to trying to find a location downtown because they see that as a vital area for arts, library, theater, and other interests downtown. Within the dissemination grant there may be monies available for modest facility renovation. She also reviewed a timeline for the project and showed examples of what the curriculum might look like.

The Board talked about the budget for the charter school. Dr. Heilmann said that any charter school has to show sustainability and there are certain costs like personnel that you can't use charter school grant money for. Program-based budgeting is based on student needs. When the contract is developed, the Governance Board will identify what components they feel are essential to providing the program. Mr. Van De Water added that the budget could be modified by perhaps having a different delivery system that would generate a cost-neutral budget.

Ms. Burke said that the grade levels for the charter will be sixth and seventh with an enrollment of 22 students the first year. Enrollments would max out

at 66 by year three at which time they predict the need for two to three teachers.

There will be three informational meetings for parents at different locations so that parents can make a thoughtful decision as to whether their children could succeed at this charter school.

The Board talked about the next step of approving the implementation grant. There were some concerns about having everything in place by the open enrollment period in February. The Board asked to get estimates on operational costs. It was noted that the Board could approve the implementation grant earlier than March to meet timelines for open enrollment. Then it would await approval from the state.

Paul Tweed, Founder and Lead Teacher at Wildlands Charter School, said that this charter has been an instrumentality of the Augusta School District for six years. He said that there are three project-based models that can be chosen: Teacher-driven, jointly managed (teacher and student cooperation) or student proposed (true project based where kids are in charge of what is going on in their program and are part of planning process to make sure they meet learning standards as set forth in their goals). Everything is managed through the Project Foundry framework. Parents, students, and teachers have access to this.

In looking at curriculum development, Mr. Tweed said that Project Foundry provides an opportunity to build learning targets in the curriculum design phase and provides a solid set of goals and objectives before you start. The curriculum is driven by: 1) underlying standards and targets, 2) theme, and 3) staff's ability to think on their feet and take risks to build it.

B. Factors Related to the Preparation of a Referendum Question(s)

Compatibility of the DeLong Middle School Remodel with Twenty-First Century Learning

Dr. Heilmann said that much of the proposed work at DeLong would extend the life/use of the building for the next forty years. He said there is an intention to make it wireless for internet access. This could mean there would be fewer needs for computer labs. When asked if the 'houses' for each grade would be organized differently for 21st century learning, Dr. Heilmann said that administration doesn't anticipate that they would be organized differently.

Mr. Kramer said the temporary walls at DeLong are presenting problems because there are no longer parts available for maintenance of the walls.

He said the biggest issues with the walls are safety issues with the electrical piece. Dr. Tim O'Reilly, DeLong Principal, said that sound is a big issue; you can hear from one classroom to another. He said the walls are wearing out where the doors move through the door jam, which presents safety and security issues. The life expectancy for these temporary walls is probably coming to an end.

It was stressed that staff should work with administration and the architects to hear how they might incorporate different learning strategies and envision using space in the future. Mr. Leibham also suggested having staff at Northstar and South involved in the conversations.

Need for an Early Learning Center

Mr. Leibham explained that in 2010-11 there are 24 early learning sections scheduled into 13 classrooms, serving 290 students in district sites. Early learning students are between three and five years old. There are three components to the program: 1) Head Start, 2) EC4T, and 3) Early Childhood-Special Education. In addition to classroom teachers, 28 other staff support the students on an itinerant basis. Seventy percent of the EC4T programming takes place in community sites. Primary administrative and clerical support is currently located at the Administration Building. Transportation is mandated and provided for all students attending district sites. The Demographic Trends Committee recommended that the early learning program be placed at one centralized location.

In determining cost effectiveness of a centralized location, the following factors would need to be considered: reduced transportation costs, more efficient use of staff time, revenue from the program, and maintenance costs. Mr. Kramer estimated the need for 1.5 custodial personnel at the EL site and an estimate of \$1 per square foot for five-year capital and maintenance costs with an estimate of 50 cents per square foot for utilities. Mr. Leibham estimated a savings of \$5,000 for staff transportation; the estimated savings for student transportation would be \$150,000.

Com. Johnson asked for an estimate of costs for programs we would be doing without the EC4T program versus the revenue we are bringing in by offering it. Mr. Van De Water explained the matter of revenue limits and spending capacity for the 4K program. He said it is driven by enrollments. With EC4T, every child that enrolls is .6 of FTE. This enrollment is averaged over three years. When you start a program like this, the first year you incur the cost of the full program for staff materials and supplies but only get one-third of the funding. The second year you count the FTE at two-thirds so you are breaking even and the third year when you get the full count, you are into an excess spending capacity situation where increased enrollments pay for costs of the program and provide resources to support other programs.

The Board discussed whether the early learning center could help solve the elementary room shortage problem in the future. Mr. Leibham noted that when ATS&R did the capacity study, they calculated additional space based on utilizing one central location for early learning programs. If the Board doesn't move ahead with a centralized location, those numbers would need to be adjusted. He said the location being looked at could definitely provide some relief in the future for elementary enrollments which are projected to increase.

Some of the concerns expressed included EC4T students who spend one hour on the bus each way and people in the 'middle' who can't qualify for Head Start and can't afford daycare sites so would need a district program. The Board also discussed allowing Montessori to grow to its natural capacity, which can't be done now because of the early learning programs in place at Montessori. Ultimately, they would like to add another section in the Children's House (E1 and E2) and that would fill the Montessori School in two to three years.

Several Board members felt the opportunity to purchase Epiphany Lutheran provided a good option but were concerned with the potential costs at this time and the fact that the building would be under-utilized for the time being until enrollments reach capacity. Others felt it might cost money upfront but it would be a good planning mechanism for future enrollment crunches. There was a suggestion that the early learning center be included as a separate referendum question.

Categorization/Prioritization/Rationale for Referendum Projects

Dr. Heilmann explained the two-step process as laid out by administration. The first step was to confirm the work proposed at each site. The second step would be to issue a Request for Proposals for architectural design. Securing an architect would update/verify the costs identified by ATS&R so the Board can have firm estimates for the projects. He noted that part of the allure of going to referendum now is that contractors are looking for projects, and the district is also getting very favorable ratings for bonds now.

Mr. Kramer reviewed the documents he provided to the Board. There was a compressed list of building projects and then a list with more details. They added categories for energy efficiency/sustainability, safety and security, and educational program space. Each item was identified by primary category. Priorities were applied to all projects. Priority one items were from the deferred maintenance list, number two items would bring the project up to the standard of the rest of the building, and number three priorities are things that could be done through the normal five-year capital improvement budget.

Mr. Van De Water said that the district's financial advisors have reviewed the project costs and have said that they can assimilate the funding for the projects without any increases in taxes for the debt service levy.

After discussion the majority of the Board supported all level one and two priorities and likely level three items as well for the elementary projects.

Mr. Kramer said the project at DeLong primarily consists of items from the deferred maintenance list. He said there are considerable HVAC needs in the whole building and the rationale for other projects was to address the walls and remodeling as long as the building is torn up.

There were varying opinions expressed by Board members for the DeLong project. The cost for the optional items (#3 priorities) was about \$2 million. The majority felt all items should be included. Com. Duax was concerned about the windows and other priority three items and thought the project total should be trimmed back.

The Board talked about requesting architectural design proposals to get a clearer projection on project costs, site work and architect costs. Mr. Kramer said that architect fees typically run between 5-8% and he estimated the cost to the district to be between \$2 million and \$4 million. Mr. Kramer said that even if the referendum fails, the architectural plans would be good until the time a project could be completed. The projected cost was included in the \$54 million proposal.

The majority of the Board wanted to move forward with soliciting Requests for Proposals for architect design and to bring it as a resolution at the next meeting.

Planning for Likely Shortfall in Funding in 2011-13 State Biennium

President Craig expressed concern with the likely reduction of school aid in the state's 2011-13 biennium budget. She said the district will have approximately \$2.5 million less in operational funds due to the loss of federal stimulus monies. In her opinion the likelihood of successful back to back referenda (April 2011 for capital needs and April 2012 for operational needs) was highly improbable. She provided the Board a document she created listing unknown variables related to the budget and asked for information that would assist the Board in planning for operational needs in the next two years. She was concerned about having an operational deficit as the district moves forward with the capital needs plan.

Mr. Van De Water said the current budget is built on a \$200 increase in state aid per student. He said they have retooled the projection model to

get more accurate projections. Variables include what will happen to 80% of budget that's in salary/benefits as well as the 91% that the state controls. Another factor is the State Superintendent's school financing proposal that would use the tax levy credit as a form of state aid. This would have a dramatic effect on property tax for education.

In addition to the six questions posed by Com. Craig, Com. Shiel asked to add a projection of what the 19% of the budget that isn't salary may be.

The Board asked that administration pull together information related to the operational needs so the public knows it has been studied and what the plan will be.

Diana McGinley, Manz parent, said the Board should look at the SAGE program. She also suggested having a phase-in plan for walls at DeLong.

Retired teacher Carolyn Barstad said that having taught at DeLong, she would highly encourage the Board to consider the windows and skylights in the DeLong proposal. She said that research indicates that daylight enhances student learning and helps education. She also said that she is very impressed with the 4K program and she encouraged the Board to do whatever it can to enhance that because it gives children a real advantage to learning. She was concerned about the hour-long bus ride for these students in the current program.

Joe Luginbill said the Board should set priorities and meet with legislators to discuss the future of education and what can be done to improve it.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

The Board asked for a Food & Nutrition Report to see what improvements have been made and the status of the program.

4. Motion to Adjourn Committee Meeting

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

5. Motion to go into Closed Session

Com. Shiel moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, 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 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 to discuss bargaining strategies. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Aye: Craig, Duax, Johnson, and Shiel. Nay: Janke and Wogahn.

6. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm.