

Eau Claire School Board Minutes

Monday, January 21, 2019

Generated by Patti Iverson

Members present

Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue (arrived at 4:04 p.m.)

Member absent

Eric Torres

1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Luginbill called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Board Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Glen Bowe spoke to the Board about an incident that happened several years ago when his son attended high school in ECASD. Mr. Bowe said their home was egged by four students who admitted to doing it. He felt that administration knew of other incidents that were uncovered during an investigation and perpetrated against the family but were not reported to the family. Mr. Bowe felt the District violated the mandatory reporting issue as well as the anti-bullying policy. He asked the Board to take action on this matter.

Justin Hendrickson talked about listening sessions that are being scheduled for the elementary boundary proposals. He encouraged the Board to consider the typical family that will be affected by the proposed changes. He felt that many families think the proposal is just about closing Roosevelt and don't realize that the boundaries will be changing across the District. He asked that information be provided several weeks before the listening sessions that includes a summary of factors considered, maps with boundary options, timelines, and the decision-making process.

Mark Goings said the District is projecting a \$5.5 million shortfall for next year's budget. He said the Board will have to make decisions that may affect compensation, programs, etc. He asked the Board to think about the process that will be used and how staff could be utilized for shared decision making so there is a buy in.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

3.1 Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck shared the School Board's upcoming calendar of events.

Dr. Hardebeck shared a video that was created by Stan Nesbit and Andrew Seveland about community partnerships for youth apprenticeships. The video includes statements from representatives of several District's partners who expressed praise for the program.

Dr. Hardebeck was pleased to announce donations that the District recently received. Trust Point provided \$5,000 for the District's homeless program and the West Wisconsin Chapter of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association donated \$8,000 to buy equipment for the new culinary lab updates at both high schools. She was very thankful for these partnerships and the generous donations.

3.2 Board President's Report

President Luginbill invited everyone to attend the Martin Luther King Remembrance Event after the Board meeting.

Mr. Luginbill announced that in light of the partial shutdown of the federal government, affected families may be eligible for the free/reduced meal program. He said that applications could be picked up at the Administration Building or at each school.

Board members were asked to complete a Doodle Poll to assist in scheduling a special Board meeting.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

President Luginbill welcomed Molly Green who will serve as the North High Student Representative to the Board for the second semester.

Gwen Haywood and Molly Green both reported that finals were held as the semester was completed. Students are looking forward to their new semester schedules.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 School Board Committee Reports

The LEAP Committee continues its policy work and developing the process for submitting LEAP Zone proposals. President Luginbill was at the last meeting to investigate the potential for a charter high school.

Policy & Governance will be bringing forward modifications to the School Board Handbook, Policy 164 dealing with Board compensation and equipment, and Policy 823 regarding access to public records.

5.2 Legislative Update

There was no legislative update.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Lori Bica, to approve the following Consent Resolution items:

- Minutes of January 7, 2019
- Financial Report - December 2018
- Gifts in the amount of \$16,046.33 for the period of December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$9,659,407.25 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,583,577.84 for the period of December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Administrative Contract Extensions
- Approve Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for the Head Start Grant

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

7.1 Consideration of 2019 WASB Resolutions

Board members were given a copy of the WASB Resolutions that will be acted on at the WASB Delegate Assembly in Milwaukee. Mr. Torres will be the District's delegate and President Luginbill serves on the WASB Policy Committee. Many of the resolutions being considered were drafted by the Eau Claire School Board.

There was discussion on the resolution on the special education reimbursement rate and whether the District should support the 60% figure written by WASB or the 90% figure the ECASD proposed, which would be equal to what is provided to private voucher schools.

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Charles Vue, to support proposed 2019 WASB Resolutions as presented.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE/WORK SESSION

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Discuss Proposal Regarding High School Athletic Fields

Kevin Thompson, Memorial High School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, presented a proposal that was brought forward from community members about enhancing/improving athletic fields at Memorial. Mr. Thompson said that a group of parents, business people, community members, public leaders and coaches worked with Rettler Corporation and brought a proposal to the administrative team at Memorial High School to improve the overall outside fields and facilities. He said the District would have a tremendous opportunity to partner with the community as part of the District's Strategic Plan. The project would promote school pride, improve curricular and co-curricular programming, improve safety and increase accessibility, address equity, and generate revenue. It could also minimize costs for transportation, maintenance, and fees by providing on-site fields for students to utilize. The current outside facilities at Memorial require that students have practices and games off-site.

Mr. Thompson shared a map of the proposed updated athletic fields at Memorial and reviewed the points to be considered including a multi-use synthetic turf surface, resurfacing of the current track, improvement of the current field event facility for track and field, lights and scoreboard, a main entrance with concessions and bathrooms, and a storage building.

Mr. Thompson discussed the accessibility of the fields with the existing facilities versus optimal use for physical education, band/music programs, athletic teams, intramurals and the community.

It was explained that currently North High School has a track, two soccer fields, three softball fields, a regulation baseball field and a practice field. Memorial must go off premises for baseball and softball team practices and games. There is also an inequity in terms of outside facilities for square footage between campuses.

The total projected cost of the project would be \$2.4 million. The group that brought the proposal forward would fund a 50% of the overall cost of the project, a projected \$1.2 million. They would ask the District to consider funding \$1.2 million as well. Some options to fund the project could include naming rights, advertising, reprioritizing the five-year capital plan, securing a state trust fund loan, and issuing debt.

The group asked the Board to consider approving the proposal at its next meeting so that design, bidding and construction could be completed by September 2019.

Board members asked for further information on the estimate of revenue that could be brought in by having this venue for events, the savings for not having to utilize Carson Park for games, and any kind of data that would show financial savings.

Questions were asked by Board members about how this project would fit into the Board's Strategic Plan and general budget if the Board decided to move forward. Ms. Koller said that one of the Board's priorities is implementing innovative community partnerships. This community group approached the District about this potential project and donation. Also related to the Strategic Plan is the goal to

educate the whole child using multiple measures to assess academic achievement and social/emotional growth. Currently there may be barriers for students to participate in extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the District's facilities. Research shows that students who participate in co-curriculars are more connected to school and have better academic achievement and social/emotional growth. In addition, students who use wheelchairs or have special needs, don't have access to the fields at Memorial. Turf would allow easier access for those students.

Abby Johnson, Executive Director of Business, said the Revenue Committee has been reviewing the Board's policies for naming rights and advertising to allow for more flexibility. She added that on the subject of issuing debt, the District doesn't have to go to referendum. There is an option that would provide a 30-day notice to the public and give citizens an opportunity to oppose it. If there are no objections, the District could look at the option of issuing debt. This was used with Prairie Ridge and a referendum project as well.

President Luginbill asked Board members to send any additional questions to Dr. Hardebeck so answers can be provided in the Friday Letter. He noted that the Board must review where this project would fit into its budget priorities.

Gwen Heywood asked how many teams are required to use facilities off site and the cost of renting the fields and transportation. She also asked if it would be possible to complete and pay for upgrades gradually and not all at once. Dr. Hardebeck said administration could discuss the feasibility of that.

Public Comment

Tim Burns asked if this proposal was for junior varsity athletics or for varsity as well. It was explained that this would include varsity and junior varsity events for many sports and would give the opportunity for other venues to use it as well.

Mark Goings asked what the life expectancy of the turf would be and the eventual replacement cost of the turf. He asked if Rettler had experience working with other Districts as far as the payment for replacement turf.

President Luginbill said the proposal will be brought back to the Board for future consideration.

10. WORK SESSION

10.1 School Board Self-Evaluation

President Luginbill shared a document with Board members to complete the School Board self-evaluation, which included a description of the process and the areas the Board includes in its self-evaluation. He said this would give the Board a chance to reflect on its performance to meet its goal and priorities and allow the Board to look at how it can better meet those priorities in the new year.

Mr. Luginbill explained that in January 2018 the Board's self-evaluation included four goals: closing the achievement gap, communicating as a Board and speaking with one voice, having a mechanism to track progress, and setting priorities aligned to the budget.

Mr. Luginbill created a survey for Board members to complete the self-evaluation. It included 12 open-ended questions that the Board could answer. He noted that answers could be short or long and said that some may choose not to answer some questions. The responses will then be compiled and put into a report, so that Board members can determine if the Board is still on track with its four goals, if some goals can be moved off the list, or if there are additional goals to set for 2019-20.

Mr. Luginbill proposed that the survey be sent to Board members electronically to complete and then another Work Session could be scheduled to go over the feedback. Dr. Hardebeck will also be asked to complete the survey. Dr. Hardebeck said she will work with the Executive Team to provide feedback to complete the survey.

Mr. Luginbill will also create a similar survey to send to the Student Representatives to obtain their feedback.

Board members decided to add another item to the evaluation tool so that if there are items that aren't contained in the document that Board members would like addressed or to share feedback on, they can include those matters in that item.

The follow-up Work Session will give Board members a chance to assess how they feel they are doing as well as determine what more they should be doing.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.

12. ADJOURN

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Aaron Harder, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.