

Eau Claire School Board Minutes

Monday, November 4, 2019

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Members present

Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Eric D Torres, Tim Nordin

Members absent

Charles Vue

CLOSED SESSION - 5:30 p.m.

President Eric Torres called the meeting to order at 5:35pm. President Torres asked if the meeting was in compliance with Open Meetings Law. Secretary Meta Miske confirmed it was but noted the meetings will be noticed differently moving forward.

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Tim Nordin to move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c); Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Eric D Torres, Tim Nordin

REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 p.m.

President Torres called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Manz Elementary students Andrew M and Brianna L and a roll call to verify quorum.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kiersten Wille, Memorial High School student, and Nathan Stremcha, North High School student, thanked the Board for the adopting the resolution to work toward a carbon neutral school district. They spoke about their participation in the high school Environmental Club and believe a top-down approach to sustainability will have a significant impact in uniting the District toward a common goal and fulfill our ethical responsibilities.

Estella Torgerson, Memorial High School student, and Lydia Monk, North High School student asked the Board to accept suggestions from students on sustainability and environmentally friendly practices. They said project-based learning on these topics would help students answer the common question of, "how does the curriculum relate to the real world?" They thanked the Board for adopting the resolution on sustainability.

Joshua Clements is a parent of Memorial and Lakeshore students. He commended the Board on their resolution for sustainability. He is a city planner and member of the Demo & Trends Committee. He is concerned the District doesn't have a long-term physical plan to address capacity, growth, and sustainability in the schools. He asked the Board to be aware of how the District relates to the whole community and formulate a long-term plan.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed upcoming events for the school board.

Dr. Hardebeck said Veteran's Day program and activity information has been shared with the School Board and is posted to the District website. She recognized STEAM Day which is November 8 and spoke about STEAM initiatives within the District. Dr. Hardebeck recognized fundraisers at several schools to benefit Feed My People Food Bank. She thanked Markquart Toyota for donating a car and supplies to North High School's automotive classes.

Board President's Report

President Torres gave an update on the Superintendent Search. They have a few meetings left to gather input and will then finalize the job description and superintendent profile, after which they will initiate a formal process to accept applications.

President Torres said beginning Thursday, November 7 through November 28 there will be an application available for those interested in the vacant seat on the School Board. The School Board will review all applications and candidates will be interviewed at the December 2, 2019 School Board meeting after which a vote will occur to determine a new Board member. All interested community members are invited to apply.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Report

Morgan Priem from Memorial High School gave an update on sports, a food drive, musical honors, and an upcoming musical theatre performance of Shrek with proceeds going to the Theatre Program.

Johnny Xiong from North High School gave a sports and music update. He invited all to attend the Veteran's Day program on Friday and thanked Markquart Toyota for their vehicle donation to the automotive classes.

OTHER REPORTS

School Board Committee Reports

Budget Development Committee hasn't met, but the Board approved a balanced budget. Budget Development meets Tuesday, November 12.

Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee hasn't met but will provide an update later in the meeting and ask for direction.

Policy and Governance Committee met that morning and approved revisions to Policy 454 which will be presented to the Board on December 2.

LEAP Committee will meet on November 12.

Legislative Update

Commissioner Nordin noted Assembly Bill 422 is up for consideration which would raise the legal age to purchase tobacco and vaping products to 21. He encouraged everyone to contact assembly members and encourage them to support the bill.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

President Torres pulled item 7.9 Transportation Contract from the Consent Resolution Agenda

Motion by Tim Nordin, second by Aaron Harder to approve Consent Resolution Agenda Items 7.2-7.8.

- Minutes of October 21, 2019
- Minutes of Closed Session - October 21, 2019
- Minutes of Budget Hearing October 28, 2019
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Resolution Authorizing a Taxable Tax and Revenue Anticipation Promissory Note for Cash Flow Purposes in an Amount Not to Exceed \$7,000,000
- Delegate Authority to Executive Director of Business Services to Request Cash Advances on the Line of Credit at Merchants Bank through June 30, 2020.
- RFP for Architectural Design Services for Roosevelt Secure Entrance

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Eric D Torres, Tim Nordin
President Torres asked if the Transportation Contract had been modified to include requirements related to eco-friendly buses. Mr. Jim Fey from Student-Transit indicated that he and Ms. Abby Johnson looked at including that in the contract but since Student-Transit is a private company there wasn't a way to do so without possibly putting his company into a position to

compromise operations. Student-Transit is committed to utilizing energy efficient vehicles that are proven to be safe, reliable, and cost-effective.

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Tim Nordin to approve the transportation contract with Student Transit as presented with the rates updated to reflect the 2019-2020 revenue limit increase of 3.07%. The contract also includes a one-year extension of time to make the contract for five years.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Eric D Torres, Tim Nordin

ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Solar Panel Panels for Memorial and North High Schools

Hannah Terwilliger, Memorial High School graduate from the class of 2009 talked about Solar on Schools which is an initiative to expand access to solar energy to 100 schools in Wisconsin.

The Couillard Solar Foundation would like to donate 156 panels each for Memorial and North High Schools. Additionally, an anonymous donor will match that donation for an additional 156 panels for each school if a fundraiser to raise \$400,000 for installation and maintenance is successful.

Ms. Terwilliger reviewed the specifications and shared a proposed layout for the panels on each building. She shared ways the panels could be included in science and math curriculum, create interest in renewable energy jobs, as well as teach students and staff to be more energy conscious.

A Board member asked for clarification about the matching donation.

A Board member questioned Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation's role in the fundraiser. Ms. Sue Bornick, Interim Director indicated ECPSF would provide support for the fundraising committee with materials, donation processing, press releases, and more. The Board confirmed installation would not begin until the fundraiser was complete and funds available.

The Board asked about maintenance of the panels. Mr. Zeus Stark of Next Step Energy said the fundraiser will include the purchase of a 25-year maintenance agreement and they can train ECASD staff to help with maintenance as well.

The Board asked what the \$400,000 fundraising goal includes. The Board

asked about the turnaround cost for this project versus a private homeowner installing the panels. It was indicated that the lifespan of the solar panels could be 30-40 years, but the warranty will cover 20-25 years.

The Board asked about installation at other ECASD schools. This project is to get solar started in schools, but many districts are installing solar panels on their own and ECASD could consider purchasing solar for its other buildings.

President Torres invited questions from the public.

Shannon Minch, Memorial High School teacher, said Memorial just installed a new roof with a 25-year warranty and asked about the impact to the roof and if other installation locations were considered. Mr. Stark indicated that the solar panels are in a ballasted system that doesn't penetrate the roof and wouldn't impact the roof's warranty. Installation on the ground requires more costly support systems and requires space to install near the building which may leave the panels accessible to students.

Acres for Joy/ South SIP

Mr. Paul Uhren, Mr. Jeff Jackson, and Ms. Crystal Ruzicka were present to talk about the collaboration between South Middle School and Acres for Joy.

Mr. Uhren shared how the program fits into the strategic goals of the Board and South's School Improvement Plan (SIP.) Ms. Ruzicka shared information about cognitive psychology and development as well as why horses work well for therapy due to the unique way horses form relationships.

Mr. Jackson from Acres for Joy shared his life story and the story of his daughter, Abigail Joy. He talked about how the ranch came to become a non-profit organization with a Board of Directors. He said the intent of the program is to encourage, engage, equip, and empower students.

Ms. Ruzicka said the program began after former principal Dianna Zeegers met Mr. Jackson and found an opportunity for students at risk. The program began as a summer camp and has grown to a once a week visit to the ranch. They focus on relationship skills and attitude, teach students that not all consequences are bad, and that choices determine consequences.

Ms. Ruzicka developed the entrance and exit criteria for the program and provides Tier II interventions to the students in the program. Students are told they don't have to do anything to get in the program, but they must do a lot to stay by passing classes, attending school, and engaging in learning.

Mr. Jackson and Ms. Ruzicka shared information about what the students

learn at the ranch, the animals they work with, and the woodshop. They shared stories of how the ranch has impacted students and data related to the success of the program including improved grades and attendance.

Mr. Jackson invited everyone to visit the ranch. Students are there on Wednesday mornings and visits do not have to be planned ahead. Mr. Uhren added that the middle schools have a TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) for discipline and it would be great to have a TOSA for academic success.

Board members commended the work and encouraged visits to the ranch.

Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee Update

Ms. Kim Koller and Mr. Phil Lyons gave an update from the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee.

Mr. Lyons reviewed capacity concerns at the elementary and early learning levels. The committee feels the concerns require long-term planning. He reviewed the boundary changes approved in July which will be implemented at the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The buildings with the direst needs are Manz, Meadowview, Putnam, and Robbins.

The committee has two questions for the Board.

1. What is the desired capacity rate for schools within the ECASD?
2. What is the extent of the capacity concerns in these elementary schools? What options do we have to alleviate them? Build additions to several existing elementary schools, build an additional elementary school, or other options?

Mr. Lyons invited discussion and questions.

A Board member asked if the committee had opinions on the capacity rate. The committee doesn't have an opinion but indicated that when a building is at 90% capacity or higher, principals express space issues and a lack of flexibility. It was noted that higher capacity impacts students already at an academic disadvantage. The lowest acceptable capacity is 65% but the committee would like a ceiling which would create a trigger for action.

A Board member expressed the urgency of the issue. It would take a referendum to build a new school or build on to existing schools, plus another estimated two years to plan and build, so it is likely four years before any capacity issue is resolved. Meadowview is currently at 95% capacity and is only 22 students away from 100% capacity. Other Board members concurred with the feeling of urgency.

President Torres indicated this topic will be discussed at the November 18 work session and the Board can give Demo & Trends direction at that time.

Discussion on Elements of Coherent Governance Model presented at the September 25, 2019 Work Session

Motion by Harder, second by Nordin, to postpone Discussion on Elements of Coherent Governance Model presented at the September 25, 2019 Work Session until the November 18 Work Session.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Eric D Torres, Tim Nordin

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items to add.

ADJOURN

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Lori Bica to adjourn the meeting.

Final Resolution: Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Eric D Torres, Tim Nordin

Meeting adjourned at 9:04.