

## **Eau Claire School Board Minutes**

**Monday, September 9, 2019**

Generated by Meta Miske

### **Members present**

Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue, Tim Nordin

### **1. REGULAR MEETING - 7:00 p.m.**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Flynn Elementary student Jocelyn K., President Eric Torres called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Board Secretary Meta Miske confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

### **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

Karen Voss is a resident of the Town of Brunswick and was alerted via the news about the possible sale of Little Red. Ms. Voss expressed shock that she hadn't heard about the sale earlier. She called the reporter to find out if it had been brought to the public's attention previously and it had not. Ms. Voss felt the public wasn't properly informed. Both of her children attended Little Red and in the mid 1980's she became involved in a collaborative restoration project for the habitat around Little Red, developing a nature area with trails, signs, benches, learning areas, and more. Ms. Voss believes it's still a rich environmental resource and valuable to the community even though the school has been closed. There are community groups who want to use it for education. She expressed strong concern that the sale wasn't made open to public comment. She was concerned that Little Red was annexed to the City of Eau Claire and offers were made to purchase the building and land, and the public was unaware. She urged the Board to consider the sale later and open it to public comment and input. Ms. Voss shared a record of Little Red created by her daughter as a 4-H project and passed it around for the Board to review.

Gordon Steinhauer is the Chairman of the Brunswick Town Board. The Town Board is very concerned that the annexation of Little Red to the City of Eau Claire took place in June without the Town of Brunswick being notified until after the annexation was complete. They received a letter in the mail letting them know Little Red had been annexed. When the land was originally sold to the School Board it was sold for \$1. Now it could go for millions of dollars. The Town of Brunswick will take their concerns to their attorney and are very unhappy they found out about everything after the fact.

Peg Schwengel is a retired ECASD employee and is concerned that many schools are at or above capacity. She said when Little Red was remodeled, it was designed to be able to be expanded into a two or three section building despite currently being a one-section school. It's already paid for, so she said there's no reason to sell it. The District will have to buy land and build a school eventually. Ms. Schwengel questioned why the Board would sell something they are going to need?

Susan Smith is a retired ECASD employee and heard last spring that Little Red was being looked at by a trade group for purchase but she didn't believe it; she thought the public would've been informed. She's concerned because Little Red is in an area of town that is expanding. There are four sections of kindergarten at Robbins. She said schools are heavily overcrowded on the south side. The land is paid for and it's a beautiful spot. Ms. Smith said when Cleghorn Elementary was closed, nobody could tell her how many students would be bussed to a different school. She is asking the Board to wait, look at data, look at class sizes and where students are being bussed to, and re-evaluate the sale thinking about the long term. Ms. Smith understands the budget concerns but said in the long-term she doesn't think it's a good idea to sell the site.

Crystal Frei is a mother to three students in the District, two at North and one at Roosevelt. Today she was horrified at the situation going on at North. It horrifies her even more that it could happen at Roosevelt and nothing could save the students. She feels that every year she is fighting for basic the things Roosevelt should have. She said the staff is amazing and they work with very little. We owe the Roosevelt staff the same security that every other school has. Their class sizes are just as big as any other schools. There are 27 students in her daughter's 5th grade class and they have no security. She's frustrated and exhausted, as are many Roosevelt parents. She's tired of being afraid to send her child to school and she is tired of her daughter being afraid to go to school. Ms. Frei said whether we like it or not, school violence is what our children deal with every single day and it's not going away. She asked why Roosevelt is the only school with no protection.

Megan Holman is a Roosevelt parent. She said in March the Board voted to move forward with the Spanish Language Dual Immersion program which meant Roosevelt had to stay open. Immediately after that decision the Board should've determined how to add security measures to Roosevelt. Instead, a secure entrance was put on the back burner. At a Family Advisory Council meeting she was assured the Board would look at it but since then, nothing has been done. In July her 5<sup>th</sup> grade daughter asked the Board to act and they did not. It took another angry parent to come to the Board a month later for the Board to add it to the agenda. This morning's incident at North highlights the fact that Roosevelt is the only building without a secure entrance. Ms. Holman said Roosevelt could've had a secure entrance if Administration had done their job. She urges the Board to address this as soon as possible and provide the

same level of security offered to all other schools.

Peggy Pendergast lives in the Town of Brunswick and is very concerned about Little Red. There are many who feel it was the center of their community. She keeps hearing about overcrowded schools, and it concerns her that the District is thinking of selling this school. Ms. Pendergast encouraged the Board to visit Little Red. She said it's a great place for children to learn. When Little Red was part of the referendum that allowed its upgrades, many people celebrated. She would hate to see that go to waste.

Beth Ivankovic lives in the Town of Washington in the Priory area. She heard that morning through Facebook about the possible sale of Little Red and was shocked. She said Little Red closing was very difficult for many families. As the Board heard, families loved the school. One thing the Board may not be aware of is an issue with groundwater a few years ago in her area. Ms. Ivankovic said as a result, the City of Eau Claire has extended their sewer service area. That means in the next few years the city is planning to put city sewer and water down Highway 37 which will likely result in higher density neighborhoods, thus meaning a school would be needed. When planning for the long term, it makes a lot of sense to keep Little Red. As a taxpayer she was upset that she didn't hear about the possible sale until the day of the meeting. As a side note, Ms. Ivankovic is on the Board for SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association) and they have a meeting tomorrow at Memorial. All are welcome.

Martin Voss has been a resident in the Town of Brunswick for almost 40 years. His children received a fine education at Little Red and had the unique experience of a school with a very large nature area. His family was very involved in developing the prairie and nature area at Little Red. His family wishes it would be reopened as a nature learning center to be used by the whole District. There was interest in Little Red being opened again as a charter school. He doesn't doubt the need for this school and land will be there in the future. Mr. Voss said he was quite disturbed to hear Little Red was going to be sold and more concerned that there was some maneuvering that brought in to question the motives and lack of honesty and openness about the situation. He expressed concern that Little Red was annexed without discussion when the Town of Brunswick needs those taxes. He urged the Board to halt the process and open the discussion to public hearings. Mr. Voss shared a book that all students at Little Red received about the nature center. He shared a quote from the book. Mr. Voss said he mourns the loss of this nature area.

Erika Zerr is a concerned citizen regarding Little Red. She said during the winter she snowshoed the 30 acres at Little Red with Karen Voss. She learned about the trees, birds, native prairie plants, and saw the relics of children, families and volunteers that were all around. She said they could've been sad that such a beautiful space had gone to waste but instead talked about the possibilities for summer school, grants, partnerships, and other new learning occurring at the site. There is a sign by the trail that says, "Thank you to all volunteers: past, present, future." Ms. Zerr vowed to be a future volunteer. She said for all practicality, the District will likely go to referendum to address the 4K and overcrowding needs. Why sell a perfectly good property only to turn around and buy a new one? A little over a decade ago, taxpayers spent millions of dollars to renovate Little Red. Last year over \$300,000 was spent on a new boiler at Little Red. It will be hard to convince taxpayers to buy new property if the District sells Little Red. The grounds tell the story of love, dedication, and investment in our community. Many have dreamed of ideas for Little Red to create a one-of-a-kind learning space for kids. It doesn't matter how it happens, but kids should be learning at Little Red. Ms. Zerr encouraged the Board to ask the community to support an initiative to give kids an opportunity to learn at Little Red. She asked them to pull the sale from the consent agenda.

Jeff Smith said he is not in attendance as a legislator. He's attending as a parent, taxpayer, citizen, and historian. Mr. Smith has lived in the Town of Brunswick for over 33 years. When his children attended Little Red, he became very involved which helped shape who he is today. As a parent leader at the time he realized there was a lack of communication and trust between the District and parents, teachers, and administrators. He founded the Family Advisory Council which is still in place. He worked very hard to pass the referendum in the late 1990's which was a huge accomplishment. He's responsible for a part of the design of Little Red because he worked with Mr. Powers to ensure there was a bell on the school. Last spring, he attended the annual Brunswick Firemen's Dance and noticed there were fewer people at the dance overall, but most noticeably there were no children there. When his children went to Little Red the kids couldn't wait for the Firemen's Dance. The Town of Brunswick was a community built around the school. It was so important to the kids to get to the dance and be together even after spending all day together at school. This year, it was obvious the town lost a lot when they lost the school. Mr. Smith said it's more than being passionate about something close to his heart. Little Red is an incredible piece of property and he cannot imagine the District will ever find anything like it again and he hasn't seen a report yet that Eau Claire and the District will shrink.

### **3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **3.1 Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the upcoming School Board events calendar.

Dr. Hardebeck said several ECASD schools received recognition from the Wisconsin RTI Center in the areas of reading, mathematics, and behavior. Recognition is noted at the bronze, silver, gold, and platinum level depending on the

number of years of implementation and fidelity. Dr. Hardebeck acknowledged the recipients of the Silver Recognition which means the schools have had documented improvements for two consecutive years and have received training in Wisconsin RTI Framework as well as PBIS Tiers 1 & 2.

Recipients of the Silver recognition were:

- Sam Davey Elementary for behavior
- Lakeshore Elementary for behavior and reading
- Locust Lane Elementary for behavior
- Longfellow Elementary for behavior
- Manz Elementary for behavior, math, and reading
- Northwoods Elementary for behavior
- Putnam Heights Elementary for behavior
- Robbins Elementary for behavior
- Roosevelt Elementary for behavior
- Sherman Elementary for behavior

For the second consecutive year, ECASD Social Studies staff had the opportunity to receive professional development from UWEC Faculty. This has not only allowed our staff a unique PD opportunity, but it has allowed them to build relationships with UWEC faculty. Dr. Hardebeck thanked Dr. Paul Kaldjian who provided this year's keynote presentation, and Dr. April Bleske-Receck, Dr. Peter Hart-Brinson, Dr. Ezra Zeitler, Dr. Kris Knutson, and Dr. Tom Kemp who all gave presentations or participated on the discussion panel. She also thanked UWEC for this wonderful partnership.

### **3.2 Board President's Report**

President Torres said he had the opportunity last week to participate in a community event designed to bring attention to gun violence. It was important to stand in solidarity with families impacted by gun violence. He's appreciative for the opportunity to share those thoughts with the larger community.

Dr. Torres welcomed the Board's new student representatives, Morgan Priem and Johnny Xiong, to their first School Board meeting.

Morgan is a senior at Memorial and is an accomplished athlete as well as a member of several clubs. She is interested in the biological sciences and plans to pursue a career in biochemical/biomedical research. Johnny is a senior at North. He is on the varsity soccer team and choir and is hoping to serve as a voice for North student concerns. Dr. Torres said the Board is looking forward to the ideas and thoughts of Morgan and Johnny, and to learning about the happenings at their respective schools.

## **4. OTHER REPORTS**

### **4.1 School Board Committee Reports**

Budget Development Committee meets tomorrow and will discuss several issues including fund balance and compensation equity.

LEAP has a meeting tomorrow.

Policy & Governance met this morning and approved two policy drafts for full board consideration. Those will be brought forth at the September 23 Board meeting for discussion and possible first reading. They have other items in the works that are not yet ready for the full Board.

Demo & Trends met last week to approve minutes from their last meeting which was several months ago. There are issues of southside and 4K capacity but at the meeting the committee was asked to wait on any discussion until receiving further direction from the Board.

### **4.2 Legislative Update**

Commissioner Nordin said there is a bill which seeks to increase the legal age to purchase vaping and tobacco products from 18 to 21. This may help some high school vaping issues since 18 year old high schools would no longer be able to purchase products.

There are several bills regarding the Blue Ribbon Commission on Funding including one about equalizing the payment schedule for general aid (equal quarterly payments) as well as a bill to change the way 4K full-day students are counted for revenue purposes.

There are several potential mandates on the docket for schools this season which could be funded or unfunded but would be required including child sexual abuse training, feminine hygiene products in schools, cursive writing instruction in elementary schools, and more. Anyone interested in learning more or sharing input should please contact their state representatives.

## 5. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Charles Vue, to approve the following consent resolution items:

- Minutes of August 19, 2019
- Minutes of Closed Session - August 19, 2019
- Human Resources - Employment Report

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue, Tim Nordin

Commissioner Nordin requested that item 6.5 – Sale of Property be pulled from the Consent Resolution Agenda.

President Torres said over the last several weeks the School Board has been considering the sale of Little Red and several items helped to inform their decision to move forward with a vote. The first item was reports from the Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee (Demo & Trends) regarding where needs and growth is occurring in the District. Demo & Trends has identified greater needs coming from the south side of Eau Claire. The Board believes it needs to address and invest in that issue by either building a new school or making additions to existing facilities. The second item is the financial aspect of a sale. During discussions the Board considered that turning the value of the property into cash would put the District into a sounder financial situation which would be reflected in the fund balance. The funds would be designated for the needs related to growth, but the Board has not yet decided precisely how they will designate the funds. The third item informing deliberation is the purposes the property would serve. One of the offerings come from the Plumber and Steamfitter's Union which would create a training center; the Little Red facility would be appropriate for that project. The purpose of the building would continue to be connected to education but in this case vocational. Dr. Torres invited the Board to publicly consider the sale if a motion was made.

Joe Luginbill moved, second by Laurie Klinkhammer to accept the offers to purchase the former Little Red Elementary School and its surrounding acreage and grant authorization to Eric Torres, as Board President, and Laurie Klinkhammer, as Board Clerk, to sign any and all documents necessary to consummate the sales, including but not limited to Offers to Purchase, affidavits, settlement statements, and deeds.

The item was then on the table for discussion. Commissioner Luginbill mentioned Mr. Steinhauer's public comments regarding legal consideration and asked if there is a deed restriction in place on the property. Ms. Abby Johnson said the District's attorneys confirmed today with the title company there are no deed restrictions.

Commissioner Nordin stated that he's in disagreement with the other Board members who wish to sell Little Red. He has two major concerns. First, he is concerned about southside growth which he is aware of from his participation on the Demo & Trends Committee. He said the discussions they've had haven't convinced him the property isn't the right one for a new school or an expanded school. If the Board discussed more, it might be decided that it's not the right property, but he doesn't feel the burden of proof has been met. His second concern is that he's not convinced the value of the sale is more than the value of simple appreciation of real estate over time. He said there will be a positive impact to the fund balance, but when operating at a \$3-5M deficit each year, a onetime sale of \$650,000 doesn't convince him it is the right move. He might be convinced otherwise by more experienced and knowledgeable Board members. Commissioner Nordin thanked fellow Board members for the rich and thoughtful discussion and said the collaboration in closed session made it okay for them disagree and still work toward a common goal.

Commissioner Harder said he couldn't support the sale. There are lot of positives about the sale and he wouldn't be heartbroken to see the property sold, but he would like to see it done in an appropriate manner for the taxpayers. When there's a referendum likely in the future he would like to keep the community engaged. He suggested bringing the idea to Demo & Trends for commentary and to discuss where the sale fits into the District.

Commissioner Klinkhammer said she will support the motion and said there's been a lot of discussion about the topic. She appreciates the sale because it's going to an organization whose mission is education. The Board gives a lot of lip service to post-secondary readiness and this is a unique opportunity for the District to partner with an organization providing vocational education. She thinks it's a nice way to make a connection for our students that aren't necessarily college bound and thinks it's a positive for the District.

Commissioner Vue said this is a very difficult decision to be making due to the absence of information. Without information, the situation is forced. The decision doesn't necessarily reflect the best interest of the future but rather the best interest of the moment. He said the issue has been in the works for a long time, but it wasn't looked at closely until brought an offer to the table. Commissioner Vue said his decision is based on a budget deficit and the District holding onto Little Red when the future of the property is unknown. He shared an analogy of letting go of items in your home that haven't been used for a year or two because the items add more stress and block the opportunity for something else to grow. He questioned why something said to be so valuable to a community this big has only one small segment of the population raising their voices. The data in front of him makes sense to sell the property and help a District budget issue so he is compelled to vote yes.

Commissioner Bica shared that she feels she's received enough information from the Board's closed conversations to decide it's financially the right thing to do. The emotional piece is in the land. She's seen the land; it's a rich environmental resource which they all acknowledged and struggle with. The District is lucky to have rich environmental resources around many of our schools.

Commissioner Luginbill said he understands the emotions around Little Red because of the deep history. The nature of the Board's public work is difficult, and they must be private when there are negotiations and must determine value. It would be nice to play it out in public but it's not possible. He understands why people are frustrated. Commissioner Luginbill asked Commissioner Harder what he sees as the benefit of a conversation from Demo & Trends. Commissioner Harder said his hope would be that the committee could validate and articulate this decision; he would like to scenarios of holding on to and selling Little Red so the Board can say to the public how they came to the decision. Commissioner Harder said he's not looking to stop the deal and he's happy with many aspects of it. He would like to look at the numbers and have Demo & Trends help paint the picture.

Commissioner Luginbill said each Board member comes from different perspectives. Being on the Board since 2015, he recalls Little Red being discussed at that time on the periphery. He said it's always discussed with excitement, but nothing has taken flight and it's been over 10 years since the school closed. He said the Board is met with facts, figures, and reality now. He would like to see the District's direct involvement in Little Red, but it's been under District jurisdiction and sat vacant, not seeing or serving students. With union looking to partner directly with the District it will provide a valuable educational environment. The Board and District talk about college but should also talk about careers and trades which makes this union a good partner. Commissioner Luginbill said a community group previously put forth proposals for the site which haven't been supported by the Board for various reasons. He's excited they've partnered with a different district and while he's sad it's ECASD, he is happy for that group. He will say yes to giving Little Red a new chapter.

Commissioner Vue asked how the sale impacts the 5-year capital plan. Ms. Koller said Little Red isn't in the 5-year capital plan.

Commissioner Harder said he wants to be able to articulate the cost benefit of this sale. He wants to articulate more clearly than he can tonight, but said he missed some discussions while he was away. That is why he'll vote no.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

No: Aaron Harder, Tim Nordin

## **6. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE**

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 Roosevelt Facility Planning**

Ms. Koller presented an update on Roosevelt Facility Planning. She indicated that facility planning has a great deal of alignment to the strategic plan including student social and emotional growth, partnerships with families and communities, programming/achievement, and retaining high quality staff.

The Board previously inquired about a secure entrance at Roosevelt. It is estimated that a secure entrance would cost \$200,000 and it is not feasible to have the construction occur while children are present due to safety and impact on learning environment. Construction season for the District is approximately an 11-week window during the summer. If a secure entrance is going to be built during the summer of 2020 we must move forward quickly with the process. Designing and engineering needs to be finalized in the fall/early winter. Bidding and approval must occur in late winter/early spring. The bidding process can be challenging because there are a limited number of contractors who work on schools and the District has had to delay construction in the past when a contractor was not available. The District would want to bid early to ensure a contractor is so it is important to take the timeline into consideration.

Principal Dallman has been working closely with the District Safety and Security staff and the Eau Claire Police Department (ECPD) to develop a safety plan for Roosevelt in the absence of a secure entrance this year. They've re-evaluated the school visitor protocol and have shared the protocol with staff and families. All events open to families and the community will require an RSVP to ensure building staff know who to expect and who can be let in the building at that time. Mr. Dallman is emphasizing staff visibility at entrances and during arrival and departure. It's known that staff presence and relationships is a strong predictor of school safety. Classroom doors will remain closed and locked as is the standard for the District. Mr. Dallman is working to hire a full-time position to help with security and visitor protocol system. Families can expect the door will be monitored full time while children are present, and all visitors will be asked to identify themselves. Additionally, families must go to the office to meet children rather than going to the classroom to pick up their child. Roosevelt will be partnering with the Technology Department to maintain visibility in all parts of the schools. Some of the technology security features are funded through the Safety Grant and some will be outside of the funds of the Safety Grant.

Ms. Koller reminded the Board that the \$200,000 estimated for the secure entrance is part of a larger maintenance concern at Roosevelt. The total estimate in deferred maintenance costs is \$2.1M which also includes roofing, windows, paving, flooring, toilet rooms, fire alarm system, electrical upgrade, and additional small changes. It's important to keep in mind these needs for the school and remember at some point the Board will need to provide direction as to when and how to address the deferred maintenance.

Commissioner Luginbill thanked Ms. Koller for the presentation and said he wants to see a secure entrance as soon as possible. He asked if Ms. Koller needs the Board to vote at the next meeting to approve the expenditure or does it fit into the 5-year capital plan? Ms. Koller said the 5-year capital plan looks at District priorities and in other cases the Board has provided direction on how to assign funds. Ms. Koller said she would like input and direction from the Board. Commissioner Luginbill supports the construction of a secure entrance next summer and said he would like it to occur sooner but understands that cannot be done when students are present. He asked if the full-time position has been posted and wondered if it can be a police officer such as a School Resource Officer (SRO) or what kind of training would the person have? Ms. Koller said the position hasn't been filled but she anticipates it will be publicly posted to accept applications within a day or two. Regarding training, the ECPD is partnering with the District for training and there is training scheduled in September for all buildings. The District will provide additional training to the new staff member as well.

Commissioner Harder would also like to see the work done as quickly as possible. He asked if this is a similar process as the culinary bids last year and Ms. Koller said yes. Commissioner Harder asked if they've discussed having a liaison officer on the premises. Ms. Koller said it's been discussed but is not part of the job posting. She said our liaison officers have many duties and they will help train but that's not their only duty. Commissioner Harder asked if it is unique to add this position? Ms. Koller said Memorial, North and South each have a monitor and the liaison officers help train those staff members so this will be a similar model.

Commissioner Vue thanked Ms. Koller for asking for the Board's direction. He recalls working with Larry Sommerfeld on the Demographic Trends & Facility Planning Committee and Mr. Sommerfeld had brought up the idea of responding to the deferred maintenance list with the understanding that it could be redundant if the committee didn't look at the possibility of having a new Roosevelt entirely. It was only recently that a decision was made to keep Roosevelt the way it is so with that, he believes a secure entrance was highly recommended and that Ms. Koller has permission to proceed with that renovation which is long overdue.

Commissioner Bica said in terms of Board priorities, could there be a presentation on the fire alarm system at Roosevelt and for a draft plan for the rest of the renovations? Ms. Koller clarified that Commissioner Bica is asking for the plans for the entire \$2.1M in deferred items. Commissioner Bica said yes but with the secure entrance and fire alarm system as the priorities.

Commissioner Bica asked why the District is hiring a staff member instead of an SRO. Ms. Koller said the SRO's are officers with the ECPD who do much more than monitor entrances. Commissioner Bica said she is familiar with their many responsibilities. She asked if we could design a temporary SRO position for one year to serve the specific security needs of Roosevelt. Ms. Koller clarified that Commissioner Bica is asking Administration to inquire with the ECPD to see if an SRO could be provided for Roosevelt for the 19-20 school year and Commissioner Bica said yes. Ms. Koller said that having an SRO onsite means they could be called away for other emergencies in the city. Ms. Koller asked if Commissioner Bica is recommending an SRO in lieu of a monitor or in addition to. Commissioner Bica said she doesn't have enough information to know, she wants more information about all possibilities to make an informed decision.

Commissioner Klinkhammer asked if Roosevelt needs an SRO in addition to an appropriately hired and trained person. Commissioner Bica said she doesn't know but the reason she's asking is because SRO's could be preventative and she wonders about having one on site for the remainder of the school year.

Commissioner Luginbill asked what is Roosevelt lacking in terms of facilities and how can we make that up in people-power in the meantime? It might be a bit of both by having a full-time monitor and bit of increased coordination with an SRO. The monitor system has helped at the secondary level. He thinks having a constant person would be a great safeguard for Roosevelt and he hopes that this can be decided by the next meeting.

It was agreed the Board will vote on September 23 regarding the approval to build a secure entrance during the summer of 2020. Ms. Koller said if the District waits to post the position for a monitor while exploring the possibility of an SRO, the longer Roosevelt will have to wait to have that staff person in place. She asked the Board to allow Administration to work with the ECPD to create a plan as she can't speak for them regarding whether they can deploy an officer to Roosevelt for the year. President Torres said Administration has consensus from the Board and directed Administration to move forward with the posting of the position and bring forward the remainder of the plan at the September 23 meeting.

## 7.2 Summer School 2019 Report

Mr. Jim Schmitt presented an annual report regarding summer school. Summer school aligns to all aspects of the strategic plan.

Mr. Schmitt showed a graph indicating the total number of enrollments over the last few years and said this is the first year the District has collected data of individual students. There were 5,256 individual students enrolled during the summer of 2019 for a total of 8,749 course enrollments. The program lost one week with the end of the school year make-up days but some of the District's partners extended their programs which helped curb revenue loss which is anticipated to be approximately \$300,000 as the District lost 810 enrollments due to the missed week of summer school.

Next year's program will be a 9-week program by design. Meetings for next year's summer school will begin next week. The District is working to increase summer school enrollment and Mr. Schmitt believes there is a lot of room to grow.

Partnership Program enrollment has increased overall. There was one partnership that ended by mutual agreement, but the District is working to reinstate that partnership, which is with the L.E. Philips Memorial Public Library.

Some of the biggest initiatives in the last few years have been all-day programming and overnight programming. All-day programming helps families by eliminating the need for parents to transport children from location to location throughout the day. For example, the District provides meals and bussing to Boys and Girls Club. There is playground curriculum onsite at some elementary schools through Parks and Rec. Additionally there is all-day programming with Boys and Girls Club, Theatre Guild, Boy Scouts, Beaver Creek Reserve, and more. Many of these programs target students who do not come from an advantaged background to provide them with new and unique opportunities.

The number of staff hired for summer school has grown substantially. In particular the program can now assist with medication administration since hiring School Nurses, and there's been a dramatic increase in Special Education services available. The District's Special Education team reviews enrollments to ensure each student has the appropriate supports in place and can participate as fully as possible.

The Teaching & Learning Department continues to redesign the Summer School Planning Guide to make sure it is thorough and easy to use. Another enhancement has been early-bird in-person registration. Families are invited to a Summer School Fair at the District Office to learn about summer school opportunities and register early which saves them the stress of registering online at the same time as many others. The fair went well, and the team is working to improve the experience for families who attend.

Other improvements in 2019 included Title I bussing for DeLong and Northstar in addition to the elementary schools which were previously bussed, Parks & Rec and YMCA programming at all middle schools during the middle school session, a Junior Achievement food truck experience, cross country camp, and CVTC dual credit courses.

Families ranked the quality of summer school very high. On a 1-5 scale with 5 being the highest, 52% of families rated it a 5 and 38% rated it a 4.

Ms. Roxie Schmidt from the Boys & Girls Club was present and shared that she's seen the summer school program grow a great deal during the seven years she's worked for Boys and Girls Club. What began as an 8am-noon program with no transportation has become a full day program which includes transportation. The goal at Boys and Girls Club is to curb learning loss throughout the summer by hiring licensed teachers and providing outside experiences for students. Students are given the opportunity to learn in a more flexible environment. Boys and Girls Club sees itself as the hub and they collaborate with other community partners such as Beaver Creek, Theatre Guild, etc., to allow students the opportunity to go on field trips and return to the Boys and Girls Club. This year they had Special Education staff onsite for the first time so they could meet the needs of IEP's. Ms. Schmidt said their focus is aiding families. They have a high retention rate because families feel good about being at work and knowing their child is safe, learning, and having fun. Boys and Girls Club provides a summer camp feel while focusing on learning including service learning.

Mr. Schmitt said there were families who wanted to attend this evening and share their story but couldn't because of work and family commitments. Mr. Schmitt instead profiled a few families by showing what their children did during summer school and the bus routes. Mr. Schmitt said it's become clear that many families cannot participate without bussing, so bussing has become a priority.

Commissioner Harder thanked Mr. Schmitt and his team for the report and their work. He thinks summer learning loss is a big concern and is grateful they are working to minimize it. He asked if there is data about summer learning loss within the District? Mr. Schmitt said his team started an analysis last year but there were too many variables. This year they have the data to determine exactly which programs a child participated in, which means they can begin to analyze the data. They are waiting for fall screener data and will compare that with screener data from last spring.

Commissioner Nordin thanked Mr. Schmitt and his team and said his family are participants in summer school offerings. He enjoys looking through the Summer School Guide Planning Guide with his children. He said he heard from a Special Education teacher in the District that the increase in Special Education Assistant support this year was outstanding. He would like to see more creative opportunities for high school students. Mr. Schmitt said there is a huge team involved in planning summer school including Teaching & Learning staff, Buildings & Grounds, Food & Nutrition, Human Resources, and Special Education staff. They go through every detail of summer school in addition to their regular tasks with the goal of having summer school look as much like the regular school year as possible.

Commissioner Luginbill thanked Mr. Schmitt for the presentation and said it is great how the program has ballooned. He thanked Ms. Schmidt for staying through the Board meeting to speak at the end as it was very meaningful to hear from her on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club.

Commissioner Harder asked if there's anything the Board can do to help with the issue of staffing. Mr. Schmitt said the more staff help to design and create the summer school courses, the more they help by working summer school, but the overall problem is not enough teachers. To lead a summer school class, one must be a licensed teacher and it is a time when staff are trying to get away and rejuvenate. However, summer school is a very different way to experience students and can be very rewarding.

Dr. Torres thanked Mr. Schmitt and Ms. Schmidt for their leadership and dedication and the quality of their work.

## **8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

### **8.1 Requests for Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Harder asked to discuss the glitch group/compensation equity. They'll revisit the topic at Budget Development with the hope to bring forward some thoughts to the Board for consideration soon.

## **9. ADJOURN**

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Tim Nordin, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Lori Bica, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue, Tim Nordin

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.