

Eau Claire School Board Minutes

Monday, September 23, 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 Lakeshore Elementary students Isaac J and Erik J, President Eric Torres called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Board Secretary Meta Miske confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Ben Holmen is a Roosevelt parent. He asked the Board to vote in favor of moving forward with the planning of a secure entrance at Roosevelt. Mr. Holmen expressed concern about the plan to hire a full-time Door Monitor as he doesn't believe it will provide equitable security or deter acts of violence. He would like there to be a more robust security plan and said a dedicated resource officer will show the District is taking the issue seriously.

3. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the upcoming School Board events calendar.

Last week there were 21 ECASD students who celebrated Signing Day of the Business Management program at CVTC. The students are freshman and sophomores and can earn an associate degree in Business Management while still in high school. Students do not pay tuition to be part of the program and will earn transferable college credits. The graduates in 2023 could finish their bachelor's degree in as little as 2 additional years after high school. We are looking forward to the success these students will have.

Last week Dr. Hardebeck attended part of the Fall Superintendent's Conference. They reviewed a variety of topics including school mental health, ESSA reporting, Educator Effectiveness, career readiness, and the difficulty of recruiting and retaining teachers locally and nationally.

Dr. Hardebeck met with Eau Claire Police Department Chief Staniszewski about the concerns for Roosevelt's security. He assured Dr. Hardebeck he will discuss the situation with his staff and evaluate the resources the ECPD can give to Roosevelt. They also discussed things they can do immediately to increase safety and security with staff and families. Dr. Hardebeck and Chief Staniszewski will reconnect once he has met with his staff.

3.2 Board President's Report

Yesterday Dr. Hardebeck and Dr. Torres attended a celebration of the German American Partnership Program which is celebrating 25 years of efforts to connect students from ECASD with students in Germany. The program's leader this year is Sara Heitzinger-Poss who shared with Dr. Torres how exciting and important a project this is as it demonstrates a unique opportunity for students to develop intercultural relations.

Dr. Torres said the ECASD Board of Education will conduct a national search for the ECASD's next superintendent. The Board has appointed Dr. Lori Bica as chair of the Search Committee. The first stage will be gathering information from the ECASD staff and community to assist in developing a superintendent profile which will be used to advertise the position. They will gather input from meetings with staff and public forums with families and other community members. There will also be an online survey. The Board expects to finalize the profile and begin active recruitment around November with an application deadline of early January and an expectation to have a decision in late April. The Board invites everyone to provide input.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Morgan Priem said this week the Memorial student council is scheduling participants for their annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Last Friday many students participated in a walk-out to have congress to declare a climate crisis. Last week there was a possible gun threat at Memorial; fortunately, students saw the threat on social media and police reacted. Ms. Priem shared the recent successes of many of Memorial's athletic teams. Auditions and role selections have taken place for this year's school play, "Shrek." This week is also homecoming which includes a football game, parade, dance, and theme days with this year's theme being "Decades."

Johnny Xiong from North High School was absent.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 School Board Committee Reports

Learning Environments and Partnerships (LEAP) met last Tuesday but didn't have a quorum. They discussed the committee's membership which was impacted by staff resignations. They will work on recruiting new teachers and staggering terms of members to lessen the impact of turnover in membership. Andy Brown attended as the EauZone representative along with all three middle school principals. The EauZone team has asked LEAP to put the proposal on hold for now due to ongoing work they'd like to complete and to allow LEAP to fine-tune the process the LEAP Zone process.

Budget Development Committee (BDC) will meet tomorrow to discuss the timeline for committee work this year and proposed timeline for the full Board to consider which will include revenue and cost savings ideas.

Demographic Trends and Facility Planning Committee (Demo & Trends) is awaiting its next assignment.

Policy and Governance Committee (P&G) met today. They approved a revision to the Concussion and Injury Management policy which will move forward to the Board for a first reading at the next Board meeting. They spent some time working on a resolution related to renewable energy and more environmentally friendly operations. The Buildings & Grounds Department will be asked to assist with drafting the resolution. They also discussed a policy to provide guidance on how to handle the fund balance. P&G would like a Work Session in order to discuss fund balance and spending with BDC.

5.2 Legislative Update

The Blue Ribbon Commission is working to change the funding of 4K students. Recently, additional bills have been introduced as companion bills. Research shows that 4K is the most important intervention students can receive and the District should anticipate moving to full day 4K site. Demo & Trends is ready to tackle the issues that would come along with full day 4K. Proficiency scores in reading and math have seen a slight decline. Legislators are reacting and discussing. Please reach out to your legislator and ask them to support ECASD and public schools.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Aaron Harder, to approve the following consent resolution items:

- Minutes of September 9, 2019
- Minutes of Closed Session - September 9, 2019
- 2018-19 Budget Adjustments
- Gifts in the amount of \$18,274.03 for the period of August 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019.
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$5,707,107.88 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,210,166.63 for the period of August 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019.
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Secure Entrance at Roosevelt

Motion carried

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

6. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Discussion and Possible First Reading of revisions to Policy 751.5 - Student Transportation in Private Vehicles

Commissioner Klinkhammer read the revisions. A typo was noted in the spelling of the word "alcohol." The typo will be corrected, and the policy brought forward as a consent resolution item at the next regular meeting.

7.2 Discussion and Possible First Reading of proposed Policy 675 - Construction Contracts

Commissioner Luginbill read the proposed policy. A typo was noted in the third paragraph in the spelling of the word "format." The typo will be corrected, and the policy brought forward as a consent resolution item at the next regular meeting.

7.3 Budget Update

Dr. Hardebeck said the District's goal has been to align spending to the Strategic Plan, to strengthen the fund balance, and to "live within our means" with a mutual goal of having a financially healthy district. While there are decisions left to be made, we are in a position to project a balanced budget.

Ms. Johnson talked through the slideshow presentation. She shared information about the tax levy for the 19-20 year as of today which is projected at \$0.6 higher than last year; on a \$150,000 home that is a \$9 increase to the taxpayer which helps the District. The debt service will look different in a few years as some debts are eliminated. The District is projecting \$1.4M more in spending in the budget for 19-20 versus 18-19. Spending will decrease in contracted service, supplies, and capital but will increase in salary and fringe, insurance, SPED Fund 27, debt, dues, and other fees.

The District is budgeting for approximately 10 more FTE than last year. Once the 3rd Friday count is certified, the District may need to add staff in areas not meeting targeted class sizes. The District is projecting to spend less in contracted services for Professional Development, open enrollment, and utilities, but more in transportation, software, and subs. The District also projects to spend more in general supplies, apparel, and equipment greater than \$5,000 but less in non-capital technology, non-capital hardware, and other supplies. The approval of leasing the iPads and laptops helped

decrease that budget area.

New and replacement equipment costs may increase because of previously deferred maintenance costs, but overall building and site improvements are likely to cost less. Insurance for liability, property, and other insurance will increase but worker's comp is expected to decrease over \$38,000 which is assisted by the District's Trifecta plan which works to help injured employees get healthy and back to work more quickly. Dues and fees will be decreasing, debt will be slightly higher due to the capital lease, but they nearly balance out.

Ms. Johnson said the District is expecting more revenue from local sources, State, Special Education, other revenue, and the sale of the Little Red property. The District is expecting a decrease in revenue from inter-districts within WI, intermediate sources, and federal sources. Overall, the District is projecting a \$4.8M increase in revenue.

Last year the Board adopted a budget with a nearly \$3.2M deficit and this year the District could project a \$230,000 surplus, which includes the sale of Little Red. However, there are some items not currently included in the budget which will need Board direction including: band instruments, band uniforms, school equipment lists, a request from the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, additional staffing (to be determined based on the 3rd Friday count), computer equipment, iPads for Art Teachers, B&G equipment lists, and a contribution to the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation. Ms. Johnson said several aids must be finalized before the budget can be approved at the end of October.

Dr. Torres thanked Ms. Johnson for her report and said decisions made earlier have put the District in a better position now including contracted services, how supplies are purchased, filling FTE's with substitutes instead of permanent hires, workers compensation, and using a line of credit instead of borrowing. He thanked Ms. Johnson and Dr. Hardebeck for their consistent work in being fiscally responsible.

Commissioner Vue asked Ms. Johnson if she has been thinking about how to include any of the items in the list which aren't included in the budget and which ones it would be best to stop deferring. Ms. Johnson said she'd need to discuss with her colleagues to determine which of those items take priority. She said band instruments are important because the District made a commitment that hasn't be fulfilled. She said there will always been needs and there will be needs that haven't been identified yet so prioritizing can be a challenge. Dr. Hardebeck said the most pressing need will be in staffing; if it's found through the 3rd Friday count that additional staff is needed, that

will be the recommendation. Most of the things on the list have been talked about before, have been deferred in the past, and may need to be deferred again. It will all come down to choices if the District ends up with a surplus as is currently projected.

Commissioner Nordin asked if the Board just spent the surplus by approving the Roosevelt secure entrance. Ms. Johnson said no, the Roosevelt secure entrance is part of the 5-year capital plan.

Commissioner Nordin said without the sale of Little Red there would not be a surplus, and the technology leases will increase next year and will need to be part of a future budget. He said it's great that this year projects a balanced budget but asked if there are there other "one-time" items involved in the budget that the Board should consider so as not to negatively impact a future budget. Ms. Johnson could not think of other "one-time" items.

Commissioner Bica said as the Board Representative of the Eau Claire Public Schools Foundation, the ECPSF is still accepting grant applications but the deadline is approaching, and she would encourage teachers to apply for grants.

Commissioner Harder thanked Ms. Johnson for the report and finding a balanced budget. He views it as the work of Budget Development Committee to determine how the list of items not included in the budget fit into the budget and allow the full Board use their time on other things.

Dr. Hardebeck reminded the Board of the unpredictability of school funding in Wisconsin. It's challenging to create a budget because it's unknown what next year will bring. It's challenging for the staff and Board to do long-range planning.

7.4 Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention Discussion

Mr. Jim Schmitt said the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention has asked Budget Development Committee for funding, and Budget Development Committee wanted input from the full Board.

Dr. Kaying Xiong shared information about the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention. The Alliance was originally grant funded and has several partners. The Alliance hires a full-time prevention specialist to coordinate and lead presentations throughout the county, help the SADD chapter at each high school by training the SADD advisor each year, and more.

The federal grant expires at the end of September and if they do not secure

another source of funding, Eau Claire County may lose this position. The Alliance is asking ECASD for funding of \$22,600 which equates to \$2/student. There are several other organizations and districts being asked to contribute as well but ECASD would be one of the largest contributors.

Commissioner Luginbill said as a Board Member representative on the Alliance, the work they do is crucial. There is no other AODA prevention program in Eau Claire County working with youth. The grant is a 5-year grant which is very difficult to receive, and the Alliance has received it twice which is the maximum allowed. He said the Alliance provides ECASD with data to drive evidence-based decision making around substance abuse challenges that youth and families are facing. He thinks it's worth the ECASD's investment this year.

Commissioner Klinkhammer asked if the Alliance can reapply for the grant if they go for a time without receiving it. Luginbill said it cannot be the same entity (fiscal agency) that applies for the grant. The current fiscal agency is the Eau Claire County Health Department. However, another fiscal agency may be able to apply for the grant in the future.

Commissioner Klinkhammer asked if the Alliance has a long-term plan for funding and if the funds simply provide a salary for the coordinator? Is there something similar that the District supports that would set a precedent or is it new to support a coordinator in another entity? Mr. Schmitt answered that the 0.1FTE the District receives through this grant costs about \$10,000. The funding also pays for some supplies and other items with Eau Claire County. He couldn't recall a time when we've been asked for funding to support a salary. Commissioner Harder said the closest thing he could think of would be the salary for the ECPSF Executive Director.

Commissioner Harder asked how the \$2/student equation came to be. Commissioner Luginbill said sustainability has been a topic of conversation for a long time and the Alliance is looking for institutional support from their partners as well as other grant opportunities down the road. He suggested that in terms of a precedent it may be similar to the relationship the District has with School Resource Officers because there's a percentage the District pays, but the Eau Claire Police Department pays some as well and SRO's are still officers of the ECPD. Mr. Schmitt said another example could be CESA as it's a centralized agent offering services to many and ECASD pays to participate.

Mr. Vue asked if the ECASD's decision influences other entities on the list? What happens if one entity doesn't come through and pay? Ms. Denise Wirth from Eau Claire County came from the audience to respond. She said all

other school districts in Eau Claire County have agreed to commit money to the model which will focus on prevention in youth. ECASD is being asked to give more money because ECASD serves the bulk of the youth in the county. She said drugs don't go away just because they had a grant for 10 years and the community is being asked to give a little bit so they can make a difference.

Commissioner Bica asked if this will be the funding model going forward. Ms. Wirth said this is the model right now. They will keep looking for grants, but this new model will help sustain the Alliance. Commissioner Bica asked about adding more entities to the list of supporting partners. Ms. Wirth said the list isn't all-inclusive and they are asking other agencies for money.

Commissioner Bica asked if they could ask others for more and school districts for less in the future. Ms. Wirth said yes, potentially that could happen. Eau Claire County has committed \$40,000 annually to the Alliance and the Health Department has committed some funding as well. They've committed to go into their fund balance to start if needed. She said the municipalities and health care institutions have not yet been asked but will be asked to contribute.

President Torres said this is a public health issue, and asked what is the health department doing on its own for substance abuse prevention? Ms. Wirth said one would think that taxes pay for the health department to focus on youth drug prevention, but that hasn't happened. Until now, the only way the county has been able to provide youth drug prevention services has been through this grant. President Torres said the District doesn't have the bulk of the youth alone as the health department has all the youth.

President Torres asked what the deadline is for funding. Ms. Wirth said as of September 30 they have no funding. Their Board will go utilize fund balance until they obtain funding from other agencies.

8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Luginbill requested to add the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention funding request for consideration.

9. ADJOURN

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Aaron Harder, 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 8:34pm.

