

**Eau Claire School Board**  
**Monday, February 18, 2019**

*Generated by Patti Iverson*

**Members present**

Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

**1. REGULAR MEETING - CALL TO ORDER**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Luginbill called the meeting to order at 7 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**

Greg Niemuth complimented the buildings and grounds crew for dealing with the adverse weather in recent weeks. He said these employees are often the first to be affected by budget cuts and he asked that their hard work be remembered during budget discussions. Mr. Niemuth also said that with the excessive school cancellations, there are many students who are missing meals at school. He added that the effect on homeless students is especially difficult. He asked District leadership to consider ways to lessen the impact of missed meals on students. He said the District must address the psychological as well as intellectual needs of students and to keep that in mind when prioritizing budget needs.

Kristin Nelson spoke about the recommendation to repurpose Roosevelt and open a 4K facility. She felt that adding an optional 4K program would be misguided. She asked if other options had been considered such as having grades K-3 at Roosevelt and grades 4-5 at another site. She also asked if redrawing boundaries across the whole District has been explored. She looked at building capacities as well. Ms. Nelson wondered if ECASD has researched how other districts have handled similar situations without having the \$18 million price tag. She feels we should invest in public schools but to maximize what we have and ask for what we need.

Ben Holman felt the Demographic Trends Committee had the idea to close Roosevelt to solve the northside under capacity issues and then use the money to solve the southside issues. He asked the Board to focus on preserving neighborhood schools and not looking at which high school students will go to. This could build a culture of 'this is my elementary school' that would then carry up through high school to bring the District together as one. He asked the Board to consider an option to evaluate elementary boundaries on a District-wide basis rather than a North/Memorial basis.

Educator Melissa Greer disagreed with the option to use Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, as an inclement weather make-up day. She felt attendance would be low and that parents would have very short notice to make changes. In addition, this has been a scheduled day off for staff who have made plans for trips and for medical

appointments. She has talked to colleagues about creative solutions including shortening pass times, adding minutes to the beginning or end of days, and turning professional development days into student contact days. She suggested the Board look at a hybrid plan to use some PD/IP days as student contact days as well as lengthening the school day. She felt that sticking to the published calendar would be the least destructive to students, families, and staff.

Matthew Holtz is a student at North, and he felt it would be in the best interest of students to lengthen the school day rather than adding days to the end of the school year. Students who are taking AP classes will get no benefit from adding on to the end of the school year. The AP test dates do not change. Students need the time to learn more and be better prepared for their AP exams. After the tests are taken, students don't learn any new materials.

Denise Ralston is the head cook at DeLong. She is concerned about using February 25, 2019 as a make-up day. Food service staff are required to be certified so they can safely handle food and prepare food that students enjoy. The training is scheduled for February 25. There would not be enough substitutes to cover the absences for food service workers. She asked the Board to consider adding instructional days as well as adding minutes to each day.

Mark Goings said he has not heard concerns about using February 25, 2019 as a make-up day for inclement weather. However, many staff had issues with using February 22 as a make-up day as plans had already been made since it was a day off for staff.

Kelly Hendrickson is a Roosevelt parent and PTA President. She said the Roosevelt area has seen tremendous growth in a short amount of time, and more developments are being planned. She shared information with the Board on proposed developments. She was concerned about the District's desire to fill all open seats knowing that the area is growing.

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

#### **A. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the upcoming calendar of School Board events. She said that any Board members interested in attending the Chamber's Chippewa Valley Rally to Madison to connect with legislators, should contact Patti Iverson to get registered.

Board members received a copy of the new 2019 Summer School Program Guide, which will be sent to all families soon. Registration begins March 1, 2019. She noted there are many more offerings this summer.

Dr. Hardebeck thanked the Buildings and Grounds team for their help during recent snow events. She said there are many other people who work behind the scenes including administrators and "critical employees" who send out messages to

families and staff and make sure campuses are prepared if students show up. She said these staff members come to work on snow days and she thanked them for their efforts. Dr. Hardebeck said she appreciates the understanding and patience as the Districts deals with the unprecedented winter weather.

## **B. Board President's Report**

President Luginbill thanked local readers of *Volume One* who voted for him as favorite local elected official in the Best of the Chippewa Valley poll. He said that more importantly, he wanted to raise awareness of other winning categories. In the category of 'Best Use of Taxpayer Dollars,' public education ranked number one, and in the category of 'Most Underrated Thing about the Chippewa Valley,' teachers were voted number one on the list.

Mr. Luginbill brought a *Leader Telegram* article to the Board's attention entitled, "Vaccine Exemptions Concern Local Health Officials Amid Measles Outbreak." He said it is a very important public health issue, and he was appreciative that our public health agencies and others are raising awareness about this topic.

Mr. Luginbill reminded community members that there are four more listening session dates scheduled regarding elementary school boundaries and 4K needs. The next session will be held on Tuesday March 5th at 4:30 p.m. at South Middle School. There is an information page on the District website that includes the history, options, a timeline, charts about enrollment and growth, and a responsive FAQ document. The format of the listening sessions begins with an overview of information and background details, then goes in to opportunities for feedback at the tables, and then to the whole group. Board members will receive the written note comments as well as minutes from each session. All sessions are being recorded and available for playback on the website. Mr. Luginbill thanked Kim Koller and her assistant Karen Larson for their work in leading the listening sessions and keeping them running smoothly.

Mr. Luginbill reminded Board Members to take the self-evaluation survey.

The Chamber of Commerce will hold the Chippewa Valley Rally. Mr. Luginbill will be attending. He said he was very appreciative that the Chamber included public education as a major component of their advocacy day. Anyone interested in attending should contact Patti Iverson.

## **4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

### **A. Student Representative Report**

Molly Green said that students signed up for courses for next year with the assistance of guidance counselors. Seniors are beginning to finalize their post-graduation plans. With the bad weather, many classes (especially AP classes) are scrambling to catch up. Juniors are preparing to take ACT tests.

Gwen Heywood said spring code signing took place. She also noted that with all of the weather cancellations, students in AP classes are concerned about receiving enough instruction before the exams.

## **5. OTHER REPORTS**

### **A. School Board Committee Reports**

The Policy & Governance Committee met and are bringing Policy 453.12 forward for discussion and a possible first reading tonight. The committee will continue to discuss the exhibit for the facility fee schedules as well as the advertising policy.

### **B. Legislative Update**

Mr. Torres said the District is a member of the Wisconsin Public Education Network (WPEN) and are engaging other organizations to help citizens develop skills to tell their own stories and advocate for greater funding for public education. The next training session will take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> if anyone wants to take advantage of the opportunity.

## **6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA**

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Charles Vue, to approve the following Consent Resolution Agenda Items:

- Minutes of January 21, 2019
- Minutes of Closed Session - January 7, 2019
- Minutes of Closed Session - January 9, 2019
- Minutes of Closed Session - January 29, 2019
- Minutes of February 8, 2019
- Financial Report - January 2019
- 2018-2019 Budget Adjustments
- Gifts in the amount of \$ 71,322.19 for the period of January 1, 2019 through January 31, 2019.
- Payment of all bills in the amount of \$5,312,532.06 and net payroll in the amount of \$3,500,515.27 for the period of January 1, 2019 through January 31, 2019.
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Five-Year Capital Project Bids
- Referendum Bid Awards for Locust Lane & Northwoods Elementary Schools
- Disallow Insurance Claim

Motion carried

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

## **7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)**

### **A. Proposal for Inclement Weather Make-Up Days**

Dr. Hardebeck shared a presentation with three options to allow the District to make up instructional time lost due to inclement weather days. To date, schools have been closed seven full days and there were two two-hour delays. The calendar has five days built in for inclement make-up days. Four of those days are built in by adding minutes to the day, the fifth day (April 22, 2019) was included as a possible inclement weather day, which will now be used.

Dr. Hardebeck shared four options for making up this missed instructional time:

- Option 1 would re-purpose non-student days within the current school year calendar to become instructional days, which avoids additional transportation costs.
- Option 2 would add 17 minutes to each instructional day between March 1 and June 6, which increases transportation costs by \$79,452 and hourly staff overtime could range between \$90,000 and \$180,000.
- Option 3 would add 30 minutes to each instructional day between March 1 and June 6, which increases transportation costs by \$79,452 and hourly staff overtime could range between \$90,000 and \$180,000.
- Option 4 would maintain the current instructional calendar and extend the school year beyond June 6, which avoids additional transportation costs.

Dr. Hardebeck reviewed the benefits and challenges of each option and shared feedback that has been received from families and community members as well. She added that other feedback received included the possibility of a hybrid plan where some days are made up and minutes are added, making up hours with e-courses or units, and having the Governor forgive the days missed during the State of Emergency.

Board members discussed the options at length noting there were no ideal options that would work for everyone. There were other options suggested such as utilizing Memorial Day, Saturdays, and cancelling family/teacher conferences for elementary and middle school students on February 21, 2019 and holding classes that day.

Dr. Hardebeck noted that high school students will still need to make up one additional day. It was suggested that administration work to come up with a proposal to add minutes to the day. There would be costs associated with that because bus routes would need to be adjusted.

There was discussion about the possibility of using April 19, 2019 as a make-up day. Dr. Hardebeck said that state statutes dictate that classes cannot be in session between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Good Friday.

Dr. Hardebeck reminded the Board that if there are any more inclement weather days, administration will be back with another proposal to make up those days.

Motion by Eric D Torres, second by Charles Vue, to approve holding classes on February 21, 2019 as an inclement weather make-up day rather than holding K-8 parent-teacher conferences.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

No: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Eric D Torres, to approve scheduling classes on February 25, 2019 as an inclement weather make-up day.

Motion carried

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

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Laurie Klinkhammer, to approve holding classes on June 7, 2019 as an inclement weather make-up day and to keep June 7, 2019 as the last day for staff.

Motion carried

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

No: Chris Hambuch-Boyle

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to direct administration to come up with a plan to make up one day of instruction at the high school level using noninstructional minutes.

Motion carried

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

## **B. Petitioner David and Sarah Seanor's Request to Alter School District Boundaries**

Kim Koller explained that a clerical error at the county was discovered in 2018. The correction went into effect on January 1, 2019. When the county realized the error, it was determined that several homes had been assigned to the wrong school districts for decades. Ms. Koller said that each of the petitioners were asking the Board to have their homes reassigned to the school district they believed they were part of for the past 40-50 years.

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Charles Vue, to suspend the rules to take public comment.

Motion carried

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

David and Sarah Seanor were not present.

Motion by Aaron Harder, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to approve the motion to detach the property of David and Sarah Seanor from the Elk Mound School District to the Eau Claire Area School District.

Motion carried

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

### **C. Petitioners Ralph and Donna Shager's Request to Alter School District Boundaries**

Ralph and Donna Shager were not present.

Motion by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, second by Aaron Harder, to approve the motion to detach the property of Ralph and Donna Shager from the Elk Mound School District to the Eau Claire Area School District.

Motion carried.

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

### **D. Petitioners Brent and Kacey Carpenter Request to Alter School District Boundaries**

Brent and Kacey Carpenter said that have three sons; one has graduated from Elk Mound and they have two younger children who are not yet school age. They said they wanted to stay in the Elk Mound School District and asked the School Board to approve their petition to detach their property from ECASD to the Elk Mound School District.

Motion by Laurie Klinkhammer, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to approve the motion to detach the property of Brent and Kacey Carpenter from the Eau Claire Area School District to the Elk Mound School District.

Motion carried

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

## **E. Petitioners Michael and Jane Endl Request to Alter School District Boundaries**

Michael and Jane Endl said they built their house 33 years ago with the understanding that it was in the Elk Mound School District. They said they wanted to stay in the Elk Mound School District and asked the School Board to approve their petition to detach their property from ECASD to the Elk Mound School District.

Some Board members were concerned about the loss of property taxes if the property was detached from ECASD given the current state of school funding.

Motion by Eric D Torres, second by Charles Vue, to approve the motion to detach the property of Michael and Jane Endl from the Eau Claire Area School District to the Elk Mound School District.

Motion carried

Yes: Aaron Harder, Laurie Klinkhammer, Joe Luginbill, Eric D Torres, Charles Vue

No: Lori Bica, Chris Hambuch-Boyle

## **8. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE**

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

### **A. Potential ECASD Virtual Charter School**

Dave Oldenberg, Director of Academic Services, said that the state defines a virtual charter school as a specific form of online learning. It is the only form of online learning which allows an open enrolled pupil to participate remotely, that is, without having to physically attend school in the nonresident school district during all the days and hours that school is in session. Board Policy 331 addresses the creation of charter schools as an alternative educational approach that enhances the educational opportunities for its diverse student body.

In the summer of 2018 some Board and Executive Team members began discussing a proposal to explore a virtual charter school for 2019-20. In the fall, initial research was conducted and an advisory formed, and in the winter a potential governance board formed and began the charter contracting process.

Drew Seveland, Academic Services Coordinator, shared the makeup of the Advisory. He said the group looked at research of existing Wisconsin virtual schools. That showed that there have been two consistent struggles for these schools: mathematics achievement and graduation rates.

Possible models being looked at include:

- ECASD teachers lead instruction, providing virtual and hands-on activities to students and caretakers.



- ECASD contracts with virtual education provider equipped with Wisconsin licensed teachers to provide virtual instruction.
- Combine or complement above models by community learning experiences. There is no significant cost difference between these models.

Mr. Seveland said that many districts start with a provider and then add in existing teachers where they have opportunities to do so.

A potential Governance Board has been established. That board is in the process of establishment through articles of incorporation, by-laws, 501 (c)(3) status, and officers. This potential Governance Board is also reviewing a charter contract to submit to Eau Claire School Board for approval.

In determining a budget for the virtual charter school, there are many factors to consider. The costs would be highly dependent on student enrollment. The costs per pupil for enrollment of 10, 25, 50 and 100 students were shared. It was noted that the costs per pupil for over 100 students would not change significantly from the cost of 100 students. With enrollment of 100 students, it was estimated that the cost per pupil would be \$5,425.

In terms of revenue, a newly enrolling student who already resides in the ECASD boundaries (homeschool students) would be \$9,835 per pupil; a student open enrolling from outside ECASD would be \$7,379 per pupil; and a student currently enrolled in ECASD would provide no revenue. As a point of reference, there are currently 239 students residing in the ECASD that are homeschooled. Several possible scenarios were shared that looked at the budgetary impact of students enrolling in the virtual charter school given the three different types of students who would enroll.

Potential families will be surveyed, and those results will be shared with the Board. This data of local homeschool or virtual school families will be helpful for budget projections and to gauge community interest in the offering. The results should also help adopt programming which will best meet the needs of our local homeschool families.

The Board asked questions about gathering more information such as potential for marketing and reaching out to families the District wants to serve; potential impact on student count; models for consideration; fitting this request in with other priorities including Dual Immersion, INDE, LEAP; possible grant money for future years; staffing costs; alignment to the Strategic Plan to prepare all students for post-secondary success; and whether this is the best tool to utilize.

A potential timeline was shared with the Board. It would come back to the Board on April 1, 2019 for approval.

Dr. Hardebeck said the Board would have flexibility in terms of starting small, using

a pilot program, utilizing online materials, etc., and see what works best and what the benefits are.

Mr. Seveland said the more responsive the District can be to families it serves by giving them a voice, they will feel valued in the process and help make it successful for them. Students who are currently being homeschooled would likely be the group to target so those partnerships that Mr. Seveland has been working on with them are valuable.

Mr. Oldenberg said that Drew Seveland has done a great job working on this project and has made many personal connections to engage with people outside ECASD.

### **B. Timeline for Employee Engagement Plan and Further OPEB/Budgetary Study**

### **C. Discussion and Possible First Reading of New Policy 453.12 - Concussion and Brain Injury Management**

Aaron Harder moved, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to postpone Committee Reports 9B and 9D to March 4, 2019.

Motion carried

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

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

Chris Hambuch-Boyle asked to get an update from INDE at a future Board meeting.

## **11. ADJOURN**

Motion by Charles Vue, second by Chris Hambuch-Boyle, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.