

Eau Claire Board of Education

Monday, August 1, 2016

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Members present

Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, and Charles Vue

Member absent

Aaron Harder

1. WORK SESSION

1.1 Referendum Planning

President Hambuch-Boyle called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Mary Ann Hardebeck said that the District is facing the need for a referendum because increasing costs cannot keep pace with the revenue caps the state is under since revenue limits were imposed in 1993. Eau Claire is the eighth largest school district in the state and ranks 272 out of 424 school districts in spending. Eau Claire spends \$357 per student below the state average. If it had spent at the state average, the District would have \$4 million more in revenue.

Abby Johnson, Acting Director of Business Services, shared information that administration gathered to help the Board make a decision about what to include in a possible referendum.

Costs for potential referendum items included:

Maintaining the District's class size policy Elementary targeted class sizes: Grades K-3 (25 students) Grades 4-5 (29 students) Secondary in core areas (22-25 students)	\$ 2,160,000
Granting another level for all employees on the new salary schedule to keep and attract a highly qualified staff	\$ 1,200,000
Safety and Security (including ADA compliance, fire alarms, secure entrances, PA system)	\$ 6,649,723
Deferred Building Maintenance	\$21,535,261
Technology Infrastructure & Maintenance	\$ 4,674,967
Projected Deficit for 2016-17	\$ 3,900,000
Transition to new Compensation Schedule	\$ 3,500,000
Roosevelt Elementary Upgrade	\$19,000,000
South Middle School Upgrade	\$28,000,000

Ms. Johnson shared the projected annual impact on the taxpayers of a \$100,000, \$200,000, and \$300,000 home at various levels of support.

The Board discussed having one question that encompasses everything; having one question that addresses deferred maintenance projects and operating needs; having a debt question for deferred maintenance, South, Roosevelt, and McKinley; or having a debt question for only South and Roosevelt. Examples of the types of questions were also shared including recurring operational, non-recurring operational, non-recurring operational with debt issuance or strictly a debt question. Various cost options were shared as well as an option table for debt questions and mill rate impact. Administration recommended spreading the debt out over 15 years and that is what Robert W. Baird computed costs for.

A document that showed what schools would be affected if the Board approved various options was also shared.

Larry Sommerfeld, Director of Buildings and Grounds, talked about the projections made for Roosevelt and South noting that drawings have been developed for both projects. The Demographic Trends & Facilities Planning Committee will review these preliminary results.

Ms. Johnson explained that the District's debt will drop in 2020-21 and the rest of the debt will be paid off in 2031. This could serve the District well in planning for major capital projects. Should the Board decide to delay the projects for South and Roosevelt, the community should know that the Board plans to move forward with those projects at a time when the debt drops off.

Board members contemplated the differences between a 90 cent and 95 cent mill rate increase.

The Board took a short recess.

2. REGULAR MEETING

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Hambuch-Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed and was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

James Karker, co-president of the Memorial High School choir boosters, said that the boosters have contributed to allow Old Abe Show Choir students to participate in the annual vocal and choreography camps. He noted that show choir leadership is not offered an increment. He felt it was essential that the Board continue offering resources to the music programs, and added that the Boosters would work with administration to find creative solutions and promote valuable educational opportunities.

Tammy Schmitz shared an update about the Invent Now program that was held at Putnam Heights. She said it was a huge success and shared stories from parents whose kids participated. She presented a plaque of appreciation to Abby Johnson and the Board.

4. BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck shared a list of upcoming Board events.

Dr. Hardebeck said there was a large delegation that met with groups from around the region to give input on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The group was also asked to give input on other indicators that DPI is considering such as student and employee engagement, access to advanced level work, and school climate and safety.

4.2 Board President's Report

President Hambuch-Boyle shared the following information:

- On July 19th she attended a session presented by Tony Evers on Academic Career Planning. This session was a collaboration between education and business in Eau Claire.
- Support Our Eau Claire Public Schools will meet on August 11th at 7 p.m. at Lazy Monk.
- The "Road to Referendum" documentary is going well and the generosity site has been created to raise money for the project.
- She and Kay Marks attended a meeting about "stay interviews" as opposed to exit interviews. A "stay interview" is a process outside of supervision and Educator Effectiveness that concentrates on the needs of employees.
- She met with John Humphries who is thinking of running for State Superintendent of Schools and listened to his reasons for running.
- Participated in the Every Student Succeeds Act listening and input session.
- Participated in a meeting with the Coalition of Community Engagement around Public Education. This group is ready to start some deliberative dialogue with community groups around public education and democracy. We are looking for groups to facilitate this dialogue with.
- Had a one-on-one meeting with Kathleen Vinehout to discuss Fair Funding and budget matters.

5. OTHER REPORTS

5.1 Board Committee Reports

The Demographic Trends Committee met on July 21st and welcomed eight new members to the committee. On August 18th they will meet to review the results from the Roosevelt study.

Policy & Governance decided to wait to discuss suspension/expulsion and human trafficking policies until August 15. They updated the policy for the LEAP Committee and will bring it back for discussion and review. The committee will develop rules and discuss a timeline for the Board's self-evaluation policy. Appeals for the compensation model will be reviewed by the committee. The committee will also update Policy 110 to reflect the results of the Board's system assessment, Strategic Plan and Board goals.

5.2 Legislative Update

Joe Luginbill said the meeting with Senator Vinehout gave Board members an intimate perspective on the state's budget. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled.

The deadline to submit WASB resolutions is September 15th. Mr. Luginbill said he has four proposals already, and he asked that Board members share any additional resolutions with him.

6. CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Motion by Jennifer Fager, second by Kathryn P Duax, to approve the Consent Resolution Agenda Items as follows:

- Minutes of July 18, 2016
- Human Resources - Employment Report
- Revise Policy 133 - Board Vacancies
- L.E.A.P. Committee Recommendation for Sam Davey STEM Innovation Zone

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

7. INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTION(S)

Minutes of Closed Session – July 18, 2016

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Jennifer Fager, to approve amended minutes of closed session for July 18, 2016 as discussed in closed session on August 1, 2016.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Referendum Question

The Board discussed the numbers for asking the community for support. The survey said that the 'sweet spot' was 90 cents added to the mill rate. Some were concerned about going over that amount; others wanted to go even higher—perhaps \$1.00.

Abby Johnson noted that if the referendum fails, the District would be looking at a \$5.8 million deficit, which would significantly cut into the working capital.

Board members said that with 95 cents added to the mill rate, the cost per year for 15 years would be \$5,860,000. This would put the District into the black assuming no additional level for compensation.

Fager made a motion to approve the following question but then withdrew it: Shall the Eau Claire Area School District, Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties, Wisconsin, be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$5,860,000 for the 2016-2017 school year and for each of the succeeding 14 school years thereafter, for non-recurring purposes consisting of paying for classroom staff and related instructional expenses, building maintenance, safety and security improvements, class size, technology, and debt service for capital improvement projects.

Motion by Jennifer Fager, second by Kathryn P Duax, to approve non-recurring operating/debt question as follows: Shall the Eau Claire Area School District, Chippewa, Dunn and Eau Claire Counties, Wisconsin, be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$5,860,000 for the 2016-2017 school year and for each of the succeeding 14 school years thereafter, for non-recurring purposes consisting of staff, building maintenance, safety and security improvements, class size, technology, and debt service for capital improvement projects?

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Carolyn Barstad, to pose a referendum question to the electorate on the November 8, 2016 election pending approval of the wording from the attorney on the motion that passed.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

8.2 Revisions to Policy 225 - Evaluation of Superintendent

Motion by Joe Luginbill, second by Charles Vue, to table approval of revisions to Policy 225 - Evaluation of Superintendent.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

9. ADJOURN TO COMMITTEE

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10.1 Discussion & Possible First Reading of Policy 171.2 - Agenda Preparation

Jennifer Fager shared a first reading of Policy 171.2 - Agenda Preparation:

The Board President, Vice President and Superintendent shall work collaboratively to prepare the agendas for regular and special meetings of the School Board. A third Board member shall participate in the meeting on a rotating basis. Any Board member may submit a request for a future agenda item at a regular Board meeting. It is suggested that people who have a specific topic to discuss at a Board meeting should call the Superintendent at the Administration Building and asked to be placed on the agenda.

Each regular Board meeting agenda shall include a period for public comment, which shall be included as an item of business in the public notice of the meeting.

A consent resolution shall be placed on the agenda for those items which are routine in nature or which would not be likely to require discussion or explanation as to the reason for Board action. All items placed on the consent agenda will be acted upon under a single motion. The presiding officer shall call for a motion on the consent agenda. Before initiating any vote on the consent agenda, the presiding officer shall ask whether any individual Board member desires clarification on any item, and whether any individual Board member wishes to remove any item from the consent agenda for separate consideration. After all clarifications have been provided and all separations have been made, the presiding officer will call for a second on a motion to approve all of the items of business consolidated under the consent resolution agenda, as amended by any separations; and the Board will then vote on the consent agenda. All items removed from the consent resolution agenda will then be considered separately.

The agenda packet shall be disseminated to Board members in sufficient time before the meeting so that the Board may give items of business careful consideration. As a general guideline, and with such exceptions as may be necessary from time to time, a meeting agenda and the supporting materials (even if tentative) shall be distributed to Board members and the administrative team of the District at least 36 hours prior to each Board meeting.

Public notice of the subject matter of Board meetings shall be given in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law.

Consistent with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law, the Board shall refrain from engaging in any information gathering or discussion and from taking any action on any subject matter that is not appropriately within the scope of one or more of the items of business that have been included on the public notice for the meeting.

It was suggested that the word 'people' in the first paragraph be changed to 'citizens.' The committee was also asked to discuss what agenda items are brought forward on the agenda; can anyone request that anything come before the Board? Should the items be vetted to determine if the topic is good for the Board as a whole and in line with the Strategic Plan? Perhaps prioritizing agenda items should be considered as well in the policy. Policy & Governance will review it one more time before it is finalized on August 15, 2016.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next agenda setting meeting will be held on August 2 at 9:15 a.m. with Kathryn Duax attending as the third Board member.

Com. Duax again asked for a discussion about equity in gifts to the schools.

12. ADJOURN

Motion by Kathryn P Duax, second by Charles Vue, to adjourn meeting.

Motion carried

Yes: Carolyn Barstad, Kathryn P Duax, Jennifer Fager, Chris Hambuch-Boyle, Joe Luginbill, Charles Vue

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.