

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, MARCH 4, 2013
PRESIDENT CRAIG PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Craig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Secretary Patti Iverson confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed and was in compliance with the open meeting law.

Roll call was taken and the following commissioners were present: Craig, Cummins, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, and Wogahn. Absent: Duax. Student Representatives Betsy Fawcett and Jonathan Idarraga were also present.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck shared a list of events on the Board's calendar for the next month.

Dr. Hardebeck honored 32 ECASD educators who have either achieved National Board Certification or are very near completion. She congratulated them for completing this extremely rigorous process and thanked them for their commitment to excellence.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

President Craig said that school board members and staff from Altoona, Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire held a joint meeting with legislators to discuss voucher schools, charter schools and the Governor's budget. The dialogue was very helpful.

President Craig said there are five candidates vying for three positions on the School Board. An election will be held on April 2, 2013. Candidates include Robert Janke, Mike Bollinger, Chue Xiong, Chris Hambuch-Boyle and Richard Spindler. Steven Lange has dropped out of the race.

Student Representative Report

Betsy Fawcett congratulated the Memorial boys' hockey team for winning the state championship. The Memorial/North gymnastics team finished eighth in state competition. Memorial's Show Choir participated in its last competition of the season and finished fifth. On March 15th Memorial will enjoy the Special Angels Concert. Jonathan Idarraga said that one of North's power lifters finished second in state competition and their Forensics team took second place in the Sheboygan tournament.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

Com. Cummins said the Policy & Governance Committee has reviewed Board Policies related to setting the annual organizational meeting so as to be in accordance with state law. Those changes will be brought to the Board at its next meeting. She added that at the last meeting, a citizen recommended a change to Policy 533. The committee reviewed that suggestion and the policy will be brought forward as shared in the first reading with no revisions made.

Budget Development Committee

Com. Johnson said that the committee continues to discuss the Other Post-Employment Benefits Report. The committee recommended working with a goal that no change be made to current post-employment benefit plans for employees eligible to retire through 2015-16, while having a target of reducing that liability by 25% over the next 30 years. Given changing financial conditions and the fact that the Board could change over the next several years, there are no guarantees promised. Supplemental pension will be included in any future options, and the committee will continue to discuss this issue and work within the guideline of bringing changes to the Board no later than January 2014.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolution 6 from the consent agenda.

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Cummins, to approve the consent resolution agenda consisting of the following items:

- ◆ The minutes of Board meeting of February 18, 2013 as mailed.
- ◆ The matters of employment of March 4, 2013, as presented.
- ◆ Revisions to ECASD Policy 533 – Selection & Recruitment
- ◆ 2013-2014 CESA 6 and CESA 10 Contracts
- ◆ Contracts for Executive Director of Administration and Executive Director of Business Services

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #6 – Resolution Awarding the Sale of \$2,850,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes

Mr. Van De Water shared the final pricing summary from the sale of general obligation promissory notes. There were nine firms interested in the note and Piper Jaffray had the lowest true interest cost of 1.892%.

Com. Wogahn moved, seconded by Com. Johnson, to adopt the resolution awarding the sale of \$2,850,000 general obligation promissory notes to Piper Jaffray, Minneapolis, MN at a True Interest Cost of 1.8587%. Carried by unanimous roll call vote

PUBLIC FORUM

Kari Winkler discussed the physical education waiver. She said that academics are the fundamental focus of the school system, and physical education is a vital component of learning. With the United States in the midst of a childhood obesity epidemic, districts should not be deleting physical education activities. She said it would be difficult to provide student athletes with the wide range of skills to meet the state standards in physical education.

James Martin spoke on behalf of the teachers' association about some of the assumptions and perspectives relative to OPEB. He highlighted things such as using a 4% rate of inflation to forecast insurance when the CPI increase was about 3%, using 5% to 10% increases for insurance when the target has been for a zero percent increase, and salary calculations based on a 4% increase when salaries have been frozen or had very little increase. He noted that several annual obligations have been taken out of the budget already such as the employee retirement expenditures.

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
MARCH 4, 2013**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Craig, Cummins, Faanes, Janke, Johnson, and Wogahn. Absent: Duax. Student Representatives Betsy Fawcett and Jonathan Idarraga were also present.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. OPEB Report

Dan Van De Water shared an update on discussions from the Budget Development Committee on OPEB. The Board discussed making no changes to current post-employment benefits for employees eligible to retire through 2015-16. They want to come up with a plan that will keep and recruit staff. There was consensus not to make any changes in the next three years acknowledging that given changing financial conditions and the fact that the Board membership could change over the next several years, there are no guarantees. The goal would be to reduce the OPEB liability by 25% over the next 30 years.

Mr. Van De Water will continue working with the Budget Development Committee on this issue getting input from staff, and will work within the guidelines of bringing changes to the Board no later than January 2014. It was noted that any future options will include supplemental pensions.

B. Physical Education Waiver

Ann Franke shared information regarding changes to Wisconsin Act 105, which modified many aspects of education law related to curriculum and instruction. Under the new legislation, school boards may allow a pupil who participates in sports or in another organized physical activity to complete an additional 0.5 credit in English, social studies, math, science or health education in lieu of 0.5 credit in physical education. Ms. Franke shared the benefits and challenges of allowing the waiver. The majority of the Board did not want to take action regarding a physical education waiver in order to determine how other districts deal with challenges.

C. 2013-2014 Budget Projection

Dan Van De Water presented the 2013-2014 budget forecast. He reviewed the history of revenue limits in Eau Claire and comparable school districts. Eau Claire has fallen below the state average and these comparable districts in this area as well as in the instruction and administrative costs per students.

Mr. Van De Water shared various scenarios based on the Governor's budget proposal. Under that proposal with a zero increase per pupil, the District could see a deficit of \$8.5 million in 2013-14 and \$9.6 million in 2014-15. If a zero percent increase is used for per pupil, wage, insurance premiums and non-compensation increases, the gap would be \$5 million for 2013-14 and \$2.6 million for 2014-15. The DPI has proposed a scenario that would allow \$225 per pupil in 2013-14, which would equate to a gap of \$6 million. Mr. Van De Water shared a list of the cuts that have been made by the District in the last five years.

Mr. Van De Water explained that the long-term solution to this problem is to increase the revenue stream and/or reduce expenditures and live within available revenue increases. The only option to increase the revenue stream is through an operational referendum. The Board asked administration to talk strategically about the possibility of a referendum in the future.

Staff and community members were encouraged to contact their legislators and share stories of how budget cuts have impacted their school, students, and classrooms.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Janke asked for a report on the feasibility of equalizing pay periods for 10-month employees over a 12-month period.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn

Com. Janke moved, seconded by Com. Wogahn, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.