

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, AUGUST 19, 2013
VICE PRESIDENT SPINDLER PRESIDING**

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice President Spindler 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.

Board Members present: Cummins, Duax, Hambuch-Boyle, Johnson, Spindler and Xiong. Absent: Craig.

PUBLIC FORUM

James Martin said staff met with administration to talk about changes with the Employee Handbook and there was a good dialogue about concerns and modifications. It was suggested that the timeline for modifications be revised so there is time for a valid feedback loop rather than during the summer. Administration acknowledged that request.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hardebeck shared a list of events on the Board's calendar for the next month. She added that new teacher orientation was taking place, and there was good feedback received from new teachers about the training they received.

Mr. Dan Van De Water updated the Board on the state-wide voucher program and the potential impact on the budget. It was noted that 25 schools with the most applicants were chosen and Eau Claire Regis was one of those schools. Of the 2,069 students that met income eligibility, 67.3% of those students have already been attending Wisconsin private schools. Mr. Van De Water looked at budget implications if vouchers continue and are expanded.

Communication to Superintendent/Board President

There was no report.

Other Reports

Policy and Governance Committee

There was no report.

Budget Development Committee

There was no report.

CONSENT RESOLUTION AGENDA

Board members asked to pull Resolutions 1, 7 & 8 from the consent agenda.

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

- ◆ The minutes of closed session of August 5, 2013, as mailed.
- ◆ The budget adjustments as presented.
- ◆ The gifts in the amount of \$3,399.00 for the period July 1, 2013, through July 31, 2013, as presented.
- ◆ The payment of all bills in the amount of \$9,776,174.29 and net payroll in the amount of \$800,222.38 for the period July 1, 2013, through July 31, 2013, as presented.
- ◆ The matters of employment of August 19, 2013, as presented.

Consent resolution agenda items approved by unanimous roll call vote.

INDIVIDUALLY CONSIDERED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 -- Minutes of August 5, 2013 Board Meeting

Com. Duax asked for a clarification on the discussion regarding a transportation study. It was decided not to change the minutes.

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to approve the Board meeting minutes of August 5, 2013 as mailed. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Resolution #7 – Approve Name of Prairie Ridge

The Naming Committee recommended the name “Prairie Ridge” for the building on Epiphany Lane. The Board asked that the District Leadership Team recommend a tag line to go with the name. It was suggested that “Early Learning School” be added to the name in recognition of Prairie Ridge’s mission and to emphasize that it is a school.

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Hambuch-Boyle, that the name of the new school at 3031 Epiphany Lane is “Prairie Ridge Early Learning School.” Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

Resolution #8 – Student Transit Contract Extension

Com. Duax felt it would be important to have a transportation study as it relates to busing needs in the district. The Board discussed information that has been gathered in the past regarding transportation costs. There has not been an RFP sent out for some time but there was information obtained about transportation costs with comparable sized school districts and costs per student for transportation. At that time it was

determined that Eau Claire was in the middle of the group. It was noted that there was nothing in the contract that would prevent the Board from evaluating whether or not to change its policies on the number of miles required before students are bused or making students commit to whether they will ride the bus or not.

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Johnson, to approve the 2013-2014 contract extension with Student Transit as presented. Carried by the following vote: Ayes: Cummins, Hambuch-Boyle, Johnson, Spindler, and Xiong. Nay: Duax.

Resolution #9 -- School Meal Pricing

It was noted that the USDA is requiring the District to increase the full-paid price of student meals.

Com. Cummins moved, seconded by Com. Duax, to approve school meal prices for the 2013-2014 as recommended. Carried by unanimous roll call vote

Regular meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Patti Iverson, Board Secretary

**COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION – EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN
AUGUST 19, 2013**

1. Call to Order – Committee Meeting

Board Members present: Cummins, Duax, Hambuch-Boyle, Johnson, Spindler and Xiong. Absent: Craig.

2. Committee Reports/Items for Discussion

A. Employee Handbook Modifications

Kay Marks said that each year administration will present modifications to the Board related to the Employee Handbook (EH) to be effective for the following year. Those modifications for 2013-2014 were shared with the Board. She said the EH has been in effect for one year. During this time the Employee Relations Committee (ERC) was established to review and address any concerns raised regarding handbook language. The concerns raised throughout the year were those of clarification of language and were addressed with communication among administration and employee groups.

The ERC met in June to review the proposed modifications that were a result of clarification of language, elimination/addition of language due to previous Board action, movement of language to Part I due to the implementation of identical benefits for all employees, typographical errors and addition of language omitted in the previous handbook.

Ms. Marks recognized that bringing the modifications to the Board in August is too late. She said that next year the ERC will meet to discuss modifications in April so the Board can consider changes by July 1st with the updates made by the end of July.

Ms. Marks explained two additional modifications that were made since the Board received its packet related to dental and health insurance as well as vacation being granted to certain employees.

The Board discussed the changes and some had issues with certain sections. There was also a discussion about bringing items previously approved by the Board back for consideration again.

Some of the new Board members wished to receive more information on topics debated in the past. It was suggested that administration share that information in a smaller group setting.

The Board will be asked to approve the EH modifications at the September 9, 2013 meeting. Dr. Hardebeck asked Board members to send any specific questions to her before the next meeting so answers can be obtained prior to the next Board meeting.

B. Demographic Trends (SAGE)

Kris Dimock provided information about the building space needed to meet the requirements of the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) program. SAGE schools receive \$2,000 to \$2,250 per student receiving free/reduced meals in grades K-3 and the District holds five contracts with the State of Wisconsin at Longfellow, Lakeshore, Locust Lane, Flynn and Sherman.

Ms. Dimock said that as enrollments have increased, schools have been challenged by the limited classroom space available to house the number of classes necessary in grades K-3 to meet the SAGE requirements. She shared projections of classroom space needed for 2012-2019 as well as a cost analysis of staffing for the program for 2012-2013.

Superintendent Hardebeck said that the challenge for the Demographic Trends Committee is as discussions about space needs emerge, the topic of SAGE's programmatic needs for space comes up. She said as resources are tested in terms of building and capacity space to house SAGE, Demo Trends might have to make recommendations about changing boundaries or moving students, keeping the space requirements of SAGE in mind. The topic of best practice and whether the SAGE program is having an academic impact was also discussed.

After discussion the Board gave direction to the Demographic Trends Committee to continue its deliberations and to maintain SAGE.

C. Electronic Documentation and Web Streaming for Board Meetings

Jim Schmitt, Director of Assessment & Technology, said there is a wide range of options for the Board to consider for electronic documentation. He said that set up fees charged by various vendors range from \$750 to \$1,000, with annual subscription costs ranging from \$3,000 to \$12,000. He noted that the District is already using some features internally by downloading PDF's of documents on the website.

Mr. Schmitt suggested the creation of a review committee that would develop criteria for features that would best serve the Board and community. An RFP could then be created, released and scored against the criteria developed.

Mr. Schmitt also said that the District already has the infrastructure in place to implement live streaming of Board meetings. He shared a simulation of that process.

Board members suggested forming an ad hoc review committee that would develop electronic documentation criteria for features that might best serve the Board and community's needs.

3. Request for Future Agenda Items

Com. Johnson asked for information on why Robbins and Manz elementary schools don't have breakfast programs. Com. Duax asked for a transportation study.

4. Other Business

5. Motion to Adjourn

Com. Johnson moved, seconded by Com. Hambuch-Boyle, to adjourn committee meeting. Carried by unanimous voice of acclamation.

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.