

Special Board Meeting (Board Goal-Setting Session)

January 23, 2016

Board Conference Room

Call to Order:

President Nick Aguinaga called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Conference Room, whereupon roll was subsequently taken. Leroy Duncan, Rebecca Leggett, Jennifer Murray, Scott Miner, Mark St. Peters, Melissa Walter-Bock, and Nick Aguinaga answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: None. Also present were administrators and/or directors John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, Kevin Gockel, and Gerry Mattix-Wand. No members of the public were present.

Public Comments:

None.

Discussion of Goals for Possible Inclusion into the 2016 Strategic Plan:

The primary purpose of this meeting was for the Board and administrative team to discuss short and long term goals for the District to pursue, with the eventual purpose of creating a Strategic Plan for 2016.

The administrators brought goal suggestions for the Board along the areas of instructional improvement, technology, and improving the District's financial condition. The Board discussed these ideas, took several straw polls, and then reached tentative consensus on the following:

*Technology:*

The current lease of the initial group of 600 2013-vintage Samsung Chromebooks expires at the end of this fiscal year. The Board discussed several options for continuing its momentum with student engagement through its 1:1 Program, tentatively deciding to embark on a plan to lease-purchase 175 new Chromebooks this summer for the Class of 2020 (with new bags), and to do likewise for succeeding groups of freshmen, thereafter. The lease-purchase of the machines and the bags will be made through the Technology nickel Lease Levy, as has been the case with the inaugural rollout of the 2013 machines.

Another Board goal in this area was to explore the upgrade to the school's Intercom system, including merely adding some speakers to expand the coverage area or to overhaul the existing panel and system school-wide, with a possibility of including this as a key school safety component in its Risk Management Plan and possible use of Tort Funds.

Finally, the Board retained an on-going goal of adding some additional video cameras to the network - again, to expand the coverage area of that system. That may also require a video server upgrade.

*Curriculum and Instructional Improvement:*

Continue to work on improvement in student learning via continual curriculum alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards; providing high quality professional development for staff; using the PERA Eval Plan to promote increased student engagement; using STAR 360 to assist in individualizing solutions to students trailing behind (intervention and tutoring activities) and for teachers and administrators to use data to inform improvement in instruction; ultimately with the goal of improving student performance on PARCC and other measurements

*STOP Program:*

The Board has set the goal of exploring EAWR's participation in the Regional Office of Education STOP Program, which is a short-term placement for students who are otherwise suspended out-of-school. This program - in its 2<sup>nd</sup> full year already with some county schools already enrolled - is housed at the ROE Troy CEO Alternative School and allows suspended students to still be in an educational setting and to receive academic work and credit during these short-term out-of-school suspensions. EAWR students would be transported daily to and from Troy and would work on assignments from their own teachers under the supervision of ROE staff, gaining full credit for work, as opposed to being home or elsewhere during these suspended days, receiving zeros.

The program would align itself with the intent of Senate Bill 100, which encourages alternatives to out-of-school suspensions as a consequence for misconduct. The District cost would be \$5,500 annually to participate, with the District being allowed to "count" those students in regular attendance under the General State Aid formula, according to the ROE officials.

*Building & Grounds:*

Mark St. Peters asked that track re-surfacing be explored, since it had been slightly over 10 years, since the last re-surfacing. Dr. Pearson noted that the architect would be putting that in the new Ten-Year Life Safety Plan along with some other anticipated large projects down the road. There was consensus of the Board to include track-resurfacing / striping in the new Ten-Year Life Safety Plan.

*Expenditure Cuts:*

There was a consensus of the Board to adopt the following discretionary budget cuts and other cost-saving measures for 2016-17:

- Reduce non-grant-funded travel by 50% (Savings of \$8,000)
- Reduce number of athletic buses to varsity basketball tournaments (Savings of \$1,280)
- Eliminate Saturday Detention (Savings of \$1,310)
- Eliminate non-grant funded in-house meeting and workshop meals (Savings of \$800)
- Eliminate the Oilerettes Dance team (Savings of \$4,000)
- Reduce paid Golf coaches to just the Head Coach (Savings of \$3,900)
- Eliminate Boys Tennis (in Spring 2017) (Savings of \$5,300)
- Cut Freshmen Baseball Coach (Savings of \$3,900)
- Eliminate overnight stays for athletic teams unless involved in state finals (or if funded by activity fund-raising monies) (Savings of \$600)
- Reduce athletic supply budget lines by 20% across the board (Savings of \$12,250)
- Explore a “pull-back” of some students from Region III program into an in-house EAWR program (Savings of \$30,000)
- Placing a moratorium on all new athletic uniform purchases (with the exception of fund-raised purchases)
- Increase student parking fees from \$25 to \$35.

There was also a consensus of the Board to undertake the following personnel reductions in 2016-17:

- Re-assign Athletic Director and Discipline Duties of Dean/AD to the Asst. Principal (and also creating additional stipend positions of “seasonal home event coordinators” and some contracted referee scheduling services) (Savings of \$70,000) (via resignation)
- Reduce PE teachers from three to two in 16-17 (via retirement)

The Board also tentatively plans to eliminate one English position in 2017-18 and reduce an industrial arts position to 2/5<sup>th</sup>'s or 3/5<sup>th</sup>'s position, also in 2017-18 - both via retirement.

The Board believes these cuts are reasonable and necessary, given the District's large deficits in the Education Fund over the past two years.

*Revenue Enhancement:*

The Board recently issued \$1.5 Million in Bonds, the proceeds from which will be used to meet educational operations expenses. Those bonds will be retired over the next three tax cycles, beginning with the 2015 taxes (collected in the summer and fall of 2016).

*Other Goals (On-Going):*

There was a tentative consensus of the Board to keep all on-going and long-range goals from 2015 in its strategic plan, as well.

Dr. Pearson will assemble these goals into the context of the usual Strategic Plan format for adoption at the February Board meeting.

Executive Session:

The Executive Session was tabled.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 11:10 a.m.