

1st Regular Board Meeting
December 3, 2019
Board Conference Room

Call to Order:

President Jennifer Murray called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. in the Board Room, whereupon roll was subsequently taken. Melissa Bartels, Leroy Duncan, Mike Redman, Mark St. Peters, Jamey Westbrook and Jennifer Murray answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Missy Bell-Yates. Present were administrators and/or directors John Pearson and Leigh Robinson. Also present was an SWIC Elementary Ed. student who was attending a school board meeting to fulfill a class requirement.

Public Comments:

None.

Conduct BINA Hearing:

President Murray announced that the next agenda item for the Board of Education was a public hearing (the "*Hearing*") to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$1,748,190 for the purpose of conforming its existing facilities that house students to the building code promulgated by the State Board of Education of the State of Illinois, by altering, reconstructing and repairing said facilities and having equipment purchased and installed therein (the "*Life Safety Bonds*") and explained that all persons desiring to be heard would have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto.

The Superintendent opened the discussion and explained that the reasons for the proposed issuance of the Life Safety Bonds were as follows: To complete those unfinished items identified in the Health, Life Safety 10-Year Plan, so that work may commence in the summer of 2020.

Specifically, Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that the summer 2020 Life Safety work would likely involve additional restroom renovation, new windows and frames in the South Building, and a new Cafeteria floor. There will be other projects to complete from the Ten-Year Survey in the succeeding years.

Whereupon the President asked for additional comments from the members of the Board of Education. Additional comments were made by the following: None.

Written testimony concerning the proposed issuance of the Life Safety Bonds was read into the record by the Secretary and is attached hereto as *Exhibit I. None.*

Whereupon the President asked for oral testimony or any public comments concerning the proposed issuance of the Life Safety Bonds. Statements were made by the following: None.

The President then announced that all persons desiring to be heard had been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of the Life Safety Bonds.

Member Duncan moved and Member St. Peters seconded the motion that the Hearing be finally adjourned.

After a full discussion thereof, the President directed that the roll be called for a vote upon the motion.

Upon the roll being called, the following members voted Aye: Melissa Bartels, Leroy Duncan, Michael Redman, Mark St. Peters, Jamey Westbrook

The following members voted Nay: None.

Whereupon the President declared the motion carried and the Hearing was finally adjourned.

Review of Selected Agenda Items for the December 10th Board Meeting:

Adopt 2019 Levy. Dr. Pearson reported that he only made changes to two funds: First, due to the audit comment about insuring that Social Security levy was adequate to meet FICA costs (without theoretically using IMRF tax proceeds that are co-mingled in the same Fund), he suggested adjusting the Social Security Fund levy upwards by about \$44,000 over last year's levy (2018), for a levy amount of \$160,000. But, to be mindful of the tax rate, he also suggested that the IMRF Levy be downwardly adjusted from 2018 to \$70,000. His goal is to have both levies supporting their own expenses independently. Further, he suggested adding \$20,000 to the Tort Levy, bringing it \$430,000. This would accommodate an anticipated jump in the assessment from MISSVIC for the District insurance package, as well as accommodate a potential increase in legal costs.

He showed the Board that, even with a zero-growth year in the EAV, the rate would still drop slightly, due to the reduced Tort Levy compared with 2018. As noted in November, the levy will reflect a "ballooned" estimate in EAV growth, so that the District can capture its maximum allowable rates in the operating and major funds. The largest growth rate that can be used to calculate the levy - without exceeding 105% of last year's tax extension - is an increase of 6.9%. Dr. Pearson estimated that a growth of no more than 2% would be likely.

The Board will formally adopt the 2019 Levy at the December 10th Regular Meeting.

Hear 2nd Reading and Adopt Slate of Board Policy Revisions: The superintendent and the Policy Committee met before this meeting for about 90 minutes and reviewed the large number of policy revisions suggested by the Illinois Association of School Boards PRESS Service. That slate of policy revisions - less a few policies pulled from further consideration - would be presented to the full Board for formal adoption on December 10th.

A large percentage of the policy revisions under review were engendered by significant legislative action in the last General Assembly, with a lot of legislative emphasis on strengthening sexual abuse training for staff; making tougher penalties on staff for failure to report instances of sexual abuse of students; increasing accountability safeguards in accounting for Federal funds; encouraging more students to use the FAFSA application process, which could, in turn, increase for post-secondary education opportunities; and policy changes wrought by the medical use of cannabis by students and the legalization of cannabis for those over 21.

Authorization to Purchase Minivan: Supt. Pearson showed the Board an offer sheet from Federico Chrysler on a 2018 Dodge Caravan, which would replace the 1998 Ford Expedition used for general transportation purposes. The Caravan listed has about 46,000 miles and is good condition. The stated offer sheet listed the van at \$16,955.81, which is under the \$18,000 budgeted for this purpose.

Mr. Duncan asked about who is hauled in this vehicle. Mrs. Robinson noted that it would replace the Expedition in transporting some special education students to their out-of-district placements. Dr. Pearson added that, in the last couple of years, the District has been transporting students to St. Louis, as well as to the Journeys School in Delhi and the CEO / STOP Program classes in Troy. This new van can also be used to haul small numbers of students on extracurricular trips when it would be appropriate than a large bus.

Football Helmets / Concussion Detection Devices: Recently, the Oiler Alumni football committee (with former EAWR teacher and coach, Phil Keasler being their representative) has proposed retro-fitting our current supply of football helmets with a device that would monitor and record impact data on that player's head, with the protection of player's safety improved with this monitoring and data gathering.

However, it has recently been reported by Mr. Keasler that only 10 helmets in the current inventory are able to be retro-fitted with this after-market device. The superintendent received some pricing information from Mr. Keasler that demonstrated that purchasing new helmets from Riddell that could come from the manufacturer with a concussion monitoring device installed is certainly feasible. The cost to the District would be the cost of the 35 or so new helmets @ \$340 each, with the Alumni Football committee picking

up the optional cost of the monitoring device (about \$65 each, directly from the manufacturer). For 35 helmets, the total district cost would be approximately \$11,900. Dr. Pearson noted that it would be a prudent thing for the Board to consider, since players' safety was of such importance. Mr. St. Peters asked about re-conditioning and the life span of these helmets. It is the practice and a requirement that helmets be annually reconditioned. The life span is probably about 5 years, according to Mr. Westbrook.

The superintendent would recommend authorization to purchase sufficient new helmets that, when combined with the 10 helmets that can be retrofitted, would outfit each player with these concussion devices. He will ask the Board to approve that recommendation at the December 10th meeting.

Curriculum Revisions for 2020-21: Mrs. Robinson would present two new course recommendations to the Board on December 10th.

Update on Isolation/Seclusion Emergency Order and Rules: Dr. Pearson reported that the administrators met with Eric Gunderson, teacher; Aide, Laura Blair; and Special Education Division Chair, Emily Zipprich last week to review the new rules concerning isolation and seclusion of students in disciplinary situations. He reported that the Chicago Tribune had recently run an expose of shocking instances in which some schools had not abided by the intended use of the "timeout" rooms. There were several stories of students being held in isolation behind closed doors without an adult in the room, sometimes in very tight enclosures no bigger than small closets and usually for discipline.

The Governor and the State Board of Education took emergency action after this story was published with the main points of emphasis being: 1) Isolation is totally prohibited, with a trained adult required to be present with that student when he/she is removed from the classroom. 2) The door - if closed - cannot be locked. 3) The timeout can only be used to protect the safety of that student and others or for therapeutic purposes. 4) The period of time a student is in a timeout room must be short, only for the duration that the threat to safety is still apparent. 5) A trained employee must be able to observe and monitor the student.

Both Dr. Pearson and Mrs. Robinson noted that EAWR does not practice isolation or seclusion in the manner described in the newspaper story or in a manner that would violate the new rules, but did advise the teacher and aide that, if a student was placed in one of that classroom's smaller adjoining rooms (formerly the practice rooms in the choir in the old choir room) that it needed to be for safety reasons only and that the stipulations, monitoring and record-keeping requirements of the new emergency rules be followed.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to adjourn to executive session to: a) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of

specific employees of the District, b) Discuss collective bargaining matters, c) Discuss individual student matters d) Discuss pending or current litigation, and e) Discuss building security matters. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Redman, and Mrs. Murray. Nay: None. Motion Carried at 6:34 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Redman, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, Mr. Westbrook, and Mrs. Murray. Nay: None. Motion Carried at 6:48 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Westbrook, to employ Tracy Sharpmack of East Alton as Classroom Aide. Mrs. Sharpmack had recently held a similar position in the Roxana Schools for three years. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Redman, to approve two Memoranda of Understanding with Local #3401 of the IFT: 1) An MOU regarding the retirement incentive for Guidance Director, Lisa Woodman and 2) An MOU regarding the use of *Edgenuity* at EAWR. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Redman; second by Mr. St. Peters, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 6:50 p.m.