

Regular Board Meeting
February 14, 2017
Board Conference Room

Call to Order:

President Nick Aguinaga called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, whereupon roll was subsequently taken. Melissa Bell-Yates, Rebecca Leggett, Jennifer Murray, Mike Redman, Mark St. Peters, and Nick Aguinaga answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Leroy Duncan. Present were administrators and/or directors John Pearson and Leigh Robinson. Brittany Johnson from the Alton Telegraph was also present.

Board Communications:

Mrs. Murray commented that the moles were getting to be a nuisance again on the baseball field. Mr. St. Peters passed along a report from Jeff Foxall, Maintenance Director, in which he described a plan to use a heavy roller on the turf, find their “runs,” and then use the “poison peanuts” to try and end the problem.

She also asked about the brakes on the 2002 Driver Ed. Cavalier. Dr. Pearson reported that he and Mr. Foxall had discussed this several months ago. The Cavalier has been in for service on three separate occasions to ProExhaust to check out the brake issue, and the conclusion the mechanics drew was that the brakes worked fine, but seemed to have some sort of manufacturing quirk with that model in that the brakes seem to grab for the first few applications, until the car had been driven a few minutes. Then, the issue goes away.

Dr. Pearson observed that, if the Board wanted, the administration could price a replacement driver education car, and then report back.

Public Comments:

None.

Minutes:

Motion by Mrs. Murray; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of January 3, 2017 and January 10, 2017, and the Special Meeting of January 28, 2017. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Approve Payment of District Bills and Quick Pays:

Motion by Ms. Leggett; second by Mrs. Murray, that the payment of bills as presented in the amount of \$56,880.12 be authorized; that salaries for the month of January in the amount of \$397,977.02 and bills quickly paid for the month of January in the amount of \$17,773.78 be approved and that February salaries and bills to be paid quickly be authorized. Aye: Mrs. Bell-Yates, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None.

Adopt Strategic Plan for 2017:

Dr. Pearson gave a brief update on the goals that are part of the proposed 2017 Strategic Plan, and which were tentatively approved at the January 28th Special Meeting.

Highlights of the new or revised goals in the Strategic Plan were:

- Adopt a 2017 Fiscal Plan by March 2017;
- Streamline the English curriculum (due to personnel downsizing in 2017-18) by removing Communications as a graduation requirement, but keeping it as an elective;
- Refine the Community Service Requirement by offering a 1st Semester Final Exam exemption to any senior who has completed the 40 hours of community service by the Tuesday before Thanksgiving;
- Improve the Student Dress Code for 2017-18 by adding black to the list of acceptable sweatshirt and hoodie colors, and allow students to wear Oiler T-shirts in the approved five colors (Maroon, Gold, White, Heather Gray, and, now, Black). Other t-shirts will still be prohibited.
- Under “Instructional Improvement,” the goal of seeking continued cooperation and support with the feeder districts in terms of facilities and curriculum, was expanded to other avenues, such as the sharing of resources, transportation, and personnel wherever possible and feasible;
- Also under Instructional Improvement (under the 1:1 program), the Board added the goals of: a) Look to operate the self-insurance program in-house, b) Award a graduating senior their device as a graduation gift if they have paid the damage waiver for four years and it is still in good order, c) Implement the Sprint Wi-Fi “Hotspot” program, with an annual damage waiver charge of \$20, d) Replace faculty machines with Chromebooks and Chromebases; e) Continue the new Chromebook purchases for incoming freshmen in 2017-18;
- Improve the Oiler Participation Contract;
- Add 7 cameras to the existing network for enhanced safety and security;
- Make transition to new Skyward “Q” software/database;
- Add Guidance responsibilities in oversight of the new “Give 30” program with the ROE and SAT test prep oversight;

- Improve quality of custodial services and the appearance of the school and campus (including necessary Life, Safety work);
- Improvement and expansion of school PA system.

Other goals will continue to be in the Strategic Plan for 2017, but are of an on-going nature. The Plan will be posted for the public on the Website in the Documents section.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates, to adopt the 2017 Strategic Plan, as presented and discussed. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Calendar 2016-17: Use of “Buy-Back Day:”

The written versions of the 2016-17 EAWR school calendar (as well as the on-line calendar) had informed and advised parents since last summer not to rely on Thursday, April 13, 2017 as being a part of Easter Break and to certainly avoid making any vacation plans for that day. Since a snow day had been used in mid-January and because the District wishes to dismiss school as early as possible in May, Dr. Pearson recommended the conversion of April 13, 2017 from a non-attendance day to a regular school day.

Motion by Mrs. Bell-Yates; second by Mrs. Murray, to change the previously advertised “buy-back” day (April 13, 2017, the Thursday before Easter) to a regular student attendance day, and to amend the calendar accordingly. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Revise the Lodging Cap / Board Policy 2.125:

The lodging reimbursement caps on Board and employee travel have already proven in practice to be too low in some circumstances for Illinois, even with some of the group rates for conferences. Even though the new “cap” is not necessarily what each employee or Board member is allowed to spend (which both Board Policies 2.125 and 5.60 state should be based on “conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations”), but rather is a maximum. Each request for lodging shall be examined by the superintendent on a case-by-case basis, first to insure it does not exceed the cap, and, second, to insure that the accommodations are at a conference rate or are mid-fare costs.

The new downstate Illinois lodging maximum has been adjusted to \$160 per night (including taxes). The new Chicagoland maximum is \$250 per night, also including taxes.

The other lodging caps were not recommended for adjustment.

Motion by Mrs. Bell-Yates; second by Mr. Redman, to approve the revised lodging caps and policies 2.125 and 5.60 accordingly. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Hearing to Approve a Travel Cap Exception:

Coincidentally, the lodging for the wrestlers participating in the IHSA State Finals in Champaign this month exceeds even the new downstate cap amount of \$160. Due to the huge demand for rooms and the scarcity of rooms in the Champaign-Urbana area, the cheapest rooms for the Wrestling team was \$229, per night. There was a brief discussion.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates to approve the exception under the cap for the wrestling team in Champaign during the weekend of Feb.16-18. Aye: Mrs. Bell-Yates, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None.

Revision of Extracurricular Participation Policy:

Dr. Pearson recommended a revision to the Extracurricular Participation Policy, which would reduce the consequences for students who were present at a gathering where others possessed or were using contraband, but did not necessarily use or possess contraband, themselves. Several other local schools differentiated between those two situations, but the current policy (sometimes known as the “Oiler Contract”), allowed for no such distinction.

The Board had previously discussed this distinction on two previous occasions: the January 28th Strategic Planning Special Meeting and the Feb. 7th Regular Board Meeting. After some deliberation with the administrators, Dr. Pearson produced a series of consequences for these situations (from first offense through multiple offenses), which were now labeled as “Tier II” offenses. The consequences involved game suspension for these circumstances, but reduced from those students who actually were found to use or possess contraband. Dr. Pearson also recommended that these changes be effective immediately.

The Board discussed the set of Tier II consequences. After some further discussion, there was a consensus to accept the recommendation.

Motion by Mr. Redman; second by Ms. Leggett, to accept the revisions to the Extracurricular Participation Policy as presented and recommended. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Review and Re-Submit Bullying Policy 7.180 to ISBE:

After the mandated biennial review of bullying instances at EAWR and the bullying policy (7.180), itself, the superintendent recommended to not revise it, but submit it to the State Board of Education.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates, to re-submit the bullying policy 7.180 to ISBE. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Graduation Date:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates, to set Graduation on May 17, 2017, with a revised start time of 8:00 p.m. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Facility Use Request: Alumni Football USA to Use Memorial Stadium on Aug. 17, 2017:

Dr. Pearson gave a report on the much-ballyhooed proposed football game between former Oiler and CM football players at Memorial Stadium. There has been a lot of excitement generated by some players and others on social media in the last few weeks, but several important details needed to be resolved before he could recommend this request. Some of these involved liability insurance coverage, financial arrangements (pre-sale ticket receipts), safety, and which group has the responsibility of covering certain services and their expenses, such as police, ambulance, PA and scoreboard operation, etc.

Mr. Gockel and Dr. Pearson met earlier this afternoon with one of the local organizers, Mike Roper, to hash out some of the aforementioned details and address some concerns. Also, the superintendent had received the approval of the company's sample Certificate of Liability Insurance (which would be customized for this event, once approved). From its liability insurance carrier's TPA firm, AJ Gallagher.

Dr. Pearson reported to the Board that one concern is the sheer number of tickets that would have to be sold in pre-sale in order for the school's share to even approach \$2,500 (which was much lower than the expectations that some of the local organizers touted in the social media). Another concern (which was made a condition of his recommendation to the Board) was that all ticket sales receipts be deposited with the school, since the school was the signatory to the agreement with Alumni Football USA. Other concerns discussed with Mr. Roper were practice field use, concession stand sales, and the enforcement of the ban on alcohol on school property if "tail-gating" were to take place. Also, there was an understanding with

Mr. St. Peters cautioned that, despite some of the comments in social media, pre-sale ticket proceeds are split 50-50 with the company, and that 100% of ticket sales sold at the gate went directly to the company.

Mrs. Murray reported that a local organizer had expressed some doubts to her about the event, particularly when it was learned that the likely revenue to Oiler football would

fall very short of original local organizer estimates. She spoke on behalf of delaying this vote until a later Board meeting, to gather additional information.

After some further discussion about the pros & cons of agreeing to this request, the superintendent suggested that the Board could approve a motion granting approval of the event, pending all appropriate and prudent procedures, precautions, written agreements, and other documents were supplied and subsequently approved by the superintendent.

Motion by Mrs. Murray; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates to approve the facility use request by Alumni Football USA to use Memorial Stadium for an alumni football game between EAWR and CM alumni teams on August 19, 2017, pending all appropriate and prudent procedures, precautions, written agreements, and other documents were supplied and subsequently approved by the superintendent. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Principal's Report:

Mrs. Robinson reported on the following:

Upcoming dates to remember

Feb	18	No School—Presidents' Day
	24	11:15 Student Dismissal—SIP Day for Faculty
	25	TWIRP

Committees

Focus groups continue to meet throughout the 16-17 school year. Career Day is planned for April 28th.

Miscellaneous

Tri-District Curriculum Meeting:

Administrators from EAWR, WRH, and EASD met on February 1st to discuss curriculum alignment, etc. Next steps: high school and middle school science teachers will meet on Feb 24th. Middle school teachers will meet in April to discuss math and ELA. All three districts will then meet on May 16th—ELA in the morning and math in the afternoon.

SAT Prep Series: The first night of the SAT Prep Series was Monday the 13th. 26 students attended the first session. A repeat of the session will occur on Wednesday the 15th. The other sessions will take place between Feb 27th and March 22nd.

Superintendent's Report:

Supt. Pearson reported on the efforts of the “One Cent Makes Sense” committee, which is advocating for the one-cent school facility sales tax for Madison County school districts. He noted that the organizers suggested that a local group in each school district be assembled to assist with putting out information regarding what they perceive to be the value of the County School Facility Sales Tax. The organizers also suggested that the supporters of the referendum make clever and extensive use of their personal social media and contacts to promote the passage of the CSFST this April.

Dr. Pearson noted that he plans to make himself available via speaking engagements and written Q&A’s to explain the main components of the CSFST; how EAWR would likely use any such proceeds from the CSFST; and to address any potential misconceptions about the law. However, he noted that he could not necessarily advocate for it, due to concern over electioneering statutes.

He noted that the committee is in the course of private fund-raising and has a campaign strategy and timetable mapped out. It will continue to meet in the upcoming weeks.

The Board had previously approved a resolution to have this issue put on the April 2017 ballot.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Redman, to adjourn to executive session to: a) Discuss individual student matters, b) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District, c) Discuss collective bargaining matters, and d) Discuss pending or current litigation. Aye: Mrs. Bell-Yates, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Absent: Mr. Duncan. Motion Passed at 7:34 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Ms. Leggett, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mrs. Bell-Yates, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 8:19 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mrs. Murray; second by Mr. St. Peters, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 3, 2017 and January 10, 2017. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Ms. Leggett; second by Mr. Redman, to approve the destruction of the audio recordings of the Executive Session Minutes of August 2015. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. Redman; second by Mrs. Murray, to accept the resignation of Emily Beasley, effective with the end of the 2017-17 school year. Mrs. Beasley's position is Classroom Aide, but has been serving as a long-term substitute Science teacher during Mrs. Kamp's one-year leave of absence. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Ms. Leggett, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 8:21 p.m.