

Regular Board Meeting
March 12, 2019
Board Conference Room

Call to Order:

President Jennifer Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room, whereupon roll was subsequently taken. Melissa Bartels, Missy Bell-Yates, Leroy Duncan, Mike Redman, Mark St. Peters, and Jennifer Murray answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Jamey Westbrook. Present were administrators and/or directors John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, Kevin Gockel, and Gerry Mattix-Wand. Also present were several students and their parents or relatives.

Student Recognition:

Dr. Pearson and Mr. Gockel recognized several students for various awards gained this year.

Mrs. Woodman, Guidance Director, submitted the following students for recognition:

Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership - Lindsey Morrison and Sarah Salinas. The Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Training or HOBY prepares young men and women for a lifetime of leadership - from taking a leadership position at school to starting a non-profit in their community and everything in between. Each year, EAWR sends two sophomore students. This June, EAWR will send Miss Lindsey Morrison and Miss Sarah Salinas to the campus of Illinois Wesleyan for HOBY training. Congratulations!

East Alton Rotary Scholarship Students. East Alton Rotary sponsors a two-year scholarship program offered to qualifying EAWR students beginning their junior year and running through their senior year of high school. Students can earn up to \$3,000 in scholarship money through honor roll, good attendance, and participating in activities hosted by East Alton Rotarians. This year's EAWR junior participants are Mr. Brandon Johnson and Miss Alexis Akins-Meyers., Our senior students are Mr. Lucas Edwards Vogt, and Miss Tiffany McMahan.

Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Nominee. Each year, the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsor an essay contest. Ms. Gardner, EAWR Advanced Studies teacher, chooses a senior student for EAWR's nominee. This year, Miss Carrie Price was chosen. Congratulations, Carrie!

DAR Good Citizens Award. Each year the Ninian Edwards Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recognizes one junior from area high schools based upon the ideals of dependability, service, and patriotism (which includes unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation). This year's DAR Good Citizens Award goes to Aubrey Robinson. Congratulations!

Sons of the American Revolution Nominee. Each year the General George Rogers Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) sponsors an Outstanding Citizenship Award for deserving seniors from area high schools. This award is designed to honor outstanding seniors who exemplify good citizenship qualities such as leadership, cooperation, dependability, congeniality, community involvement, and patriotism. This year's Sons of the American Revolution nominee is senior, Shawn McKee. Congratulations!

Mr. Gockel also recognized Jake Erslon at the meeting, with the following introduction:

Jake Erslon is being recognized for his tremendous athletic career in wrestling. Jake is a Senior at EAWR and has been wrestling since he was 10 years old. He started off wrestling for the Junior Oilers and had a great time learning the skills necessary to be successful. Jake credits his losing early in his career to the motivation to push him to excel later in wrestling. At the age of 13, he started wrestling for the Bethalto Bulls. Jake had found some success and wanted a challenge from a new club. Jake went from the that club to his high school wrestling career.

Jake enjoys being "lazy" and watching TV in his free time due to his extensive training schedule. He has enjoyed his four years here at EAWR and plans to continue wrestling collegiately. Jake's family is very important to him and wants to thank them for always supporting him thru his career.

Jake's High school Accomplishments:

- Civic Memorial tournament champion-2018
- Undefeated in the Danville duel tournament: 8-0
- Regional runner up-2018,2019
- 4th place winner at Sectionals-2018
- 3rd place winner at sectionals-2019
- Finished 4th at STATE in 2019
- Tied the single season win record: 44 wins
- Exceeded 100 career wins before the postseason

The Board congratulated those students and thanked them for attending the Board meeting.

Board Communications:

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. Redman, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of February 5, 2019 and February 12, 2019. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Approve Payment of District Bills and Quick Pays:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, that the payment of bills as presented in the amount of \$113,709.49 be authorized; that salaries for the month of February in the amount of \$477,146.49 and bills quickly paid for the month of February in the amount of \$52,015.08 be approved and that March salaries and bills to be paid quickly be authorized. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mrs. Murray. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Approve Membership Renewal in IHSA:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Redman, to approve the renewal of membership in the Illinois High School Association. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Approve ID Badge Requirement for 2019-20:

The Board reviewed the merits of joining the majority of high schools around Illinois in adopting a policy whereby students and staff must display a photo ID badge at school. The Board's new policy will require all students to display their school-issued photo ID at all times during the normal school day, which would begin upon their arrival on campus until 2:35 p.m. Staff would be required to wear their ID badges, as well.

The overall policy was approved in February as one of the Board's goals for 2019-20. It is proposed that the ID badge policy become a part of the 2019 Strategic Plan.

Badges shall be displayed on a school-issued lanyard and worn on the outside of clothing on the student chest, for easy identification and security purposes. Students who forget their badges will be sent to the Media Center for a new badge at a cost of \$5.00. If they forget the lanyard, replacement costs are \$1.00. Both of these charges will be placed on a student's obligation list, and unpaid obligations for replacement badges or lanyards will be treated as other obligations to the school. According to school policy, unpaid obligations prevent a student from walking at Graduation, and prevent those students from being exempt from having to take final exams – even if that student has met the other criteria for exemption from finals or has met Graduation requirements.

The Board also reviewed the proposal from School Technology Associates for an ID Badge package, which would include the hardware, software, and supplies for the school to make its own badges or replacement badges.

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to approve the recommended policy language for ID badges and to enable its implementation for the 2019-20 school year. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Review and Approval of Revised Chromebook Take-Home Policy:

Mr. Mattix-Wand reviewed his recommendations for the take-home policy change for 2019-20, which is to allow all students to take home their school-owned Chromebooks without paying the annual \$25 damage waiver. Currently, approximately 80% of students now pay the damage waiver fee, every year. Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that, in exchange for that privilege, parents would be liable for full cost of any repairs or replacement costs, which can be significant, as well as obligations that can ultimately – if not paid – remove an exemption from finals or the opportunity to “walk” at Graduation.

Mr. Duncan asked about the quality and reliability of the newer Chromebooks that the school is issuing. Mr. Mattix-Wand responded that the newer machines are sturdier, but that he has some repeat offenders who don't take proper care. Mr. St. Peters asked if the District is still planning on using the warranty service at \$19 per machine per year, to which the Ed. Tech Director responded, “Yes.” He also reminded the Board that the warranty coverage does not cover chargers but does cover most every other part that seems to be broken by students.

After some further discussion, there was a consensus to put forth a motion to approve the policy change.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to approve the Chromebook “Take-Home Policy” revision, allowing students in 2019-20 to take home their school-issued Chromebooks without paying a \$25 damage waiver fee. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Discuss and Approve Chromebook Protection Plan:

Mr. Mattix-Wand also reviewed the administration's recommendation for an optional Chromebook Protection Plan, which could ultimately save parents some large “sticker-shock” costs for certain Chromebook repairs.

Essentially, the proposed protection plan covers the parent as follows:

The Chromebook Protection Plan will cover any component malfunction that is the result of manufacturer defect.

Further, the Chromebook Repair Waiver will cover the following repairs that are not a result of a manufacturer defect. These coverages are good per school year and “re-set” for the next school year:

- 1st breakage or repair issue in a given school year: Total-cost coverage of Chromebook repair in a single regular school year
- 2nd breakage or repair issue: A half-cost coverage of Chromebook repair in a single regular school year (Parent pays 50% of that cost).

- 3rd breakage or repair issue in a given school year: A half-cost coverage of Chromebook repair in a single regular school year (Parent pays 50% of that cost).

The Chromebook Repair Waiver will NOT cover the following:

- Repair cost coverage beyond 3rd incident in a single regular school year
- Physical damage to keys on the keyboard
- Physical damage to the charging unit or it's cords
- Total loss due to theft
- Damage to the carrying case

Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that this proposed protection plan is given as a hedge against large dollar loss, for the same price as the old damage waiver. He noted that the administration would publicize this option at Registration next August, as well as through the Webpage, Facebook page, and the parent back-to-school letters this summer.

He also noted that, if the Board wished to adjust the recommended per-year charge for the optional coverage, it could do so. After some discussion on this issue, there was a consensus to use the \$25 charge. Mr. Mattix-Wand also reminded the Board that the proceeds from the former damage waiver and the expected proceeds from the proposed protection plan help to offset the District costs for the third-party warranty coverage, which was part of the rationale for the Board in adopting that warranty coverage last year. He also noted that – during the 2019-20 school year that only half of the machines will be covered by the warranty plan, since it was not started until last summer.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to approve the optional Chromebook Protection Plan with the recommended guidelines, coverages, and for the recommended charge of \$25 per year. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Discuss and Adopt the Strategic Plan for 2019:

The superintendent reviewed the components and current status of the goals and action plans for the draft Strategic Plan for 2019. The major goals for the 2019 Plan were approved by the Board at its Special Meeting on February 16, 2019.

Major elements of the new Strategic Plan are:

- Use of the Strategic Dashboard to communicate “our story” and the elements of the Strategic Plan on line, via the portal created by the shared partnership through ECCRA Groups and the Illinois Association of School Administrators.
- Expand Collinsville Area Vocational Center Opportunities to Juniors, as well as Seniors (as feasible)
- Revise Fiscal Plan
- Improve School Image in the Community (via more frequent use of the school’s Facebook page. Twitter feed, and improved Website, as well as a slimmed-down and locally-funded Parent Outreach Program (due to current lack of grant funding)

- Increased recognition at Board meetings and other venues for student and staff successes, accomplishments, awards, etc.
- Continue to seek opportunities to enhance tri-district cooperation in curriculum; cost, personnel, and facility sharing.
- Revise Chromebook take-home policy by removing damage waiver requirement, but offering optional protection plan
- Continue to seek improvement in athletic team performance and increased student-athlete participation
- Enhance security and safety program by adopting a photo ID Badge system and policy for 2019-20
- Expand guidance services to include more career informational events for students in more whole group sessions.
- Improve Image and Make Life Safety Improvements to Campus (5 student restroom total renovations to begin in June 2019, with other 10-Year Plan renovations planned for the summer of 2020 and beyond)
- Enhance security and safety by employing a daytime supervisor to assist in the monitoring and supervision of students in halls, restrooms, and other common areas.
- Improve Board Governance and Orientation through following a Board Training and Leadership Plan

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. St. Peters, to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Hear 2nd Reading of and Adopt Board Policy Revision: 4.175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender Screening Notification Policy):

As noted at the February regular meeting, Supt. Pearson recommended that this policy revision be made, since it specified policy regarding the screening of convicted child sex offenders. He noted that the District – like all Illinois school districts – routinely do this. However, the Board did not have a specific piece of policy language entirely devoted to this, with elements of these requirements listed in other policies.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Redman, to adopt the policy revision to Board Policy 4.175, as recommended. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Principal's Report:

Upcoming dates to remember

March	20/21	P/T Conferences
	21	8 th Grade Parent Night
	22	No School
	29	11:25 Student Dismissal—SIP Day for Faculty
April	9	State Testing

Committees

Focus Groups continue to meet monthly

Miscellaneous

SAT Prep Sessions finish up this week. Over 50 juniors attended all 4 sessions.

NHS Induction was very well attended, with a very large new induction class. She noted that Kari Westbrook, Class of 20165, delivered the Keynote.

In response to Mr. St. Peters question, Mrs. Robinson observed that prospective NHS members have to complete an application packet, which includes an essay requirement, as well as statements of school and community involvement. These application packets to join NHS are reviewed by a Faculty Committee led by Spanish Teacher, Cari Mueller.

She also gave a brief overview of her attendance at a recent two-day orientation session for the proposed “Capturing Kids Hearts” program. This transformative school improvement initiative addresses day-to-day things that teachers and staff do in their interactions with their students in order to improve student engagement, reduce discipline issues, and ultimately to improve student performance.

If the Board ultimately adopts this program, she described the intensive training program activities the vendor (the Flippen Group) would provide, with next August being proposed as the start of the training. The Board would likely be asked to approve this training program at the April Board meeting, with Evidence-Based Model Tier I funding being used to cover those costs.

Superintendent’s Report:

Dr. Pearson reported about the recent meeting with Tim Downen of Hurst-Rosche, regarding the restroom renovations scheduled for this summer. He showed photos from a remodeled restroom that had a similar flooring and ceramic wall tile solution at Vandalia High School.

He also asked the Board if they wished to have the plans for the PE locker room renovation include the re-opening of the shower facility and repair of the ceramic block enclosure in that locker-room. Since that locker room is often used by visiting teams, he assumed that the Board would wish to re-establish the use of the showers and to restore that shower facility.

Currently, the PE showers are turned off, with overflow lockers placed inside the shower enclosure. He noted that he had checked with Kyle Duncan, and that those overflow lockers are not used extensively, and that only a few of them are needed. The

superintendent reported that he and Mr. Foxall could explore using some of those overflow lockers and re-installing them elsewhere in that locker room.

After some discussion, there was a consensus to include that shower facility wall enclosure work in the restroom renovation project slated for this summer in the PE Locker Room.

Informational Item: E-Rate Application for FY 2019 (Mr. Mattix-Wand):

Ed. Technology Director Mr. Mattix-Wand described how the Federal e-Rate program was still prioritizing connectivity for its discount program. He noted that connectivity improvements would fall under two broad areas of improvement to the school's connectivity and network improvements: Increase of Internet Bandwidth and Improvement of the Network (through a faster router, increased cabling for more wireless access points in the East Building and added capacity to our switches.

He informed the Board that his recommendation was to apply for the 80% discounts in both major areas, which would include moving from 250 Mb bandwidth to at least a 500 Mb bandwidth connection; purchase of a 10 Gbps router, cabling for additional wireless access points, and increase capacity of our switches to improve access and to secure and segregate our security camera traffic.

Total cost of those improvements would be just over \$36,000, with the Federal discounts covering 80% of that cost (just under \$29,000), with the District picking up the remaining 20% out of pocket (about \$7,200 in local costs). Mr. Mattix-Wand noted that these network improvements were very important for the reliability and speed of our network and that we should not leave that Federal discount funds "sitting on the table."

After some discussion, there was a consensus of the Board to have Mr. Mattix-Wand proceed with those funding assumptions in his application for e-Rate funds. If the application is ultimately approved, the Board would approve those purchase those items and services at a later Board meeting.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, 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, Mr. St. Peters, and Mrs. Murray. Nay: None. Motion Carried at 7:37 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mrs. Murray. Nay: None. Motion Carried at 8:16 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mr. Redman; second by Mrs. Bartels, to approve the destruction of the audio recordings of the Executive Session Minutes of September 2017. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 5, 2019 and February 12, 2019. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan to employ Morgan Beachum as Special Education Teacher - pending receipt of appropriate professional educator license and endorsement – beginning with the 2019-20 school year. Ms. Beachum is from East Alton and is currently employed as the Asst. Cheer Coach. She is a 2014 alumna of EAWR. Morgan will fill the position created by the retirement of Patti Scott next year. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to employ Amanda Arment, as English Teacher, beginning with the 2019-20 school term. Ms. Arment is a 2009 alumna of EAWR and is currently serving as an English and Journalism Teacher at Hazelwood West High School. Amanda will fill the position created by the retirement of Joni Taylor, next year. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Redman; second by Mr. St. Peters to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 8:18 p.m.