

1st Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 7, 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. Leroy Duncan, Mike Redman, Mark St. Peters, and Nick Aguinaga answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Missy Bell-Yates, Rebecca Leggett, and Jennifer Murray. Present were administrators/directors John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, Kevin Gockel, and Gerry Mattix-Wand. Also present was Lee Ann Parmentier, a teacher and a parent of an EAWR student.

Public Comments:

Mrs. Parmentier addressed the Board about three general areas of concern, and then gave some specific instances that she perceived in those general areas.

She first addressed what she viewed as the negative appearance of the school buildings and grounds. She listed areas of concern with the lawns and other campus exterior appearance issues. She also listed specific concerns of the hallways, classrooms, and restrooms.

She next addressed the school dress code, suggesting that it is difficult to enforce and suggested a return to a dress code seen formerly at EAWR (prior to 2006) and in most surrounding high schools.

Finally, she addressed concerns over the direction of the girls basketball program.

The Board thanked her for her comments.

Hear Preview of March 7, 2017 Regular Meeting:

Renew Membership in the IHSA: Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that it would need to renew its annual membership in the Illinois High School Association at the March 14th Regular Meeting.

“Grand Bargain” / Legislative Summit - Feb. 21-22: Both Board member Mark St. Peters and Supt. Pearson attended the School Management Alliance-sponsored Legislative Summit in Springfield. Over the two days, they listened to former Highland Superintendent, Jim Burgett; Ralph Martire (Center for Budget and Tax Accountability); Alliance lobbyists; and four key legislators - all discuss the proposed elements of the budget fix in Springfield, which is known as the “Grand Bargain.”

Dr. Pearson reviewed the 13 Senate bills which are being proposed as a package of bills, meant to strike a compromise between Democrats and Republicans as well as the Governor (who also made a brief appearance at the conference). He noted that the odds of that package making through both halves of the Capitol were slim, since the “Bargain” has something anyone can detest, and if one bill fails, the whole package fails. Of course, that’s the essence of any compromise legislation.

Mr. St. Peters spoke about his impressions of the Governor’s address as well as their Wednesday meeting with Rep. Dan Beiser, noting that he was glad to have Dr. Pat Anderson of Wood River Hartford District #15 with them in Rep. Beiser’s office. Dr. Pearson reported that Rep. Beiser’s perspective was that some of the components would be a tough sell in his caucus.

Both Mr. St. Peters and the superintendent acknowledged that it was a very valuable conference, especially to hear the four legislators (two Republicans and two Democrats, with one of the Democrats being Sen. Manar from Bunker Hill) talk frankly about the need to strike this compromise and the need to move the school funding formula to the evidence-based model.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, 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, d) Discuss pending or current litigation, and e) Discussion of school safety and security procedures. Aye: Mr. Duncan, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Absent: Missy Bell-Yates, Rebecca Leggett, and Jennifer Murray. Motion Passed at 6:50 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mr. Duncan, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Absent: Missy Bell-Yates, Rebecca Leggett, and Jennifer Murray. Motion Passed at 7:47 p.m.

Action Items:

Dr. Pearson reported that he had recently received the resignation of Emily VanNatta as Head Girls Basketball Coach and that a vacancy would be posted.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. Redman, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 7:52 p.m.