

Regular Board Meeting  
July 14, 2015  
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. Rebecca Leggett, Scott Miner, Jennifer Murray, Mark St. Peters, Melissa Walter-Bock, and Nick Aguinaga answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Leroy Duncan. Present were administrators and/or directors John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, Kevin Gockel, Adam Miller, and Gerry Mattix-Wand.

Board Correspondence:

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Minutes:

Motion by Ms. Leggett; second by Mrs. Murray, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of June 2, 2015 and June 9, 2015, as well as the Special Meeting of June 23, 2015. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Approve Payment of District Bills and Quick Pays:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Murray, that the payment of bills as presented in the amount of \$104,427.97 be authorized; that salaries for the month of June in the amount of \$413,502.54 and bills quickly paid for the month of June in the amount of \$21,941.75 be approved and that July salaries and bills to be paid quickly be authorized. Aye: Ms. Leggett, Mr. Miner, Mrs. Murray, Mr. St. Peters, Ms. Walter-Bock, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed.

Discuss and Approve the Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement Between Global Brass and the GBC Taxing Body Consortium:

Dr. Pearson reviewed the basics of the proposed settlement agreement with Global Brass. Global Brass has been in talks with the members of the Consortium on a potential settlement agreement for about three years, while continuing to appeal its tax assessment on its rolling mill tax parcel in East Alton. Negotiations have recently centered on a tax assessment stipulated value that would recoup some tax dollar savings

for the company, while setting up an agreement which would lock in that value for both sides of the dispute in a long-term agreement.

The agreement would stipulate the value of the Shamrock St. parcel (rolling mill) at \$699,000 for tax assessment purposes for the length of the agreement. In exchange, Global would cease its assessment appeals and any litigation regarding its disputed tax assessment for the length of the agreement. The advantage to the school district and the other taxing bodies was the ending of legal representation costs in this dispute; the projected high costs of legal services and future appraisal costs of fighting Global's appeal at PTAB; and the possibility that, in spite of the legal and appraisal costs invested, the consortium might eventually lose its intervention appeals with PTAB for the tax years in dispute.

The agreement would lower the tax parcel's value from approximately \$1.1 million to \$699,000. That lowering of the assessment is projected to cost EAWR approximately \$6,700 annually in lost "restricted rate levies and funds" (i.e. Ed.; O&M; Trans; Working Cash; Sp. Ed.; HLS; and Tech Lease) revenues over the length of the agreement. The agreement is set to run from Tax Years 2015 through 2023.

Motion by Mrs. Murray; second by Ms. Walter-Bock, to adopt the Settlement Agreement with Global Brass, as presented. Aye: Ms. Leggett, Mr. Miner, Mrs. Murray, Mr. St. Peters, Ms. Walter-Bock, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed.

#### Authorize Purchase of Electronic Marquee:

The Board reviewed two proposals for a replacement of its old marquee with a new digital and electronic marquee - both from Arrow Signs. Dr. Pearson reported that, after an initial estimate, Nevco did not submit a formal proposal.

Each proposal featured a custom-built cabinet with a full color digital display, with the major difference between the two proposals being the size of the display, itself. One proposal featured a two-line sign, with the custom made cabinet and installation for \$26,110. The two-line sign would have the same graphics, video, and text capabilities of the four-line sign, with the smaller display and a slightly lower cost for the cabinet. The four-line sign was proposed at \$29,030.

After some discussion, the Board agreed that it would prefer the four-line proposal, given its better messaging and display capabilities, for just under an extra \$3,000.

The superintendent reminded the Board that it will receive about \$23,000 from the EAWR Foundation through its fund-raising - which includes a generous \$5,000 donation from The Bank of Edwardsville. Mr. St. Peters suggested that the sign cabinet should not only acknowledge the bank's donation but also the donation from the EAWR Foundation - both on the permanent part of the sign cabinet, but also in the electronic

display for some reasonable amount of time. Mrs. Robinson reminded the Board that a large portion of the Foundation's contribution was made possible through the many folks in the community that purchased cash raffle tickets. Plus, other contributions and proceeds from numerous commemorative brick sales have further built on the ability of the Foundation to make such a contribution.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Ms. Leggett, to authorize the superintendent to accept the proposal with Arrow Signs for the four-line, full-color display and sign at the proposed price of \$29,030, per Arrow's proposal. Aye: Ms. Leggett, Mr. Miner, Mrs. Murray, Mr. St. Peters, Ms. Walter-Bock, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed.

#### Principal's Report:

Mrs. Robinson reported on the following:

##### I. Upcoming dates to remember

Aug	10	First Day of Football Practice
	12	First Day of Fall Sports Practice
	13	All School Registration

##### II. Committees

The school improvement committee will meet during the summer 2015. The math and science department have also met this summer.

##### III. Miscellaneous

Summer school ended on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and we issued 134 grades.

Teachers will be submitting Type II and Type III assessments over the summer and the administrative team will be meeting to review them.

The JFL will once again be using the high school facilities and I will serve as the high school liaison. Over 70 people attended the meeting on Sunday night.

The Spirit Club will meet on July 28<sup>th</sup> to plan school spirit activities/events.

#### Superintendent's Report:

The superintendent briefed the Board on progress made on the Board's 2015 Strategic Plan, during his quarterly update.

Dr. Pearson also informed the Board that representatives from both Stifel-Nicolaus and 1<sup>st</sup> MidState would present at the August and September board meetings, respectively, on bonding options. He reported that, due to changes in Federal requirements, the District would have to issue a non-binding engagement letter with each bonding agent, so that the representatives could discuss and give specific projections and scenarios of a potential bond issue.

[Mr. Duncan arrived at 6:39 p.m.]

Mr. Mattix-Wand discussed the review of some bag or sleeve purchases for incoming freshmen's Chromebooks, given the desire expressed by the administrators and the board to start phasing out some of the current bags. We have received some price quotes from a couple of vendors and are awaiting samples to be examined from one of the vendors. He noted that sleeves were being considered as an alternative to bags, given the cost, as well as the notion that some students wind up carrying Chromebooks inside their own backpacks, anyway.

Mr. Gockel and Mr. Miller both observed that this practice was occurring. Mrs. Robinson noted that students at East Alton Elementary were using sleeves to protect their iPads, and placing them in backpacks.

The administration will study the samples and the price quotes and, then, make a determination in the next couple of weeks, so that any orders could be delivered in time for the opening of school.

#### Committee Reports:

The Board was reminded that the Personnel Committee met last Tuesday (July 7<sup>th</sup>) with attorney Shane Jones, to review positions and recommendations in advance of the first bargaining session. That session will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Ms. Walter-Bock, 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: Mr. Duncan, Ms. Leggett, Mr. Miner, Mrs. Murray, Mr. St. Peters, Ms. Walter-Bock, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 6:51 p.m.

#### Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Ms. Leggett, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mr. Duncan, Ms. Leggett, Mr. Miner, Mrs. Murray, Mr. St. Peters, Ms. Walter-Bock, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 7:06 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mrs. Murray; second by Mr. Duncan, to approve the destruction of the audio recordings of the Executive Session Minutes of January 2014. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Ms. Leggett; second by Mrs. Murray, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 2, 2015 and June 9, 2015. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Ms. Walter-Bock; second by Mr. Duncan, to employ Shone Fry of Springfield as its new Cafeteria Director and to set her annual salary for 2015-16 at \$32,000 plus the same health insurance benefit that all full-time support staff receive. Ms. Fry, who is an EAWR alumnus (1986), replaces Maj Luckert, who had recently resigned to take another position. Ms. Fry comes to EAWR with school food management experience at Catholic Children's Home, as well as a wide variety of food management and nutrition experience in the private sector. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Ms. Walter-Bock, to employ Garry Herron of Wood River as the new Special Education Teacher. Mr. Herron, who had already been appointed as the new Head Football Coach, will be assigned to the new TMH classroom, which was created by the Board to provide educational services to those students in a more cost-effective manner. Mr. Herron is also an EAWR alumnus (2002). Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 7:09 p.m.