

Regular Board Meeting  
July 14, 2020  
Library

Call to Order:

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

Board Communications:

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of June 2, 2020 and June 9, 2020 and the Special Meetings of June 9, 2020 and June 12, 2020. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Approve Payment of District Bills and Quick Pays:

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mrs. Duncan, that the payment of bills as presented in the amount of \$110,484.97 be authorized; that salaries for the month of June in the amount of \$433,744.26 and bills quickly paid for the month of June in the amount of \$10,485.95 be approved and that July salaries and bills to be paid quickly be authorized. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. St. Peters. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Discuss and Approve Health, Life Safety Amendment #49:

Supt. Pearson described some joint leaks on the top of the exterior supports of the East Building which were resulting in some water damage to portions of the interior walls of some classrooms and offices. While Mr. Moxey, Maintenance Director, was surveying the roofs of all of the buildings, he had noticed that some of those joints (which face upward) were cracked and exposed to the elements. He had witnessed some of the resulting wall peeling in rooms directly below and adjacent to the exterior supports.

So, he contacted the architect, showed him photos of the failed joints in question, and received an estimate from a masonry contractor that was on-site doing tuckpointing work on the South Building.

Architect Tim Downen has submitted an amendment to the Life Safety 10-Year Plan, which would cover the re-sealing of these joints, with an estimate from the contractor that amounted to just under \$4,200 for the repairs.

Dr. Pearson recommended that the Board approve the submission of the Life Safety Amendment #49 for that work.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates, to approve the application for Amendment #49, as recommended. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. St. Peters. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Approve Room Lease Agreement with Region III Cooperative for 2020-2022:

Dr. Pearson recommended that the Board approve the classroom rental lease agreement to house one Region III high school classroom program. The room selected would likely be the former Main Computer Lab, which has been empty for the last 7-8 years. The lease agreement calls for an annual payment of \$8,500 to EAWR, which covers services, utilities, copier supplies, etc.

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates to approve the lease agreement with Region III. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. St. Peters. Nay: None. Motion Carried.

Review and Approve Title I Schoolwide Plan Revision:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to approve the updated Title I Schoolwide Plan. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Discuss and Approve Revision to Board Policy 7.190 (Student Behavior):

Dr. Pearson suggested additional language to the current section under Prohibited Student Conduct, at #7 ("Disobeying rules of student conduct, directives and emergency orders issued from state and local authorities, and/or directives from staff members or school officials."). Although he acknowledged that some attorneys have thought adding such language may be redundant (given the pending handbook rules that will spell out requirements for mask wearing, distancing, athletic rules, etc., anyway), having this clause in the Board's discipline policy that specifies that students are subject to those directives could strengthen the Board's case, should a parent or student challenge that requirement.

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to approve the revision to Board Policy 7.190. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

### Discuss and Approve "Return to School Plan:"

The Board spent some time reviewing the elements of the "Return to School Plan," which is a requirement for school districts this summer. This plan has elements addressing the following: communications with parents and students, instruction & grading, transition back to on-campus instruction, a blended learning schedule, a plan to return to full remote instruction, cafeteria and food service (take-home sack lunches, included), hall and stair traffic control, face masks, symptom checking and self-certification, procedures if a student or employee has covid-19 symptoms at school, school cleaning and safety procedures, P.E., and bus transportation/Dr. Ed.

Representatives of the union and the administrators (the Labor Management Committee) have been working very cooperatively over the summer to form the elements of the Plan. The union will shortly bring back a decision as to an issue of whether to bring in faculty earlier than the current CBA states in order for the teachers to assist in supervision of students earlier. The administration has proposed that it would agree to dismiss teachers earlier as compensation.

The superintendent observed that the Plan would be posted on the Website, with a condensed version of the Plan published on the school Facebook page and Website.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to approve the Return-to-School Plan, as presented. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

### Suspension of Student-Athlete Drug Testing:

Dr. Pearson reported that conducting drug testing in the Phase IV rules / COVID-19 environment would be extremely difficult, given the social distancing concerns and the lack of adequate space to perform the initial screens this August. As a consequence, he recommended that the Board approve a suspension of the student-athlete drug testing program, until further notice.

After some discussion on the duration of the suspension, Mr. St. Peters called for a motion to simply suspend the testing program until further notice, with the understanding that the suspension is temporary and that the policy is still in force.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to suspend the student-athlete drug testing program until further notice. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

### Principal's Report:

Mrs. Robinson gave an oral report, which highlighted the following:

- I. *Upcoming dates to remember*

August 3/4 New Students to the District Registration  
August 11<sup>th</sup> Student Registration By Appointment  
Online registration will open up on August 1<sup>st</sup>

## *II. Committees*

Faculty meeting was held on June 25<sup>th</sup>  
School Improvement Team/Division chair meeting was held on July 12<sup>th</sup>

## *III. Miscellaneous*

The student handbook will be ready to adopt at the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The SIT/Division Chair Team discussed community service, semester exemption, other programs tied to attendance, and some changes/modifications to other items. The Illinois Principals Association released the Model Student Handbook Updates last week so those policies will be included in the handbook.

The Parent Outreach Program (POP) starts this week for freshmen parents. Small groups will meet in the library wearing masks and social distancing.

The SIT/Division Chair Team discussed professional development items needed for the start of the year.

Freshmen Orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. The format of the day is to put students into multiple groups and rotate through stations and a mini schedule.

The SIT/Division Chair Team discussed items for the first day for all students.

ISBE is requiring all seniors to take the SAT in October or April to meet the diploma requirement.

## Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Pearson gave a report (with photos) of progress on the numerous Life Safety Projects this summer. Discussion centered on progress of the Gym windows and panels, the restroom renovations, and the new cafeteria floor.

He also highlighted the spending priorities of the new ESSER / CARES Act grant funds, which totaled over \$173,000. Spending includes purchasing of Sprint Wi-Fi routers for students that lack sufficient Internet access for remote learning; PPE supplies and face masks; stipends for teachers/departments to work on transition planning; acrylic barriers for employee desks; 200 Chromebooks for incoming freshmen and transfers for the 1:1 program; Edgenuity on-line instruction licenses; summer school for 2021; and signage and floor stickers for distancing and separation reminders.

Dr. Pearson reported that he would include two additional security cameras in the budget for covering the fire escape and the "breezeway" beneath the girls locker room (between the "Aud Gym" locker rooms and the South Building), which will be a one-way exit from the Main Building to the other two buildings for students and staff - at least for the foreseeable future.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to: a) Discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in an educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in an educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; b) Discuss collective bargaining matters; c) Discuss individual student matters; d) Discuss pending or current litigation; and e) Discuss emergency security procedures. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. St. Peters. Nay: None. Motion Carried at 8:00 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. St. Peters. Nay: None. Motion Carried at 8:20 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mrs. Bell-Yates; second by Mr. Duncan, to employ Catherine Fairless of Wood River as Part-Time Cook. Motion Carried Voice Vote

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to appoint Jesse Daniels of Wood River as Head Girls Soccer Coach. Mr. Daniels is currently the Asst. Girls and Boys Soccer Coach and is a Social Studies Teacher at EAWR. He replaces the recently resigned Matt Herndon who left to take a position in Highland. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to appoint Tim Donohoo of Wood River as a volunteer, non-paid Asst. Football Coach. Mr. Donohoo is the EAWR Head Wrestling Coach. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to award a 5-Year performance-based contract to Principal Leigh Robinson, effective July 1, 2020. The contract will run until June 30, 2025. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, and Mr. St. Peters

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels to destroy the verbatim audio tapes from January 2019 Board executive sessions. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 9, 2020. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to keep the previous six months closed session minutes closed to public inspection. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 8:34 p.m.