

1st Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 2, 2016
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. Amy Harding, Rebecca Leggett, Jennifer Murray, Mark St. Peters, and Nick Aguinaga answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Leroy Duncan. Present were administrators John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, Kevin Gockel, and Gerry Mattix-Wand. Also present was Mike Redman, Scott Cousins of the Telegraph, and Pastor Ralph Blake.

Seat New Board Member:

President Aguinaga administered the Oath of Office and seated new EAWR Board member, Mr. Mike Redman, of East Alton, to the seat recently vacated by the resignation of Scott Miner. The Board welcomed Mr. Redman.

Public Comments:

Pastor Ralph Blake, representing the local group, "Citizens for Child Safety," addressed the school board. He asked the Board to consider rejecting both the US. Office for Civil Rights and the U.S. Dept. of Education's recent directive regarding transgender students' civil rights to use the restroom and/or locker room facilities. Specifically, if a student identifies with the opposite gender and if he/she makes a request to use that opposite gender's facilities, then that transgender student shall be granted access under Title IX.

The concern of the group is the safety of students in such a situation, along with moral issues.

Pastor Blake also noted that his Website would list boards and/or individual board members names with how they ultimately "voted" on this issue.

The Board listened to the Pastor's recitation of a letter and thanked him for his input.

The Board also noted the passing of John Duncan, father of Leroy Duncan, Board Vice President. Mr. Duncan was 91 and a resident of Paoli, Indiana.

Hear Preview of August 9, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Authorize Disposal of Surplus & Obsolete District Equipment (Old Home Ec. Stoves): Dr. Pearson recommended that the Board declare 6 old kitchen stoves - formerly housed in the Home Economics classroom - obsolete and to authorize their disposal.

Approve Interfund Transfer from Education Fund to Debt Service Fund: The superintendent noted that, with the pending lease-purchase agreement to acquire the 200 new Chromebooks and bags, approximately \$53,000 would need to be transferred from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund. This is due to the fact that the Tech Lease Levy proceeds are deposited into the Education Fund, but that any lease-purchase agreements must now be accounted for in Debt Service.

Hear Tentative FY 17 Budget Presentation: Dr. Pearson noted that, while he was not finished with the draft FY17 budget tonight - at least in the ISBE form version - he has run the entire budget's numbers. He reported the following positive news: Due to the new Mark-to-Market program under the Egyptian Trust, health insurance premiums actually have gone down by about 5% as compared with 2015-16 premiums. This will result in a \$30,000 savings with the District's costs for Health Insurance. Also, the reduction of the IMRF employer rates will result in a 3.2% lower District costs for IMRF. State Aid will be up by nearly \$70,000 over last year. The local tax base (EAV) also experienced the first increase in 7-8 years, with a 3.6% increase over last year's (2014) tax base.

Despite this, the Education Fund is still projected to lose about \$900,000 in 2016-17 revenues vs. expenditures calculation. The O&M Fund and Transportation are each projected to experience a one-year reduction of \$15,000 each, with expenditures outpacing revenues for 2016-17. And, although these are planned reductions (to spend down surpluses and keep the tax rate down), the Tort and Life Safety Funds also will see a negative one-year projection. Dr. Pearson did, however, remind the Board that the Education Fund was the beneficiary of the \$1.5 Million in bond proceeds in the last fiscal year, and that the Working Cash Fund will continue to be used to shore-up the other Operating Funds.

Approve Application for Recognition of Schools: Supt. Pearson reminded the Board of this routine motion they approve every year, which authorizes him to apply with the State Board of Education for school recognition (similar to school accreditation). This will be on the agenda for August 9th.

Consolidation Support: President Aguinaga read a statement to the Board members and the audience that enunciated his personal feelings about the proposed consolidation of three school districts. He cited the value of having both of the junior high schools get together on a common curriculum, but added that it hasn't happened on its own. He noted that consolidation would likely be the only way to effect that change. Although he

did hold out the possibility that it could still happen on its own, he observed that a unit district (K-12) seems the best way to bring that cohesion.

In his statement, he noted that this was not an indictment against either elementary district, but simply a problem with matching up what was being taught. He used an analogy of two swimmers: One came from a teacher that emphasized the butterfly stroke. That swimmer was skilled in that stroke and not as proficient in the breaststroke. The other swimmer came from an instructor that emphasized the breaststroke. She was very skilled in the breaststroke but not as proficient in the butterfly. But, their progress as swimmers dictates that they need to both well, if they want to do well into the future.

This is similar to the picture of what has historically happened without the coordination of what is being taught or how much time may be emphasized in certain subjects, largely due to the differences in how their school districts address the teaching of certain skills. These differences are highlighted during the freshmen year - a very big adjustment year, anyway, for most students.

Mr. Aguinaga also noted that the EAWR Board has historically supported the idea of consolidation and that it has been a part of its strategic planning for many years (since 2010 and earlier). With the consolidation election pending (and some turnover on the school board since the last election), he wanted to use this opportunity to see if the rest of the Board feels the same as he.

Amy Harding spoke out against consolidation, noting that she had changed her stance from when she supported in 2011. Mark St. Peters shared the President's sentiment in that some students struggle in certain areas - as opposed to some of their peers from the other junior high - largely due to the differences in curriculum. Mike Redman remarked that he saw no negatives in consolidating the three districts. Rebecca Leggett and Jen Murray also spoke in favor of consolidation.

The President then called for a motion to support the consolidation effort.

Motion by Mrs. Murray; second by Mr. St. Peters, to support the consolidation effort as it goes forward this coming fall. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Murray, 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: Ms. Harding, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 6:40 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Murray, to come out of executive session. Aye: Ms. Harding, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 7:38 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Redman, to appoint the following: a) Rick Huddleston - currently ISS Supervisor - as Fall Athletic Event Coordinator; b) Carla Guthrie - currently Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Athletic Director - as Winter Athletic Event Coordinator; c) Jack Kleinert, as a volunteer, non-paid Girls Asst. Basketball Coach; and d) Mark Hunter as a part-time bus driver.

Motion by Ms. Leggett; second by Mrs. Murray, to voluntarily re-assign Mrs. Emily Beasley from Teacher Aide to Science Teacher for the first semester at the per diem rate from the BA00/Step 5 of the CBA. This is due to Heather Kamp's leave of absence for that period. Mrs. Beasley will return to her aide position in the 2nd semester. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Ms. Leggett, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 7:41 p.m.