

1st Regular Board Meeting
August 4, 2020
Board Conference Room

Call to Order:

President Jennifer Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Library, whereupon roll was subsequently taken. Melissa Bartels, Leroy Duncan, Mark St. Peters, and Jennifer Murray answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Missy Bell-Yates, Mike Redman, and Jamey Westbrook. Present were administrators and/or directors John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, and Mark Beatty. No members of the public were in attendance.

Public Comments:

None.

Review and Adopt the 2020-21 EAWR Student-Parent Handbook:

Mrs. Robinson reviewed the many changes in the proposed EAWR Handbook for 2020-21. Some of the more intriguing changes were mostly related to COVID-19 issues: 1) A special heading on the first page which describes the pandemic preparedness efforts at EAWR; 2) Special education service log requirements; 3) Changes to Homebound Instruction in the COVID-19 environment; 4) Reduction in Community Service hours required; 5) The new requirement for seniors (Class of 2021) to take the SAT this year; 6) Changes in attendance requirements for students to receive Renaissance awards as well those new attendance policies and their effect on final exam exemptions; 7) An admonition to parents to keep their son/daughter at home if he/she displays any flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms; 8) Revised policy and consequences for tardiness; 9) The requirement for all students, staff, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering on campus; 10) The prohibition of the use of restraint, seclusion, and time-out on students, with certain exceptions; and 11) A specific visitors conduct policy, with specified acts that are prohibited on campus.

Mrs. Robinson noted the cooperation of the Handbook Committee as well as acknowledging the contribution of the Illinois Principals Association in recommending language changes to match the changes in school law and to sync with Board policy.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to approve the 2020-21 Student-Parent Handbook as recommended. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Review and Approve Change Order #5 with R&W Builders:

Dr. Pearson described the two pieces of this latest change order to the R&W contract work this summer: 1) A not-to-exceed \$9,000 for work to replace a frozen freshwater supply valve in the basement Girls Restroom in the Main Building and 2) The replacement of the fan and ventilation duct in the 2nd Floor East Building Girls restroom, due to the original fan being inoperable. The

price for that work was \$3,198.

Both pieces of work in the change order were unforeseen issues in the 2018 Life Safety Inspection and were only discovered by the contractor's employees while renovating these facilities.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, to approve Change Order #5 with R&W Builders in the not-to-exceed amount of \$12,198 for both projects. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mr. Duncan, Mr. St. Peters, and Mrs. Murray. Motion Carried.

Review of Agenda Items for the August 11, 2020 Board Meeting:

IHSA Changes: Dean / AD Mark Beatty reviewed the new IHSA season structure for the 2020-21 year, including the flipping of several sports to other seasons later in the year; the institution of a "4th Season" with a summer schedule for track, softball, and baseball; the moving of football and volleyball to the spring of 2021; and other momentous temporary changes.

He also reviewed the restrictive practice rules instituted for COVID-19 safety during this summer and the difficulties in changing habits of students and coaches.

Life Safety Changes: Dr. Pearson noted that nearly all of the Life Safety projects were completed or near completion. One major exception is the concrete improvements to the front of the Gym, which was a separate project outside the two major contractors' work. He reported that he had approved an additional \$5,500 work to improve about 500 sq. ft. of the western sidewalk that was not a part of the original scope of the project, but still within the \$30,000 amount specified in the Life Safety Amendment and the School Maintenance Grant. The total of the original concrete work with the added sidewalk work was approximately \$29,000.

Another exception is the installation of the vinyl cove in the Cafeteria. The new floor is down and the furniture and fixtures have already been moved back in, but the cove work is yet to be done.

However, most of the Gym projects and the restroom projects are either done or are fairly close. It looks like they will be done in time for school and maybe meet the substantial completion date of August 7th.

[Mrs. Bell-Yates arrived at 6:50 p.m.]

Return to School Updates: Discussions are underway regarding a hybrid schedule, should circumstances dictate that a more restrictive return to school be in the offing. A hybrid schedule is essentially one in which students would attend on alternate days, with remote learning occurring on the in-between days. So, half of the students would attend on campus two days per week, with the other half attending on campus on the alternating days. Monday, in this plan, would be a 100% remote learning day for all students. The hybrid schedule's principal purpose and advantage is the increased social spacing in classrooms and common areas. However, the current Return to School schedule is still intact.

The new cameras have all been installed - including the two additional cameras in the Girls Locker fire escape stairs area, which will become our new one-way student exit from the Main Building to the East or South buildings. All of the other staircases are either closed or have been converted into either "up" or "down" staircases.

The teachers will meet prior to school to discuss the transition to in-school learning, as well as to suggest means to teach in a hybrid schedule and what off-campus on-line learning will be in that scenario.

Other Items for August 11th's Board Meeting: Dr. Pearson noted that Midwest Members Credit Union recently donated \$2,000 to the high school for expenses related to the COVID-19 transition. Mr. Beatty remarked that Midwest Members also had donated \$5,000 towards a permanent ad on the new Scorer's Table in the Gym.

The County Board is scheduled to meet tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. to consider the placement of PTELL on the Nov. 3rd ballot. The superintendent reported that numerous contacts had been made with county board members around Madison County to encourage county board members to vote against placing that referendum on the ballot, due to the horrible timing of the referendum during this COVID-19 pandemic and the debilitating effect it would have on school district revenues - just at the same time that state revenues to school districts are projected to be down across the board this year.

Dr. Pearson noted that the law firm of Kriha-Boucek recently welcomed Shane Jones as a partner. Mr. Jones had been a partner with the District's current firm (Tueth, Keeney) and has represented the board in bargaining several CBA's as well as other labor and personnel issues. Supt. Pearson showed the Board a proposed Letter of Engagement, which would allow Kriha - Boucek to charge hourly rates (the same as Tueth-Keeney's rates) and still allow the Board to continue to use Tueth, Keeney for other legal representation.

Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; 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, Mr. St. Peters, and Mrs. Murray. Nay: None. Motion Carried. Motion Carried at 7:45 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Bell-Yates, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mrs. Bartels, Mrs. Bell-Yates, Mr. Duncan, Mr. St. Peters, and Mrs. Murray. Nay: None. Motion Carried. Motion Carried at 8:11 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mrs. Bartels; second by Mr. Duncan, to offer a contract to Melissa Struif of Godfrey as the new Guidance Counselor. Mrs. Struif replaces Lisa Woodman's slot in the Guidance Office and has been the Guidance Counselor at Greenfield High School for the previous eight years. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, to appoint Stacy Vambaketes as the new Guidance Director / Division Chair. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Bartels, to employ Amber Bowman as the new Custodian / Bus Driver. She replaces the recently-resigned Fred Trebing in that position and previously has served as the Part-Time Custodian since February 2020. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mrs. Bartels, to employ Fred Trebing of Edwardsville as the new Part-Time (7 Hour per day, 9-month) Custodian. He replaces Amber Bowman in that position. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mrs. Bartels, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 8:17 p.m.