

1st Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 6, 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. Leroy Duncan, Rebecca Leggett, Jennifer Murray, Mike Redman, Mark St. Peters, and Nick Aguinaga answered the roll call to establish a quorum. Absent: Amy Harding. Present were administrators John Pearson, Leigh Robinson, Kevin Gockel, and Gerry Mattix-Wand. Also present was Scott Cousins of the Telegraph and several EAWR students.

MJCH Team Presentation:

Mrs. Robinson introduced four students who, along with two others who could not attend, comprise the Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities team. The mission behind these students' work is to promote the values of respect and civility - qualities that Mannie Jackson stresses - to their fellow students at EAWR.

She noted that these students had taken the initiative last spring and over the summer to meet and to brainstorm ideas on how to most effectively promote those values.

Each of the four students present - Trenton Darr, Mackenzie Munn, Shawn McKee, and Rachel Staten - took turns presenting a slide show that addressed the lead-off activity held today (a "Donut Disrespect" donut breakfast for the student body) as well as a further activities which, among others, include questionnaires gauging students' perceptions about respect and students tweeting and "snap chatting" instances of respect that they witness. A shoe drive will also be held to promote understanding. Also, a t-shirt drawing will be held for those students who are "caught in the act" of practicing respect with others.

The Board thanked the students and Mrs. Robinson for their work in promoting these positive values amongst their fellow students. The other students on the team are Brenden Allen and Kate Booten, who both had athletic events this evening, and could not attend.

Public Comments:

None.

Hear Preview of Sept. 13, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Adopt FY 2016 District Budget: Dr. Pearson reported that, after making several adjustments of various line item accounts in some revenues and expenditures, the bottom line difference between budgeted revenues and expenditures only increased by about a net \$100. He cited several changes for the Board in his presentation.

The Board would be asked to approve this final budget on September 13, 2016. The Budget Hearing (Special Meeting) would convene at 6:00 p.m., with the regular meeting (including the budget adoption) occurring after the conclusion of the short budget hearing.

Approve Interfund Loans: The superintendent observed that the Board is asked to approve these Interfund Loans from Working Cash to both the Education Fund and Debt Service every September. He made a special note about the proposed loan to Debt Service, reminding the Board that there is a structural deficit in this fund, due to the fact that the Levy for this fund can only include what is necessary to make payments for the two outstanding bonds, but that the Fund is still feeling the effects of some tax receipts being diverted from the District to Olin several years ago as a part of an assessment agreement. That loss is still reflected, with the upshot being that the Board needs to continue to use the Interfund loan mechanism to keep positive cash in the Debt Service Fund.

The loans would be \$1 Million from Working Cash to the Education Fund and, at least, \$50,000 from Working Cash to Debt Service.

Hear Teacher-Administrator Salary and Benefit Report: As per a state mandate, the Board would again be presented a report listing teacher and administrator individual salaries and benefits. This report would be posted on the Website following the Board meeting next week and would also be transmitted to the State Board of Education.

“BuyBoard” Purchasing Cooperative: Due to the Board being a member of the Illinois Association of School Boards, EAWR qualifies for free membership in a national purchasing cooperative known as “BuyBoard.” There are no obligations to purchase items through this cooperative, but this does give the District another resource for making purchases of items that can save money for the District.

Board Election - April 2017: The Board was reminded of the fact that five seats would be up for election next April. These are the seats held by Nick Aguinaga, Becky Leggett, Amy Harding, Mark St. Peters, and Mike Redman. The first day to circulate petitions is September 20, 2016, with the first filing date of December 12, 2016. Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that the entire process now operates out of the Madison County Clerk’s office. He also shared the State Board of Elections Website with the Board, showing how to access information, deadlines, etc.

Complicating matters is the notion that, if consolidation passes this November, the terms of the new offices would be rather short, effectively ending on June 30, 2017.

Consolidation - Potential Transition: Supt. Pearson reported that he and Andrew Reinking of the ROE are researching some of the powers and duties of the combined school boards that would be tasked to act in concert during the transition phase between a successful referendum and the start date of the new unit district next July. He noted that it would be difficult for the new unit board - being that they would not be elected until next April - to do all of those things necessary to having an operational school district in place by July 1, 2017. It would be critical for the three boards and their administrators to work cooperatively on things such as seniority lists, policies, personnel staffing, salary schedules, etc. prior to the new unit board taking their seats.

Mr. Duncan observed how unwieldy it would be having 21 persons doing that work. President Aguinaga noted that it might be better for 2-3 members from each board to meet for much of the work, being more conducive to get that work done.

Chromebook Lease-Purchase Agreement Update: The transaction regarding the 2016 lease-purchase of 200 Chromebooks with The Bank of Edwardsville is concluded. The Bank's finance charges were only a little over \$90, since the District turned around and made the payment within a week of the closing of the loan. Also, since the actual invoices submitted for the Chromebooks and the bags came in \$5,300 under the original estimates on which the loan was based, the bank signed over a check for that amount, with the understanding that this amount of money would be used for the purchase of about 20-21 additional Chromebooks and bags for replacement uses. All in all, the experience in working with The Bank of Edwardsville through this process was very positive, with the superintendent noting that he would likely recommend using them next year.

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, and d) Discuss pending or current litigation. Aye: Mr. Duncan, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 6:39 p.m.

Come Out of Executive Session:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to come out of executive session. Aye: Mr. Duncan, Ms. Leggett, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Redman, Mr. St. Peters, and Mr. Aguinaga. Nay: None. Motion Passed at 6:55 p.m.

Action Items:

Motion by Mr. St. Peters; second by Mr. Duncan, to appoint the following: a) Nick Hand and Eric Gunderson as Volunteer, Non-Paid Asst. Football Coaches and b) Dillion Brasher as a Volunteer, Non-Paid Assistant Golf Coach. Motion Carried Voice Vote.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Duncan; second by Mr. St. Peters, to adjourn. Motion Carried Voice Vote at 6:56 p.m.