

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting – July 12, 2011

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of July 12, 2011.

Award Asbestos Abatement Bid

The Board reviewed and discussed the Asbestos Abatement bids for the East Building boiler replacement project. Supt. Pearson and Brent Lance noted that Farmer Environmental Services, project manager, recommended the low bid of \$36,800 from Envirotech be awarded. After some discussion about the timing of the project, the Board adopted the motion to award the bid to Envirotech, as recommended.

Award East Building Boiler Replacement Bid

Architect Brent Lance recommended that the low bid from GRP, Inc. of \$124,000 be awarded. He noted that this bid was substantially lower than the lowest bid from June 2011, when the Board determined to reject all bids and re-bid the project. He also pointed out that Alternate #1, which opted for two new circulating pumps, should also be awarded. GRP's bid for Alternate #1 was \$16,000, which would bring the total boiler work amount to \$140,000. Supt. Pearson pointed out the Alternate #1 was also being recommended by Maintenance Director, Jeff Foxall, given the fact that the new pumps would be more reliable, than relying on the current pump, which is showing its age. Further, it was also noted that the cost of purchasing the pump, now, would be more cost-effective than postponing that purchase until the current pump breaks down.

Mr. Lance informed the Board that, if it took the Alternate #1 (which he and the administration recommended), it would exceed the dollar ceiling related to the “payback” of the State Energy Efficiency Grant, which would mean that the accompanying Life Safety Amendment would not cover all of the cost of the project. This would leave the District in a position to pick up about \$6,100 of the cost from the O&M Fund, instead of pulling it all out of the Life Safety Fund. The new Life Safety Amendment would be for the amount of \$45,000, and that the Board would need to adopt a motion to apply for that amendment, as well.

President McCoy asked about the affordability of using operating funds for that \$6,100. Supt. Pearson noted that he would simply budget an extra amount of money into the O&M equipment line in the FY 12 budget.

The Board approved a motion to award the bid for the Boiler Project to GRP, Inc. for the base bid of \$124,000 plus Alternate #1 at \$16,000 for a total contract amount of \$140,000. Then, the Board approved a motion to apply for the Life Safety Amendment for the above project at the amount of \$45,000.

Interfund Loan

The Board adopted a resolution to authorize the interfund loan of \$1 Million from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund.

Superintendent's Report

IKON Copier Proposal. Mr. Pearson reported that he was looking into a proposal from IKON to enter into another five-year lease, which would be executed earlier than the planned lease expiration of January 31, 2012. The essential elements of the arrangement would be that IKON would supply two floor model / demo copiers which would be slightly faster (110 pages per minute) to replace the two aging Ricoh high-use copiers, in exchange for ending the current lease early and not putting the copier renewal out for quotes in January.

IKON would benefit from the deal, because the District copiers' frequent breakdowns as of late costs IKON a lot of service hours under the maintenance agreement. The District would benefit by having much less down time on its two high-use copiers, as well as having two newer and slightly faster copiers.

Mr. Pearson noted that, under the School Code, school districts do not have to go through the sealed bidding process for items such as copiers. Instead, it is good practice to seek competitive quotes to get the District the best deal it could. However, since IKON is promising to keep its same monthly lease rate and maintenance per copy rate as it did five years ago (when IKON was the low bid, already), it makes sense to stay with IKON. However, Mr. Pearson inquired as to the Board's feelings as to putting the usual copier quotation process on hold, given the terms of the IKON proposal.

Mr. Pearson noted that he had not had time to fully research the written proposal, since it had just reached him the day before the Board meeting. After some discussion, there was a consensus of the Board for the Superintendent to further research the proposal, and if that proposal was stated as discussed in the meeting with the IKON representatives, and met the District's needs and goals, to authorize him to proceed in pursuing that lease renewal..

Surplus Bus Offer: Mr. Pearson reminded the Board that it had authorized the sale of old Bus #8 last year, but that it had not sold for the listed price of \$2,000. Transportation Director Jeff Foxall wanted to know if he could sell it for a current phoned-in offer which was lower than the original sale price. Mr. Pearson noted that he had no concerns over this, given the fact the District had already taken the bus out of service and had already authorized its sale. There was a consensus of the Board to authorize the superintendent to obtain the best offer possible and to continue with the previously authorized sale of Bus #8.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Robinson distributed copies of her written Principal's Report to the Board. She highlighted upcoming dates of interest over the summer months. She also reported that she had secured 112 desks from Lewis and Clark Community College, which are replacing desks that are in the worst condition in several classrooms.

Foundation Update: Mr. Pearson noted that the EAWR Foundation fund-raising brochures had been recently mailed-out and that he had already received two generous donations to the EAWR Foundation. One of the donation specified “Academics” and the other gift was undesignated. He noted that the Foundation is keeping track of donors for their own individual tax purposes, as well as for the purpose of thanking them and publicizing them through other fund-raising materials and Foundation publications (such as the Web site and the Annual Report).

Following Executive Session ...

The Board hired Leo Tomerlin of Hartford, as the new 2.5 hour per day, part-time custodian.