

From the EAWR #14 Board ...

1st Regular Board Meeting

November 5, 2019

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of November 5, 2019.

Maintenance Director's Report

Jeff Foxall reported on a couple of issues: 1) He noted that the newest employees (Mike Carnes and Fred Trebing) were working well and off to a good start. 2) He reported that new (and very bright) LED lighting has been installed in exterior light fixtures which had not been operating for some time, such as the bright LED lighting underneath the canopy and entrance lights to several doors and entryways, as well as the new lighting around the front of the East Building.

Review of Selected Agenda Items for the November 12th Board Meeting

Estimate of 2019 Levy. Dr. Pearson reported that last year's increase in the tax base (EAV) was about 5.3%, due largely, he suspects, to the quadrennial re-assessment in Wood River Township last tax year (2018). That left an unrealized amount of tax collections "on the table," since the 2018 Levy assumed a 5% growth. Consequently, the restricted rate levies did not collect a total of about \$800 in this year's tax collections.

This year, the tentative levy estimate will show a slight tax rate reduction, largely due to the anticipated reduction of the Tort Levy. Even though the superintendent may alter that recommended Tort levy amount at the November 12th meeting, the Tort levy should be at least \$40,000 lower than last year. This anticipated rate reduction would occur even if the tax base was stagnant from last year.

He will recommend a growth assumption of around 8% in the tax base, that is projected to translate to a just under 5% growth in the 2019 Levy compared with the 2018 taxes extended. That would allow the District to avoid the mandated black-bordered levy hearing ad in the paper and the formal hearing to follow, since the threshold is 105% of the previous year's extension.

The Board will formally estimate the 2019 Levy on November 12th and will be asked to adopt the 2019 Levy at the December 10th Regular Meeting.

Review 2019 Illinois School Report Card: The superintendent and Mrs. Robinson reviewed various elements of the 2019 Illinois School Report Card, via the Illinois Interactive Report Card website. EAWR was designated as a "Commendable" school under the rules under the

statute. The Board reviewed the demographic data regarding students, faculty, and finances. Dr. Pearson demonstrated how to access the link from the “5 Essentials Survey” to discover school climate data, as generated from last year’s survey of students and faculty.

Mrs. Robinson reported on several aspects of teacher data, including the teacher attendance rate, noting it was below average compared to the state of Illinois. She reported that she and the School Improvement Team have now placed a limit on teacher absences for conference attendance during school days, which will be set at a maximum of four days absent per school year for conferences chosen by the teacher. School-initiated professional development or conferences required as a part of their position were exempt from the limit, as well as field trips.

Mrs. Robinson also reviewed student demographic data. Mr. Duncan inquired about the larger than average percent of homeless students in the district, to which the Principal described the difference between the classic portrait of a homeless person, versus the Federal definition for students.

In the interest of time, the administration will review the academic portion of the Report Card at the November 12th Regular Meeting.

EAWR Foundation By-Laws Proposed Amendment: Supt. Pearson reported that community member and businessman, Don Cobb, is working on a “Queen of Hearts” game at his No Man’s Land establishment and would like to ultimately give the proceeds of that game and a separate 50/50 game over to the EAWR Foundation. He reported to the superintendent that he is working with a gaming company in the Naperville area and that this company has advised him that he would have to be a member of the Board of Directors of the EAWR Foundation, in order to effectuate that giving.

Therefore, the superintendent showed the Board some amended language for the Foundation’s By-Laws (which the school board adopted in 2011) that would allow Mr. Cobb (or a designated representative of his business) to be a member of the Foundation Board - at least as an ex officio (non-voting) member.

The Board discussed some of the pros and cons and their “comfort level” with the concept, with the consensus that they were interested in supporting the EAWR Foundation with this potential revenue stream. However, since there are some concerns over the connection of the school district with the Foundation and the idea of this on-going gaming activity being a revenue source, the superintendent was directed to confer with a school attorney about the legalities of this arrangement.

Oiler Participation Contract - Proposed Amendment: Recently, an issue arose in the interpretation of the long-standing practice concerning the enforcement period of the 24/7 participation policy, known as the “Oiler Contract.” Because the athletic department requires an annual re-signing of the Contract by both parent and student-athlete, some students may be assuming that, if they sit-out a year from sports and have not signed that

annual Contract, their conduct (or any misconduct) is not subject to the rules and consequences listed in the Contract.

The proposed amended language is an unequivocal statement that the policy - even if not signed in a year away from sports participation - is still in force in the interim and any misconduct would be subject to the rules and consequences of that Contract for the duration of the student's enrollment at EAWR.

Board would be asked to approve two Interfund Loan resolutions on October 8th: \$50,000 from Working Cash to the Debt Service Fund and \$50,000 from Working Cash to the O&M Fund, both to shore up cash flow issues during this fiscal year.

Hear FY 2019 Audit Presentation - Scheffel-Boyle: Steve Pembrook and Sarah Smith of Scheffel-Boyle will be here on November 12th to present the District audit and AFR to the Board.

Policy Revisions: Dr. Pearson noted that he just received the latest PRESS issue from the attorneys at IASB, with the upshot that dozens of new policy and procedural pages are being recommended. The volume of these proposed policy changes were a result of a very busy General Assembly in their last session. He observed that it might behoove the Policy Committee to review these changes, due to that sheer amount of policy revisions, rather than take up meeting time in front of the full Board. President Murray will look into the calling of a Policy Committee meeting in the near future to review these policies, with the goal of a December 10th adoption by the full Board.

Following Executive Session ...

The Board employed Kevin Gockel as Asst. Boys Basketball Coach. Mr. Gockel is currently the Asst. Principal but had been a head basketball coach at Staunton High School. He will be assisting the new Head Coach, Steve Flowers.

Also, the Board appointed the following as non-paid, volunteer Asst. Coaches: Emilee Marcuzzo (Girls Basketball), Antonio Perez (Asst. Baseball), and Dusten Unverzagt (Boys Basketball).