

## From the EAWR #14 Board ...

### 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Board Meeting December 4, 2018

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education 1st Regular Meeting of December 4, 2018.

#### Review of Agenda Items for the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

*Adopt 2018 Tax Levy.* Dr. Pearson reviewed the levy projection spreadsheet that included a 5% assumption in the assessed valuation of the District, as well as the significant increase in the Tort Levy (\$140,000 more than in 2017) and the Debt Service Levy (about \$100,000 higher than last year's extension). Despite those increases, the overall district tax rate will likely fall somewhere around \$2.38/\$100 assessed valuation. He noted that he would give the Board that recommendation next week, at the Dec. 11th Regular Meeting. He also reported that the District would need to have the required levy hearing at 6:00, on Dec. 11th, since the levy was over 105% of last year's extension, and that the "black-bordered" notice was given in the Telegraph last Thursday for that hearing.

*Policy Revisions – 1st Reading.* The PRESS service of IASB has recently sent numerous policy revisions for the Board's consideration and adoption. Many of them are important updates to conform with legislative action. Since there are about 25-30 policies to review, he suggested that the Board either let the Policy Committee take an evening to review them, or the Board could review these with half being reviewed at the Dec. 11th meeting, and the other half being reviewed in January, with the adoption being done on January 8, 2019.

After some discussion, there was a consensus of the Board to split the policy review in two segments, as described above.

*Heartland Turf Proposal for Football Field.* The Board reviewed the "turn-key" proposal from Heartland Turf from Columbia, Illinois for the re-seeding of the football field. This proposal has the company performing all phases of the project (weed and old grass removal, aeration, planting Bermuda "sprigs," and follow-up weed-killing, fertilizing, and spot "sprigging," as necessary). The proposal described the grass as very good warm weather grass that, turns a paler color in the late fall and winter (like Zoysia grass). It wears well under football stress, too.

Another potential issue will be whether the current sprinkler system is adequate to meet the vendor's recommendation for this new turf to take hold. It's possible that another recommendation may be coming to add a third row of sprinklers. However, the company would like to personally look at the coverage of the current two-row system, before making any solid recommendation on that score.

The plan is to do the preliminary work in the spring, with the sprigs planted in late May or early June at the latest – in order to be football-ready by the middle of August.

*Non-Resident Employee Tuition Waiver.* Dr. Pearson reported that the District was notified of its waiver application being approved by the General Assembly for an additional five-year period. This waiver allows non-resident full-time employees to enroll their children at EAWR without paying tuition costs, as otherwise required by statute.

*A/C Proposal for Gym.* The Board received a proposal from GRP to install central air conditioning in Memorial Gym. The total price for the project would be \$319,743. The superintendent observed that the district would likely not wish to absorb that cost. Mrs. Murray asked if the superintendent had received other bids. He responded by noting that this was an estimate just to see what the price range might be for such a project. If the Board would want to pursue that project, that it would have to go out for a public bid process, anyway.

### *Following Executive Session ...*

The Board approved the retirement bonus / severance pay for Mary Budde as Secretary, with her retirement being effective as of June 30, 2020.

The Board also approved the retirement bonus / severance pay for Jeff Foxall as Maintenance / Transportation Director, with his retirement also being effective June 30, 2020.

Finally, the Board also acknowledged the recent retirement notice submitted by Secretary Lela Hawkins to the superintendent. Her retirement will be effective as of February 22, 2019.