

## From the EAWRCHS Board ...

### 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Board Meeting

December 6, 2016

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting of December 6, 2016.

#### Freshmen Baseball Scheduling

Head Baseball Coach Kyle Duncan attended the meeting in response to a desire on the part of some individual board members to revisit the decision last spring to drop the freshmen baseball schedule. That decision had been predicated on the small numbers of freshmen last year and the difficulty in scheduling (as well as a way to cut costs).

Coach Duncan reported that only nine freshmen boys attended the baseball meeting held recently. Because of that, he commented, "Right now, it's not realistic to have a freshmen team." He also reiterated AD Gockel's comments about the anticipated IHSA rule regarding maximum pitch counts and rest periods for starting pitchers, which would put even more of a strain on participation numbers for a freshmen program.

Mrs. Murray and Mr. Duncan both commented that they were uncomfortable with the lack of playing opportunities for some of the freshmen, without a frosh-only schedule of games. Mr. Gockel reminded the Board that, if they tried to play frosh-only games with nine players, the first time someone is ineligible or injured, they would be faced with the undesired consequence of moving sophomores down to the freshmen team or forfeit games.

After some additional deliberation, there was a consensus to table this issue, leaving open the possibility of scheduling a few 9th grade baseball games closer to the start of the season, if participation numbers increased to the point to make it feasible.

#### Public Comments

Mr. Hoffman addressed the Board and asked them to commit to working on common interests with the elementary districts. President Aguinaga noted that the

high school district has had a long history of working with the elementary districts and will continue to do so.

### Hear Preview of December 13, 2016 Regular Meeting

**Adopt 2016 Levy:** The Board reviewed the 2016 estimated tax levy, as discussed at the November 8th Regular Board Meeting. He reviewed the tax base growth assumption (9%) that could be used to assure the District could collect its maximum rates in the restricted rate levies (e.g. Education Fund, O& M Fund, Transportation Fund, etc.), while still keeping the aggregate levy increase of about 4.5%. As an aside, he reminded the Board that those rates have always been set at the statutory minimum without voter approval. Plus, he added that the assessed value of the district would not likely increase by anything close to 9%.

The Board also reviewed the dollar amounts that would be levied in the Tort and Social Security/IMRF levies, noting that the Tort levy was significantly reduced over last year's levy. That reduction of the Tort levy allowed for an overall reduction in the District's projected tax rate - no matter if there was zero growth or large growth in the EAV.

The Board would act on the recommended 2016 Levy at its December 13th Regular Meeting.

**Board Policies (2nd Reading):** Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that he is recommending an adoption of the GSA travel and meal limits for the two Board policies that govern travel spending and reimbursement (2.125 and 5.60). These limits are meant to bring District policies in line with the new statutory requirement for dollar limits on Board member and employee travel on school business. He had no further comments on the other policy revisions in their 2nd reading, since they were reviewed at the November meeting.

**Board Policies (1st Reading):** The superintendent reviewed the second set of recommended policy revisions from the Illinois Association of School Boards policy service. He noted that all of these policy changes were generated by changes in statute or case law, and that there was little discretion for boards in whether to adopt. The revisions were written essentially to bring the school board policy manual in compliance with those changes. One of the more noteworthy policy revisions (7.60) was made in regard to legislative changes involving parents challenging a ruling of the administrator or board that declared them to be non-residents of the district.

These policy revisions would be scheduled for a 2nd reading in January with a recommendation for adoption at the January 10th Regular Meeting.

***Joint District Meeting:*** The superintendent reminded the Board that Mr. Aguinaga and he are scheduled to meet with Dr. Anderson, Mr. Moore and their respective board presidents at WR-Hartford's superintendent's office tomorrow. The discussion would likely center on school calendars for 2017-18 and curriculum alignment.

### Following Executive Session ...

No motions were made or adopted following executive session.