

## From the EAWRCHS Board ...

### Regular Board Meeting

February 14, 2017

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of February 14, 2017.

#### Board Communications

Mrs. Murray commented that the moles were getting to be a nuisance again on the baseball field. Mr. St. Peters passed along a report from Jeff Foxall, Maintenance Director, in which he described a plan to use a heavy roller on the turf, find their "runs," and then use the "poison peanuts" to try and end the problem.

She also asked about the brakes on the 2002 Driver Ed. Cavalier. Dr. Pearson reported that he and Mr. Foxall had discussed this several months ago. The Cavalier has been in for service on three separate occasions to Pro Exhaust to check out the brake issue, and the conclusion the mechanics drew was that the brakes worked fine, but seemed to have some sort of manufacturing quirk with that model in that the brakes seem to grab for the first few applications, until the car had been driven a few minutes. Then, the issue goes away.

Dr. Pearson observed that, if the Board wanted, the administration could price a replacement driver education car, and then report back.

#### Adopt Strategic Plan for 2017

Dr. Pearson gave a brief update on the goals that are part of the proposed 2017 Strategic Plan, and which were tentatively approved at the January 28th Special Meeting.

Highlights of the new or revised goals in the Strategic Plan were:

- Adopt a 2017 Fiscal Plan by March 2017;
- Streamline the English curriculum (due to personnel downsizing in 2017-18) by removing Communications as a graduation requirement, but keeping it as an elective;

- Refine the Community Service Requirement by offering a 1st Semester Final Exam exemption to any senior who has completed the 40 hours of community service by the Tuesday before Thanksgiving;
- Improve the Student Dress Code for 2017-18 by adding black to the list of acceptable sweatshirt and hoodie colors, and allow students to wear Oiler T-shirts in the approved five colors (Maroon, Gold, White, Heather Gray, and, now, Black). Other t-shirts will still be prohibited.
- Under “Instructional Improvement,” the goal of seeking continued cooperation and support with the feeder districts in terms of facilities and curriculum, was expanded to other avenues, such as the sharing of resources, transportation, and personnel wherever possible and feasible;
- Also under Instructional Improvement (under the 1:1 program), the Board added the goals of: a) Look to operate the self-insurance program in-house, b) Award a graduating senior their device as a graduation gift if they have paid the damage waiver for four years and it is still in good order, c) Implement the Sprint Wi-Fi “Hotspot” program, with an annual damage waiver charge of \$20, d) Replace faculty machines with Chromebooks and Chromebases; e) Continue the new Chromebook purchases for incoming freshmen in 2017-18;
- Improve the Oiler Participation Contract;
- Add 7 cameras to the existing network for enhanced safety and security;
- Make transition to new Skyward “Q” software/database;
- Add Guidance responsibilities in oversight of the new “Give 30” program with the ROE and SAT test prep oversight;
- Improve quality of custodial services and the appearance of the school and campus (including necessary Life, Safety work);
- Improvement and expansion of school PA system.

Other goals will continue to be in the Strategic Plan for 2017, but are of an on-going nature. The Plan will be posted for the public on the Website in the Documents section.

The Board adopted the 2017 Strategic Plan, as presented and discussed.

### Calendar 2016-17: Use of “Buy-Back Day”

The written versions of the 2016-17 EAWR school calendar (as well as the on-line calendar) had informed and advised parents since last summer not to rely on Thursday, April 13, 2017 as being a part of Easter Break and to certainly avoid making any vacation plans for that day. Since a snow day had been used in mid-January and because the District wishes to dismiss school as early as possible in

May, Dr. Pearson recommended the conversion of April 13, 2017 from a non-attendance day to a regular school day.

The Board authorized to change the previously advertised “buy-back” day (April 13, 2017, the Thursday before Easter) to a regular student attendance day, and to amend the calendar accordingly.

### Revise the Lodging Cap / Board Policy 2.125

The lodging reimbursement caps on Board and employee travel have already proven in practice to be too low in some circumstances for Illinois, even with some of the group rates for conferences. Even though the new “cap” is not necessarily what each employee or Board member is allowed to spend (which both Board Policies 2.125 and 5.60 state should be based on “conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations”), but rather is a maximum. Each request for lodging shall be examined by the superintendent on a case-by-case basis, first to insure it does not exceed the cap, and, second, to insure that the accommodations are at a conference rate or are mid-fare costs.

The new downstate Illinois lodging maximum has been adjusted to \$160 per night (including taxes). The new Chicagoland maximum is \$250 per night, also including taxes.

The other lodging caps were not recommended for adjustment.

The revised lodging caps and corresponding language in Board Policies 2.125 and 5.60 were approved, accordingly.

### Hearing to Approve a Travel Cap Exception

Coincidentally, the lodging for the wrestlers participating in the IHSA State Finals in Champaign this month exceeds even the new downstate cap amount of \$160. Due to the huge demand for rooms and the scarcity of rooms in the Champaign-Urbana area, the cheapest rooms for the Wrestling team was \$229, per night. There was a brief discussion.

The Board approved a motion to authorize the exception under the cap for the wrestling team in Champaign during the weekend of Feb. 16-18.

## Revision of Extracurricular Participation Policy

The Board reviewed and approved a revision to the Extracurricular Participation Policy, which would modify the consequences in certain circumstances, similar to the policies of several other local high schools.

## Review and Re-Submit Bullying Policy 7.180 to ISBE

After the mandated biennial review of bullying instances at EAWR and the bullying policy (7.180), itself, the superintendent recommended to not revise it, but submit it to the State Board of Education.

The Board approved the superintendent to re-submit the current bullying policy 7.180 to ISBE without revision.

## Graduation Date

The Board set Graduation on May 17, 2017, with a revised start time of 8:00 p.m.

## Facility Use Request: Alumni Football USA to Use Memorial Stadium on Aug. 17, 2017

Dr. Pearson gave a report on the much-ballyhooed proposed football game between former Oiler and CM football players at Memorial Stadium. There has been a lot of excitement generated by some players and others on social media in the last few weeks, but several important details needed to be resolved before he could recommend this request. Some of these involved liability insurance coverage, financial arrangements (pre-sale ticket receipts), safety, and which group has the responsibility of covering certain services and their expenses, such as police, ambulance, PA and scoreboard operation, etc.

Mr. Gockel and Dr. Pearson met earlier this afternoon with one of the local organizers, Mike Roper, to hash out some of the aforementioned details and address some concerns. Also, the superintendent had received the approval of the company's sample Certificate of Liability Insurance (which would be customized for this event, once approved). From its liability insurance carrier's TPA firm, AJ Gallagher.

Dr. Pearson reported to the Board that one concern is the sheer number of tickets that would have to be sold in pre-sale in order for the school's share to even approach \$2,500 (which was much lower than the expectations that some of the local organizers touted in the social media). Another concern (which was made a

condition of his recommendation to the Board) was that all ticket sales receipts be deposited with the school, since the school was the signatory to the agreement with Alumni Football USA.

Other concerns discussed with Mr. Roper were practice field use, concession stand sales, and the enforcement of the ban on alcohol on school property if “tail-gating” were to take place. Also, there was an understanding with

Mr. St. Peters cautioned that, despite some of the comments in social media, pre-sale ticket proceeds are split 50-50 with the company, and that 100% of ticket sales sold at the gate went directly to the company.

Mrs. Murray reported that a local organizer had expressed some doubts to her about the event, particularly when it was learned that the likely revenue to Oiler football would fall very short of original local organizer estimates. She spoke on behalf of delaying this vote until a later Board meeting, to gather additional information.

After some further discussion about the pros & cons of agreeing to this request, the superintendent suggested that the Board could approve a motion granting approval of the event, pending all appropriate and prudent procedures, precautions, written agreements, and other documents were supplied and subsequently approved by the superintendent.

The Board adopted a motion to approve the facility use request by Alumni Football USA to use Memorial Stadium for an alumni football game between EAWR and CM alumni teams on August 19, 2017, pending all appropriate and prudent procedures, precautions, written agreements, and other documents were supplied and subsequently approved by the superintendent.

## Principal’s Report

Mrs. Robinson reported on the following:

### *Upcoming dates to remember*

|     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Feb | 18 | No School—Presidents’ Day                   |
|     | 24 | 11:15 Student Dismissal—SIP Day for Faculty |
|     | 25 | TWIRP                                       |

### *Committees*

Focus groups continue to meet throughout the 2016-17 school year. Career Day is planned for April 28th.

## *Miscellaneous*

### Tri-District Curriculum Meeting:

Administrators from EAWR, WRH, and EASD met on February 1st to discuss curriculum alignment, etc. Next steps: high school and middle school science teachers will meet on Feb 24th. Middle school teachers will meet in April to discuss math and ELA. All three districts will then meet on May 16th—ELA in the morning and math in the afternoon.

### SAT Prep Series:

The first night of the SAT Prep Series was Monday the 13th. 26 students attended the first session. A repeat of the session will occur on Wednesday the 15th. The other sessions will take place between Feb 27th and March 22nd.

## Superintendent's Report

Supt. Pearson reported on the efforts of the “One Cent Makes Sense” committee, which is advocating for the one-cent school facility sales tax for Madison County school districts. He noted that the organizers suggested that a local group in each school district be assembled to assist with putting out information regarding what they perceive to be the value of the County School Facility Sales Tax. The organizers also suggested that the supporters of the referendum make clever and extensive use of their personal social media and contacts to promote the passage of the CSFST this April.

Dr. Pearson noted that he plans to make himself available via speaking engagements and written Q&A's to explain the main components of the CSFST; how EAWR would likely use any such proceeds from the CSFST; and to address any potential misconceptions about the law. However, he noted that he could not necessarily advocate for it, due to concern over electioneering statutes.

He noted that the committee is in the course of private fund-raising and has a campaign strategy and timetable mapped out. It will continue to meet in the upcoming weeks.

The Board had previously approved a resolution to have this issue put on the April 2017 ballot.

## Following Executive Session ...

The Board accepted the resignation of Emily Beasley, effective with the end of the 2017-17 school year. Mrs. Beasley's position is Classroom Aide, but has been

serving as a long-term substitute Science teacher during Mrs. Kamp's one-year leave of absence.