

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting February 2, 2016

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of February 2, 2016.

Hear Preview of February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting:

Review and Adopt the 2016 Strategic Plan: The superintendent presented the Board with a draft version of the Plan, and reviewed the key elements. Included in the draft were listing and references to the new goals adopted by the Board at its recent Goal-Setting Session. Some of the other elements of the Plan were holdovers and on-going goals from last year's Plan.

Discuss and Approve Curriculum Council Recommendations: Mrs. Robinson reported that the district's Curriculum Council would not be recommending any new course changes. However, the administration - working with Guidance and the math department - are exploring a possible third year math course that would be an additional option besides Algebra II for some students. She has done some background research regarding this proposed course and it does meet NCAA eligibility requirements. She also noted a section change next year in which Honors English would be expanded from one section to two, due to the desire to offer this more rigorous English class to additional freshmen and sophomores. Mrs. Robinson will formally present these recommendations for Board approval during the Principal's Report portion of the February 9th Board Meeting agenda.

Adopt Calendar Amendment: March 24, 2016 as a "Buy-Back" Attendance Day: Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that it had retained the option to use one of the three Easter Break non-student attendance days, as an attendance day, since the District had used one snow day thus far (Jan. 20, 2016). "Buying back," that day (converting it to a school day) would allow the District to be finished with the school year before Memorial Day - even if the other four snow days would be used. Parents and students had been informed about this possibility in back-to-school mailings last summer and the school calendar on the Website. They were advised not to make any hard & fast vacation plans for Thursday before Easter (March 24th). The administration will remind everyone again over the course of the next two months about this change, likely through a "SchoolMessenger" mass phone call and via the Website.

Policy Committee Recommendations: 68 Policy Revisions: The superintendent reminded the full Board that the Policy Committee worked on reviewing numerous recommended policy revisions at its recent January 20th meeting. These are designed to

bring the Board policy Manual up to date, in terms of recommendations from the PRESS policy service of the Illinois Association of School Boards. Due to the large number of revisions, the Policy Committee reviewed the recommended policies and will recommend those to the full Board for adoption on February 9th.

Discuss and Set Graduation Date for 2016: Dr. Pearson recommended that May 18, 2016 be set as Graduation Date. This is the corresponding date from 2015.

Funding Bond - 2016 Series Closing: The \$1.5 Million of General Obligation Funding Bonds are set for closing this Thursday (Feb. 4, 2016). Once the bonds close, the buyer of the Funding Bonds (Commerce Bank) will use those proceeds to retire the Alternate Revenue Bonds. The proceeds of the Alternate Revenue Bonds will soon be wired from Commerce to the District's depository (BMO/Harris Bank) for educational purposes.