

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting February 9, 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 9, 2016.

Board Correspondence

The Board discussed a letter sent via email from Coach Kyle Duncan regarding the loss of the Freshmen Baseball Schedule and a paid assistant coach, which would take place in the 2016-17 school year. The Board - at its January Goal-Setting meeting - decided that this decision would be a part of many of the fiscal and programmatic cuts made.

Mr. St. Peters observed that this cut would be a big mistake and that it would hurt the opportunity of some of the lesser-skilled freshmen to play, as well as be a detriment to the building of a successful baseball program. He asked for a re-visiting of that decision.

Asst. Principal (and former Athletic Director) Gockel noted that the participation numbers of total baseball players as well as freshmen made scheduling a separate freshmen slate of games very difficult - particularly if you did not have adequate numbers of pitchers, so as to not overtax their arms and stamina. He also reminded the Board that many of the best freshmen play up on JV with some starting varsity. He also observed that many schools of our size support just a Varsity and JV (Frosh-Soph) program - largely due to the same numbers issue.

Other board members commented on the possibility of re-visiting this issue after the spring 2016 season concludes, looking at participation numbers, numbers of freshmen games able to played, etc.

There was a consensus of the Board to allow the current plan of reducing the baseball program in the 2016-17 school year, but to continue to study the issue.

Approve Proposed 2015-16 Strategic Plan

The Board approved the 2016 Strategic Plan, as presented by the superintendent. This proposed plan was largely composed of the ideas drawn from the Goal-Setting Meeting of January 23, 2016.

Adopt 2015-16 School Calendar Revision

The Board approved the changing of the tentative student vacation day of March 24, 2016 and to amend the 2015-16 calendar to require that date as a student attendance day.

This was portrayed to parents through the “back-to-school” packet’s calendar as a day in which no hard and fast plans should be made, cautioning parents last August that the Board might “buy it back” as a student attendance day should a snow day or two be used. Since a snow day was used on January 20th, the Board took the administration’s advice to use March 24th (the Thursday before Easter) as an attendance day, in an effort to “compact” the 180-day school year into as short a window of time, as possible.

Parents and students will be reminded via the Web page and via a SchoolMessenger phone call (or two) in the coming weeks.

Graduation Date Set

The Board set this year’s Graduation on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Stadium (or, in case of rain, Memorial Gym).

Principal’s Report

Mrs. Robinson reported on the following:

Upcoming dates to remember

Feb	11	Renaissance Assembly—1:30 pm
	15	No School—President’s Day
	26	11:15 Student Dismissal—SIP Day for Faculty
	27	TWIRP—7-10 pm

Committees

Focus groups will continue to meet throughout the 2015-16 school year. Also, the PJC committee continues to meet to discuss evaluation issues.

Curriculum Committee Recommendations

- Math Analysis—Algebra III name change—will be offered to recommended juniors and seniors for 3rd or 4th year of math.
- Civics—Government name change—new state requirement and curriculum will have minor revisions.
- Additional section of Honors English for freshmen/sophomores

Miscellaneous

STOP Program—Alternative for most suspensions for the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Gockel met with Dr. Daiber on Feb 5 to discuss more details.

Community Service—Letters have been sent home 6 times since the summer to parents with updated hours.

38/102—Finished

37/102—Over Half

17/102—Under Half

11/102—Zero

On Jan 29th 31 students along with Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Gockel, and Mr. Miller visited Foxes Grove and Integrity Healthcare (VIP).

FASFA Night was on Thursday, Feb 4th and a total of 24 senior families attended and completed their FASFA.

Adoption of Curriculum Committee Recommendations:

After some discussion of the recommendations from the EAWR Curriculum Committee, the Board adopted a motion to approve those changes upon Mrs. Robinson's recommendation (as seen above in the Principal's Report).

Superintendent's Report

The Tech report would be presented in March by Ed. Tech Director Gerry Mattix-Wand, and would feature some hardware and network items that would fall under Federal e-Rate discounts.

Committee Reports

The Board's Policy Committee met on January 20, 2016, and spent over two hours reviewing about 68 policies that were either being revised or were added to the Board Policy Manual. The full Board adopted those revisions in total and will have those changes reflected in the Board Policy Manual, as well as the on-line version of the Policy Manual.