

## From the EAWRCHS Board ...

### Regular Board Meeting

March 10, 2015

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 March 10, 2015.

#### Approve Life, Safety Bid for Stadium Work

Mr. Randy Mitchell of Design Architects was on hand to discuss the bids that were recently opened for the planned repairs at Memorial Stadium. He reported that the Board received seven bids for the work, which includes demolition and replacement of new guardrails on the grandstand (including repair of the old post holes and the concrete); re-sealing the expansion joints in the grandstand against rainwater; tuck-pointing, new replacement windows for the locker-rooms (replacing the old glass block windows); replacing the press box window; and new exterior paint.

This work is the last step in the two-year refurbishing project, with new lockers, refurbished public restrooms, and interior waterproofing work being done last summer.

Although Calhoun Construction Company submitted what appeared to be the lowest base bid (\$235,188), Mr. Mitchell reported that their bid included some "conditions" regarding extra payments for abatement work that would come to about an additional \$12,000 - work that was supposed to be included within all of the bidders' base bids and not as an ad-on. Since the additional cost had to be included to make a fair comparison with the other bids, Jun Construction's base bid (which assumed the extra work) was deemed the lowest bid. He observed that Jun Construction had acknowledged the potential for any extra abatement work to him personally.

Mr. Mitchell and Dr. Pearson both recommended that the Board adopt the bid of Jun Construction of Godfrey for the stadium work.

Mr. McCoy asked about the completion date. Mr. Mitchell responded that the work would be done before the start of football practice. Dr. Pearson noted that the substantial completion date in the bid specs was August 1, 2015. Mr. St. Peters asked if that would be detrimental to the JFL league, with Mrs. Robinson assuring

him that issue could be worked around. It was also noted that some of the sports equipment would need to be secured or moved before work begins, too.

The Board adopted a motion to accept the bid from Jun Construction of Godfrey at the base bid of \$239,000.

### Renew Membership in the IHSA

The Board approved the renewal of the high school's membership in the Illinois High School Association.

### Principal's Report

Mrs. Robinson gave the following report:

Upcoming dates to remember

Mar 18/19 P/T Conferences

19 8th Grade Parent Night

27 11:15 Student Dismissal—SIP Day for Faculty

April 2/3 Spring Break

Committees

Focus groups will meet monthly during the 2014-2015 school year. Career Day is scheduled for April 24th.

Miscellaneous

The ACT was administered on March 3rd to all juniors. The make up date is scheduled for March 17th for 5 juniors.

The first day of PARCC testing was today. There were some computer issues with logging in but we did finish the test in the time allotted. Testing will continue tomorrow for English/Language Arts (ELA) III and in two weeks for Algebra II.

The PERA Joint Committee has been meeting multiple times per month to create the guidebook for teacher evaluation.

Over 20 students participated in the February community service activity, preparing 2,500 eggs for the Eastwood Elementary Easter Egg Hunt.

### Superintendent's Report

**Tech Update** (Mr. Mattix-Wand): Mr. Mattix-Wand - Educational Technology Director - presented a list of technology purchase recommendations for the Board's consideration. He sorted his recommendations with those that would qualify for the E-Rate discount of 80% for 2015-16 and those that would not.

Essentially, the focus of permissible expenses for E-Rate discounts has been re-directed by Congress. Whereas formerly E-Rate discounts were utilized for telecommunications, the focus is now shifted towards infrastructure costs associated with getting schools and students connected with the Internet. The telecommunications discounts are being phased out, to be replaced by focusing E-Rate discounts towards external and internal connectivity (e.g. wireless routers, Internet routers, servers that connect to the Internet, etc.).

Mr. Mattix-Wand is recommending that the Board consider using those 80% discounts for a new Internet router (which will replace the older router) at an estimated cost of \$4,530; upgrading and expanding our wireless access points to the new AC standard - about \$37,000; some additional cabling costs (about \$7,500); and a new battery back-up system (\$5,000). Although the list prices for this work would be about \$54,430, the E-Rate Discount would make our actual cost for these items approximately \$11,000. This represents work and equipment, which will make our internal connections to the Internet even more robust, what with demands for student connectivity being greater and greater.

He also recommended some improvements for the Board's consideration which would not be covered by E-Rate discounts, which mostly are concerned with our own internal network. These would include: Replacement of two VMWare Servers with new ones (\$11,530 est.); Upgrade our Active Directory that would replace the current Novell e-Directory (cost: \$4,320).

The total costs for these improvements for 2015-16 would come to about \$27,000. The Board would be asked later this spring to approve these projects, either in the context of an amended FY 2015 budget, or within the FY 2016 new budget.

**Foundation / Cash Raffle Update**: Dr. Pearson expressed his pleasure in the recent EAWR Foundation Cash Raffle. Not only did the Foundation sell 901 tickets and net over \$9,000, but also the outreach to alumni and friends of EAWR established (or re-established) connections and camaraderie with the high school. Even though the Foundation Board members and its "agents" worked very hard at selling those tickets, all seemed pleased with the process and had fun with it.

The Foundation has also generated many new brick orders through its recent direct mail campaign, as well as stimulated additional raffle ticket sales AND

general donations. He noted, for example, that many of our Hall of Famers donated cash, purchased bricks, or bought raffle tickets, as a result of this latest campaign.

The EAWR Foundation will have about \$20,000 (originally reported at \$16,500) at its disposal now to put towards the purchase of a new digital marquee, which was the Foundation Board's designated project. Supt. Pearson observed that the Board might be asked to contribute the remainder. He also reported that Foundation Board member Bob Kasten was researching price quotes and that this effort would begin to intensify, due to the success of the Foundation's fund-raising.

He noted, in particular the donation of \$5,000 from The Bank of Edwardsville, and the idea that some sort of recognition, sign presence, or advertisement should be a part of the new marquee. Mr. St. Peters remarked that if the sign itself could not portray some recognition of the bank's contribution, certainly it could be portrayed as a slide on the marquee, eventually.

Dr. Pearson will report back with the quotes in the next month or two, and a recommendation for the Board's consideration. He also reminded the Board of the potential placement of the new digital marquee on the same site as the current marquee, which is incorporated into the school's Vietnam War Memorial on Wood River Avenue.

#### Following Executive Session ...

The Board formally accepted the following resignations, effective immediately: Mark Maendele as Head Girls Basketball Coach; Derek Forsting as Asst. Girls Basketball Coach; Lauren Fester as Asst. Volleyball Coach; and Mary Jane McFadden as Classroom Aide.