

## From the EAWR #14 Board ...

### Regular Board Meeting

March 6, 2018

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education 1st Regular Meeting of March 6, 2018.

#### Review of Agenda Items for the March 13, 2018 Regular Meeting

*Renew IHSA Annual Membership.* Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that it would be asked to renew its membership in the Illinois High School Association.

*Football Scoreboard Update.* Mr. Gockel noted that the scoreboard had been ordered from Nevco and that he had been in contact with the installer (an independent contractor) about setting up a site visit to review final details regarding placement and electrical service to the new scoreboard. That site visit would be held Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

*CSFST Update.* The superintendent reported that he had given presentations about the CSFST to both the East Alton Village Board and the Wood River City Council. He also had given presentations to the EAWR staff, as well as Wood River Rotary, and will give one to the Wood River Women's Club next week. He observed how well received his presentations seemed to be thus far.

*Apptegy:* Dr. Pearson and Mr. Mattix-Wand reported about the prospect of using a service like Apptegy to build a user-friendly smartphone app for the district, which could also mirror a new Website. Apptegy would design the smartphone app and the website to make it easier and faster to not only push out information and to "tell the story" about EAWR, but to also have one seamless method for district contributors to post one story and send it to the smartphone app, website, and social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter – all at the same time!

The hitch is that the set-up costs would be \$9,500, as well as an annual license of about \$5,300. Mr. Mattix-Wand had observed that our current third-party service mass calls and emails (SchoolMessenger) also had similar product offerings.

Other cheaper strategies were discussed, too. The administrators would continue to explore these options and report back to the board at a later meeting.

*Healthy Communities Investment Grant:* Supt. Pearson reported that he had recently applied for a new state grant, which was designed to go to the districts that had 60% or greater free-reduced lunch counts. This grant was designed to flow funds to these

school districts for after-hours programs and services. In EAWR's case, a grant budget was submitted which included the proposed use of Edgenuity, a company that provides on-line credit recovery courses, and other on-line academic services for students. Mrs. Robinson described how she had come across Edgenuity, noting that several Metro-East high schools were using this service for much of their credit recovery needs. She reminded the Board that the high school was only able to previously provide credit recovery through beginning level math, ELA, and science courses, but was lacking the ability to offer credit recovery courses in upper level courses for juniors and seniors who would need to re-take one of those higher level classes. She also shared some of her thoughts on how summer school would look with the addition of Edgenuity credit recovery classes to augment the regular classes now being offered.

Dr. Pearson also noted that the grant proposal also included funds for a "summer bridge" program for at-risk incoming freshmen in Algebra, as well as funds for off-campus and on-campus after-hours tutoring. Plus, ideas to utilize funds to improve parent presence on campus and parent engagement were also being reviewed, in the form of a future budget amendment proposal.

*MSD High School Shooting Discussions:* The administration reported that it has been gathering information and speaking with neighboring districts on how best to address any sort of student-led participation on the national school walkout activity planned for March 14<sup>th</sup>.

*CAVC:* Supt. Pearson, Vocational Division Chair Wendy Ulmer, and Lisa Woodman and Stacy Vambaketes of the Guidance Department recently toured the Collinsville Area Vocational Center to view the facility; speak to teachers and students; and to look into the possibility of sending EAWR students to some of its programs. The counselors are going to speak with students who are on-track in their core area credit requirements to graduate and who would have half of the school day free to be bused to the CAVC for these courses. EAWR cannot offer courses such as Auto Shop, Electronics, Building Trades, Child Care, Health Care, and other high demand areas. These courses can stimulate and orient these students towards high demand career education after high school, where they can also earn dual credit through SWIC.

Dr. Pearson and the counselors would work on cost estimates and gauge student interest in the next few weeks and may come back with a proposal for the school board.

*Facility Use Request – Amare:* The Board would be asked next Tuesday to consider a request to use the Auditorium on May 12<sup>th</sup> for a drama production, centered on the issues with opioid abuse. The organizer of this effort is former EAWR alum, Ty Bechel.

*Policy Updates:* The superintendent observed that the Board would be asked to approve a resolution prohibiting sexual harassment at the March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Even though the Board policy manual already prohibits this conduct, a recent piece of legislation is now mandating the adoption of a resolution or ordinance prohibiting that misconduct.

Also, there will be a few policy revisions from the PRESS service that will get their first reading at the March 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.