

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

1st Regular Board Meeting

March 7, 2017

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 7, 2017.

Public Comments

Mrs. Lee Ann Parmentier - Math teacher and parent - addressed the Board about three general areas of concern, then gave some specific instances that she perceived in those general areas.

She first addressed what she viewed as the negative appearance of the school buildings and grounds. She listed areas of concern with the lawns and other campus exterior appearance issues. She also listed specific concerns of the hallways, classrooms, and restrooms.

She next addressed the school dress code, suggesting that it is difficult to enforce and suggested a return to a dress code seen formerly at EAWR (prior to 2006) and in most surrounding high schools.

Finally, she addressed concerns over the direction of the girls basketball program.

The Board thanked her for her comments.

Hear Preview of March 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

Renew Membership in the IHSA: Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that it would need to renew its annual membership in the Illinois High School Association at the March 14th Regular Meeting.

“Grand Bargain” / Legislative Summit - Feb. 21-22: Both Board member Mark St. Peters and Supt. Pearson attended the School Management Alliance-sponsored Legislative Summit in Springfield. Over the two days, they listened to former Highland Superintendent, Jim Burgett; Ralph Martire (Center for Budget and Tax Accountability); Alliance lobbyists; and four key legislators - all discuss the proposed elements of the budget fix in Springfield, which is known as the “Grand Bargain.”

Dr. Pearson reviewed the 13 Senate bills which are being proposed as a package of bills, meant to strike a compromise between Democrats and Republicans as well as the Governor (who also made a brief appearance at the conference). He noted that the odds of that package making through both halves of the Capitol were slim, since the “Bargain” has something anyone can detest, and if one bill fails, the whole package fails. Of course, that’s the essence of any compromise legislation.

Mr. St. Peters spoke about his impressions of the Governor’s address as well as their Wednesday meeting with Rep. Dan Beiser, noting that he was glad to have Dr. Pat Anderson of Wood River Hartford District #15 with them in Rep. Beiser’s office. Dr. Pearson reported that Rep. Beiser’s perspective was that some of the components would be a tough sell in his caucus.

Both Mr. St. Peters and the superintendent acknowledged that it was a very valuable conference, especially to hear the four legislators (two Republicans and two Democrats, with one of the Democrats being Sen. Manar from Bunker Hill) talk frankly about the need to strike this compromise and the need to move the school funding formula to the evidence-based model.

Following Executive Session ...

The superintendent reported that he had recently received the resignation of Emily VanNatta as Head Girls Basketball Coach and that he would be shortly posting its vacancy.