

From the EAWR #14 Board ...

Regular Board Meeting

May 1, 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 May 1, 2018.

Maintenance / Transportation Director Report

Mr. Jeff Foxall gave his quarterly update on buildings, grounds, and transportation issues. He noted that the football scoreboard was up & running, with the old scoreboard sold for scrap. He also updated the Board on the new fence/gate system, noting that there a couple of minor pieces of work that need to be addressed, but that the gates and fencing seemed to be working well. He also reported that the district received a check for \$2,000 on the old buses and green van that the school board had declared obsolete. Finally, he reported that the new softball sign was ready to install and that a dedication of the field to Leroy Emerick would be held shortly.

The Board thanked Mr. Foxall for his report.

Facility Use Request Approved

The Board discussed the request of Nick Darr, Executive Director WBGZ, to host a scholar-athlete awards ceremony on Sunday, June 10, 2018, in the Auditorium. This event would be a non-public event, with only the student-athletes and their parents and coaches expected to attend. Dr. Pearson noted that a local insurance business was helping the radio station to fund two \$1,000 scholarships and the refreshments. He also reported that Mr. Darr had agreed to pay the custodial cost for the event and provide proof of liability insurance.

The Board approved the request of WBGZ to hold its scholar-athlete award event in the EAWR Auditorium on June 10, 2018.

Review of Agenda Items for the May 8, 2018 Regular Meeting

Review Tentative Amended FY 18 Budget. Dr. Pearson reminded the Board that he plans on having the tentative amended FY 18 District Budget for its review next Tuesday. The amendment process is done to make corrections to various budget lines in the hopes of having expenditure and revenue budget amounts be more reflective of actual amounts.

Approval of Final School Calendar for 2017-18. The Board would be asked next Tuesday (May 8th) to approve the submission of the final school calendar to the ROE and ISBE, as reviewed by the Building and Grounds Committee last month. He observed that the

closing date would be Friday, May 25, 2018 and that only two emergency days were used this year.

Tax Levy – Final EAV. The final assessed valuation of the school district is in and it shows a 1.74% increase in the tax base for Tax Year 2017. This marks the third consecutive tax year that showed small increases in the assessed valuation, which some of that being the effect of the Wood River Township Multiplier of 1.02 in 2017.

EBM Meeting in Springfield. Dr. Pearson also reported on a meeting held yesterday in Springfield that was sponsored and hosted by the IASA and the two major teacher unions in Illinois (IFT and IEA). The topic was a familiarization of the new Evidence Based Model (EBM) for state aid funding, which was a radical and research-based school funding formula. Mr. John Marshall and Mrs. Jeni Timmins, co-Presidents of the local IFT bargaining unit, attended along with the superintendent. Supt. Pearson reported that the meeting was also aimed at starting some dialogue between teachers and management about how the new Tier I payments should be handled and a plea for each district to apply those funds towards instructional improvement.

Another critical element discussed in this meeting was the political accountability piece of “telling each district’s story” through the use of a local school or district report card to its constituents, reporting uses of the extra funds and accomplishments gained from those EBM funds’ use. Dr. Pearson noted that this dialogue centered on some concrete ideas that were noted in some of the 26 elements of the new EBM funding formula. Those may show up in the collective bargaining process this summer or in some other management-teacher discussions.

Intercom System. Mr. Mattix-Wand will meet with Tech Electronics on site tomorrow to look at some potential additions to the intercom speaker network, as well as to gather an estimate on the costs of a new control panel.

FB Stadium PA System Replacement Proposal. Mr. Mattix-Wand is also in discussions with Output Unlimited of Alton to replace the Memorial Stadium PA system, which has been acting up in the last year or two, and, when operational, has a poor sound quality and speaker placement.

The solution now under study appears to be erecting the a state of the art speaker array on the north end of the football field (adjacent to the bus lot) with the cabling connecting it to power in the East Building and the amplifiers stored in an open office space in the Attendance Center.

Review Sales Tax Election Precinct Results. The Board reviewed the precinct-by-precinct election returns on the County School Facilities Sales Tax question last March. It is also viewed precinct maps from the Madison County Plats and Maps office. The CSFST did slightly better than the Madison County-wide vote, with 42% casting “Yes” votes (compared to 35% county-wide “Yes” votes). The superintendent also pointed out that the voter turnout was dismal: 20% of registered voters cast ballots.

Following Executive Session ...

The Board approved a motion to expel Student X through the end of the 2018-19 school year, but to hold that expulsion in abeyance while Student X attends the CEO Alternative School in Troy.

The Board also employed Mrs. Neely Kinkel as a Special Education Teacher beginning in 2018-19. Mrs. Kinkel is a 2004 alumnus of EAWR and a former classroom aide and dance team sponsor. She has taught for the previous few years at Jerseyville High and Roxana High.

The Board also formally appointed Mr. Josh Geil as Volunteer, Non-Paid Asst. Drama Sponsor. Mr. Geil is also a former alumnus of EAWR (Class of 2013) and has been assisting with the last couple of productions in an informal volunteer capacity.