

From the EAWR #14 Board ...
Regular Board Meeting

July 14, 2020

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of July 14 , 2020.

Discuss and Approve Health, Life Safety Amendment #49

Supt. Pearson described some joint leaks on the top of the exterior supports of the East Building which were resulting in some water damage to portions of the interior walls of some classrooms and offices. While Mr. Moxey, Maintenance Director, was surveying the roofs of all of the buildings, he had noticed that some of those joints (which face upward) were cracked and exposed to the elements. He had witnessed some of the resulting wall peeling in rooms directly below and adjacent to the exterior supports.

So, he contacted the architect, showed him photos of the failed joints in question, and received an estimate from a masonry contractor that was on-site doing tuckpointing work on the South Building.

Architect Tim Downen has submitted an amendment to the Life Safety 10-Year Plan, which would cover the re-sealing of these joints, with an estimate from the contractor that amounted to just under \$4,200 for the repairs.

Dr. Pearson recommended that the Board approve the submission of the Life Safety Amendment #49 for that work.

The Board approved the application for Amendment #49, as recommended.

Approve Room Lease Agreement with Region III Cooperative for 2020-
2022

Dr. Pearson recommended that the Board approve the classroom rental lease agreement to house one Region III high school classroom program. The room selected would likely be the former Main Computer Lab, which has been empty for the last 7-8 years. The lease agreement calls for an annual payment of \$8,500 to EAWR, which covers services, utilities, copier supplies, etc.

After some discussion regarding the room location and arrangements, the Board approved the lease agreement with Region III, as presented.

Review and Approve Title I Schoolwide Plan Revision

The Board approved the updated Title I Schoolwide Plan, as presented.

Discuss and Approve Revision to Board Policy 7.190 (Student Behavior)

Dr. Pearson suggested additional language to the current section under Prohibited Student Conduct, at #7 ("Disobeying rules of student conduct, directives and emergency orders issued from state and local authorities, and/or directives from staff members or school officials."). Although he acknowledged that some attorneys have thought adding such language may be redundant (given the pending handbook rules that will spell out requirements for mask wearing, distancing, athletic rules, etc., anyway), having this clause in the Board's discipline policy that specifies that students are subject to those directives could strengthen the Board's case, should a parent or student challenge that requirement.

After a brief discussion the Board adopted the revision to Board Policy 7.190.

Discuss and Approve "Return to School Plan"

The Board spent some time reviewing the elements of the "Return to School Plan," which is a requirement for school districts this summer. This plan has elements addressing the following: communications with parents and students, instruction & grading, transition back to on-campus instruction, a blended learning schedule, a plan to return to full remote instruction, cafeteria and food service (take-home sack lunches, included), hall and stair traffic control, face masks, symptom checking and self-certification, procedures if a student or employee has covid-19 symptoms at school, school cleaning and safety procedures, P.E., and bus transportation/Dr. Ed.

Representatives of the union and the administrators (the Labor Management Committee) have been working very cooperatively over the summer to form the elements of the Plan. The union will shortly bring back a decision as to an issue of whether to bring in faculty earlier than the current CBA states in order for the teachers to assist in supervision of students earlier. The administration has proposed that it would agree to dismiss teachers earlier as compensation.

The superintendent observed that the Plan would be posted on the Website, with a condensed version of the Plan published on the school Facebook page and Website.

After some discussion the Board approved the Return-to-School Plan, as presented.

Suspension of Student-Athlete Drug Testing

Dr. Pearson reported that conducting drug testing in the Phase IV rules / COVID-19 environment would be extremely difficult, given the social distancing concerns and the lack of adequate space to perform the initial screens this August. As a consequence, he recommended that the Board approve a suspension of the student-athlete drug testing program, until further notice.

After some discussion on the duration of the suspension, Mr. St. Peters called for a motion to simply suspend the testing program until further notice, with the understanding that the suspension is temporary and that the policy is still in force. That motion was adopted.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Robinson gave an oral report, which highlighted the following:

I. Upcoming dates to remember

August 3/4 New Students to the District Registration
August 11th Student Registration By Appointment
 Online registration will open up on August 1st

II. Committees

Faculty meeting was held on June 25th
School Improvement Team/Division chair meeting was held on July 12th

III. Miscellaneous

The student handbook will be ready to adopt at the August 4th meeting. The SIT/Division Chair Team discussed community service, semester exemption, other programs tied to attendance, and some changes/modifications to other items. The Illinois Principals Association released the Model Student Handbook Updates last week so those policies will be included in the handbook.

The Parent Outreach Program (POP) starts this week for freshmen parents. Small groups will meet in the library wearing masks and social distancing.

The SIT/Division Chair Team discussed professional development items needed for the start of the year.

Freshmen Orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 18th. The format of the day is to put students into multiple groups and rotate through stations and a mini schedule.

The SIT/Division Chair Team discussed items for the first day for all students.

ISBE is requiring all seniors to take the SAT in October or April to meet the diploma requirement.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pearson gave a report (with photos) of progress on the numerous Life Safety Projects this summer. Discussion centered on progress of the Gym windows and panels, the restroom renovations, and the new cafeteria floor.

He also highlighted the spending priorities of the new ESSER / CARES Act grant funds, which totaled over \$173,000. Spending includes purchasing of Sprint Wi-Fi routers for students that lack sufficient Internet access for remote learning; PPE supplies and face masks; stipends for teachers/departments to work on transition planning; acrylic barriers for employee desks; 200 Chromebooks for incoming freshmen and transfers for the 1:1 program; Edgenuity on-line instruction licenses; summer school for 2021; and signage and floor stickers for distancing and separation reminders.

Dr. Pearson reported that he would include two additional security cameras in the budget for covering the fire escape and the "breezeway" beneath the girls locker room (between the "Aud Gym" locker rooms and the South Building), which will be a one-way exit from the Main Building to the other two buildings for students and staff - at least for the foreseeable future.

Following Executive Session

The Board employed Catherine Fairless of Wood River as Part-Time Cook.

The Board appointed Jesse Daniels of Wood River as Head Girls Soccer Coach. Mr. Daniels is currently the Asst. Girls and Boys Soccer Coach and is a Social Studies Teacher at EAWR. He replaces the recently resigned Matt Herndon who left to take a position in Highland.

It also appointed Tim Donohoo of Wood River as a volunteer, non-paid Asst. Football Coach. Mr. Donohoo also serves as the EAWR Head Wrestling Coach.

Principal Leigh Robinson was awarded a 5-Year performance-based contract, effective July 1, 2020 and that will be in effect through the end of June 2025.