

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting

July 5, 2016

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of July 5, 2016.

Board Correspondence

No correspondence. But, Mrs. Murray did happily report that Coach Emerick's Softball Camp did attract 25-30 elementary school and junior high girls.

Public Comments

Charlie Hoffman inquired about a comment attributed to Dr. Pearson in a recent Telegraph article, in which he observed that the District #14 Board has supported the consolidation efforts for a long time. Mr. Hoffman noted that there was nothing in Board minutes from the "last 12-13 months" in which the Board publicly backed consolidation with some sort of resolution or motion.

Dr. Pearson observed that the Board has been supportive in previous years - all the way back to July 2000, when he joined the District. That support was stated on numerous occasions, via their Board goals and strategic plans and some Board minutes. President Aguinaga also noted that Board members as individual citizens had supported the merger since he had been on the Board.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Robinson reported on the following:

Upcoming dates to remember

Aug	8	First Day of Football Practice
	10	First Day of All Practices
	11	All School Registration

Committees

Math and ELA will be meeting over the summer to work on curriculum.

Miscellaneous

Summer school ended on July 1st and a total of 128 grades were issued. Overall it was a fantastic summer school session.

MJCH—the team met with Mrs. Robinson on June 28th to discuss plans for the upcoming school year. The team plans to meet again at the end of July.

Spirit Club—senior members of spirit club will meet over the summer to plan activities for the fall season, as well as, the first pep assembly.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pearson gave a quarterly progress report on the 2016 Strategic Plan, which was derived from the Board goals set in January 2016.

He also reported that the General Assembly and the Governor finally reached a compromise on a K-12 appropriations bill (along with a six month budget). The 2016-17 appropriation was a substantial win for most school districts in the area, in that the Foundation Level was fully funded in the state aid formula and that the appropriation contained enough funds so that every district would receive the state aid they received in 2015-16 (a “hold harmless” provision). EAWR's latest projection from the State Board showed a \$130,000 in crease in state aid!

The Early Retirement Option for TRS members (all certified staff) “sun-setted” without being renewed prior to June 30th. Therefore, most certified staff in Illinois would qualify for a refund of an amount equal to 0.4% of their TRS creditable earnings from 2005 to the present (assuming they have been working since 2005). Also, certified staff would see slightly more money in their taxable income, since only 9% (instead of 9.4%) would be deducted for their individual TRS contributions.

The downside for teachers is that one could not retire with the full pension benefit without 34 years of service between the ages of 55-60. Although a teacher could retire at age 55, he/she would receive a discounted annuity payment if they did not have at least 34 years of service credit. Formerly - under the ERO - a teacher could retire before turning 60, if the Board and the teacher agreed to pay an actuarial cost to TRS.

Following Executive Session ...

The Board approved a motion to formally accept the resignation of Scott Miner from the Board of Education. Mr. Miner had resigned - via email - since the previous meeting, due to a quickly pending change in residency.

Then, the Board approved a motion to offer the vacant Board seat to Mr. Mike Redman of East Alton. Mr. Redman had formally applied for the vacancy. He is an EAWR Alumnus; a former employee of EAWR; and was a former teacher and coach in the Alton Schools, but now works in the private sector.