

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting

August 9, 2016

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of August 9, 2016.

Authorize Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment

The Board approved a motion to declare that the six 1980's vintage gas and electric stoves in the former Home Economics Room are surplus and obsolete and to authorize the superintendent to dispose of said equipment.

Discuss and Approve Lease-Purchase Agreement for Chromebooks and Bags with The Bank of Edwardsville

The Board approved a resolution to lease-purchase 200 ASUS Chromebooks and 150 new Bump Armor bags through The Bank of Edwardsville at the principal amount of \$50,729.50 with an interest rate of 3.95%. The finance charge would be \$2,001.52, with the agreement being a one-year loan, in essence. The Technology Lease Levy proceeds would be used to finance this lease-purchase. The new devices would be assigned to incoming freshmen and transfers, with the goal being to tentatively adopt a new lease-purchase agreement every year (for each new class), using the same funding source and arrangements.

Presentation of Tentative FY 17 Budget

Dr. Pearson gave an overview of the FY 17 District Budget. Among the highlights of the presentation were:

The Education Fund is projected to lose \$858,728 (Expenses of \$5,369,803 outpacing revenues of \$4,511,175). This has been a trend over the last few budget cycles, mostly due to the loss of general state aid because of marked decreases in enrollment and - until this year - a stagnant tax base. Although the District has downsized in the coming year with the reduction of a P.E. teacher and administrator, more and deeper personnel reductions would be needed to slow that loss.

The O&M Fund is projected to lose \$15,737 and the Transportation Fund to lose about \$42,000. The size of the Transportation Fund loss is largely due to a \$25,000 reduction in Special Ed. Transportation aid (Earlier, the Transportation Fund was expected to lose just \$17,000). Working Cash, of course, still remains healthy with a fund balance of just under \$2 Million.

Since the combined funds' projected losses exceed 1/3 of the projected June 30, 2017 Fund Balance, the ISBE budget form triggers a requirement to complete a "deficit reduction plan," which is a three year budget projection that forecasts and states an outline of a plan to reduce the Operating Fund deficit to under the 1/3 calculation. The Deficit Reduction Plan - as proposed by the superintendent and to be adopted by the Board with the Budget adoption in September - projects some planned attrition cuts via retirement and some very modest growth calculations in revenues and expenses. It also includes the likelihood of another bond issuance in 2018-19.

There are some pieces of good news, however. The new "Mark-to-Market" program through the Egyptian Trust will save the District and its employees about 5% in premium costs compared with last year. Also, the District received good news from IMRF, with a lowered employer contribution rate that effectively lowered IMRF expenses by over 10% this coming year.

The tentative FY2017 Budget will be on display beginning with this Friday (8/13/16) for 30 days, with the Budget Hearing scheduled for Sept. 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Approve Application for Recognition of Schools

The Board adopted a motion to approve the Application for Recognition of Schools" with the Illinois State Board of Education.

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
	19	Freshmen Orientation
	19	Maroon and Gold Game
	22	1st Day All Students

Committees

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

Miscellaneous

Online registration has been very successful. As of this morning a total of 90 students have completed online registration.

MJCH—the team has met two times to discuss plans for the upcoming school year. The team plans to attend the September 6th

Spirit Club—senior members of spirit club meet on August 1st to plan activities for the fall season, as well as, the first pep assembly.

EAWR is partnering with Collinsville and WRH for the Madison County Institute on October 7th.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Mattix-Wand gave an update on the Sprint Wi-Fi “hotspots” and their proposed use to help spread Internet Access to those students who may not have wireless connectivity at home. The school has purchased four devices (at \$75 each) and he has tested them. He reminded the Board that Sprint is offering these to schools (with a limit of 100 units) to distribute how they see fit, and will free wireless access for four years on each device. The administration is considering issuance guidelines and a pricing proposal for parents - perhaps like the Chromebook damage waiver is assessed, with the devices to be checked-out in August and returned to the school at the end of the school year.

Dr. Pearson gave a report about the EAWR Foundation Board's decision to partially fund the purchase of new parent information folders (along with a donation from The Bank of Edwardsville), as well as the purchase of a 65-70” flat screen HD TV for the Cafeteria.

He reminded the Board about the Transgender Law Workshop scheduled for Wed. Sept. 14, 2016 at the Mannie Jackson Center in Edwardsville. He noted that Board members Rebecca Leggett and Amy Harding have been registered. And, if anyone else is interested, he would be glad to reserve a spot.

The Board viewed some “before & after photos” of the track. Everyone seems pleased with the new surface.

Finally, the architect, Maintenance Director Jeff Foxall and Dr. Pearson will meet next week to begin the planning for the next Ten-Year Life Safety Survey.

Following Executive Session

The Board adopted a resolution to honorably reduce the number of work hours assigned to the Head Cook from eight (8) hours per workday to seven (7). This reduction brings this position's schedule into line with the number of work hours already specified in the CBA, and is being done to reduce costs and increase efficiency.