

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting

March 4, 2014

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of March 4, 2014.

Correspondence

Superintendent Pearson shared a Thank You card from Don Cobb, which expressed his gratitude for the recognition ceremony at the last regular boys basketball game. Mr. Cobb, a 1961 alumnus of EAWR, was recently selected for the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame for his long and distinguished career as a high school basketball referee.

Review of Agenda Items for the March 11, 2014 Regular Meeting

Hear Report on the 2014 Strategic Plan:

Mr. Pearson briefly reviewed the 2014 Strategic Plan, which was little changed from the 2013 Plan. Many of the 2013 Plan's goals were of an "on-going" nature. However, the Board did add one goal of adding more banners and displays to Memorial Gym. The Board would be asked to formally adopt the draft version at the March 11th Meeting.

2014-15 School Calendar:

The three superintendents (Districts #13, #14, and #15) met this afternoon to discuss each of their 2014-15 school calendars. Mr. Pearson reported there is fair amount of cohesion between the three draft calendars, with the exception of Christmas and Easter Breaks. Various ideas were discussed regarding those holidays. After some discussion of the alternatives discussed at the superintendents meeting, there was a consensus of the Board to look at an Easter Break with two fewer days than usual (four school days instead of six); a Christmas Break to begin on December 24, 2014 and continuing through January 5, 2015; and using two days from Easter Break and Pulaski Day as "buy-back" days, to use first, instead of adding 5 extra days to the end of the year, which is usually the case. Mr. St. Peters wondered about getting the word out to parents regarding this idea, to which Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Pearson replied that this would be communicated well in advance to parents. The administration would advise parents to be careful about making hard and fast plans regarding Pulaski Day, and the Wednesday before Easter and the Monday after Easter, since, under this plan, those days would be held as attendance days, should the high school use 1-3 snow days next winter. Any other snow days taken beyond three

would result in those make-up days being added to the end of the year, as usual. If no snow days are taken the plan would be to retain those days as holidays.

This plan would help to compress the school year somewhat and, consequently, lengthen the summer by three days. The Board would be asked to approve the 2014-15 school calendar with those above assumptions at its March 11th meeting.

IHSA Renewal:

Mr. Pearson reported that the Board would be asked to renew its annual membership in the Illinois High School Association at the March 11th meeting.

Tech Showcase:

Mrs. Robinson reported on the Tech Showcase, which was held earlier today at EAWR. The "Showcase" was sponsored by the Regional Office of Education and was designed for teachers and administrators from other districts to hear a District presentation regarding the new 1:1 Chromebook program, as well as to see many classrooms where teachers were incorporating the technology into lessons. The presentation demonstrated the value of the Chromebooks and Google Drive to improve student engagement in their own learning. Several districts were present as well as two newspaper reporters from the area.

Personnel Actions

The Board adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with Local #3401 of the Illinois Federation of Teachers. The memorandum addressed a specific employee and his/her seniority, while re-assigned to a long-term, non-union substitute teaching assignment for the remainder of the 2013-14 school year.