

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting

May 13, 2014

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of May 13, 2014.

Approve Selected Board Policy Revisions

The Board approved the following Board Policy revisions on their second reading: 2.30; 2.100; 2.110; 3.60-E; 4.30; 5.10; 5.30 and 5.30-AP2; 5.125; 5.180; 5.190; 5.35, 5.35-AP1, 5.35-AP2, 5.35-AP3, 5.35-AP4, and 5.35-E; 6.160; 7.70; 7.140 and 7.140-E; 7.180; 7.185; 7.190 and 7.190-E2.

Review Tentative Amended FY 2014 Budget

Since there were no additional questions or concerns raised by the Board from the May 6th discussion of the tentative Amended FY 14 Budget, Dr. Pearson refrained from a set piece discussion of the revisions. However, those major changes were as follows: viewed the draft FY 14 Amended Budget, highlighting some of the major changes. Among those highlights were: 1) An increase in the line item for utilities, due to the fact that the winter utility bills were double from the previous winter (due to the long and harsh temperatures); 2) A re-allocation of expenses from the Education Fund to the Debt Service Fund for the Technology Revolving Loan (ISBE) and the Lease-Purchase Agreement payments to 1st Cloverleaf Bank. The auditor noted that these expenses must now be shown in the Debt Service Fund, instead of the Education Fund. To keep Debt Service whole, a like amount of funds would have to be permanently transferred to the Debt Service fund from Education. 3) Several hundred individual line items were adjusted to match what has actually been spent (or projected to be spent) in the remainder of this fiscal year.

Approval of the proposed Amended Budget for FY 14 will be on the Agenda for the June 10th Board Meeting, following the Budget Hearing, scheduled for 6:00 p.m. that evening, immediately preceding the Regular Meeting.

Discuss and Adopt Select Fees for 2014-15:

Dr. Pearson recommended that the lock rental charge to students be increased from \$5 to \$8, which reflects the cost increases over the years in padlocks to the District. He also recommended that the "bad check" fee be increased from \$15 to \$20, also due to rising costs. These changes would take effect with the 2014-15 school year.

The Board approved a motion to set padlock rental fee at \$8.00 and the “bad check” fee at \$20, effective with the 2014-15 school year.

Approve Resolution: Roxana CUSD #1 Withdrawal from Region III Special Education Cooperative

The Board adopted a resolution that would authorize Roxana School District to withdraw from the Region III Special Education Cooperative, effective at the end of the 2014-15 school year (June 30, 2015). Dr. Pearson observed that Cindy Ponce, Executive Director of Region III, had shared some cost projection that would keep each remaining district’s administrative fees either the same or actually less than the current fees. This arrangement would be made possible due to Mrs. Ponce absorbing some additional duties and passing along costs in tuition bills to the non-member districts that the cooperative provides some contracted services.

Adopt Final 2013-14 School Calendar

The Board adopted the final 2013-14 school calendar, as recommended by the Superintendent.

Consider and Approve Chromebook Policy and Fee Changes for 2014-15

Due to the higher than expected instances of damage by students to their issued Chromebooks (nearly 30%), the administration recommended the following changes in policy and procedures, plus a new fee schedule for Chromebooks and their associated parts, beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The policy changes are designed to assist in the deterrence of carelessness on the part of some students in the use and care of their assigned Chromebooks.

Although the damage waiver (\$30 per student) has done its job this year, by providing an adequate pool of self-insurance funds to cover breakage, the District was assisted by the fact that Samsung covered many of the damages under warranty. However, that one-year warranty will expire on June 30, 2014, which means that the administration is recommending that the \$30 damage waiver be reinstated as a requirement for students to be able to take the Chromebooks home in 2014-15.

Dr. Pearson noted that, since 2013-14 was the first year for not only the district in a 1:1, but that it was the first year for the Samsung Chromebook, there was no risk data as to this device. Therefore, the District was learning from these issues and adjusting its procedures accordingly.

The major policy and procedural items recommended were: 1) Make every attempt to have a meeting before device goes home with parents of all transfers and incoming freshmen. The administration would appreciate the enlisting of help from all parents in helping to alleviate much of the careless damage to the devices. 2) A loaner Chromebook would be

given to students the next day, if they damage or break their issued device. This applies to those who had not damaged a Chromebook prior to the damage. 3) On a second breakage, no loaner would be given to the student (except for a test in a particular teacher's class). 4) On a third or subsequent breakage, no take-home privileges would be given to that student.

The administration recommended the following fee schedule: 1) Reinstate the \$30 damage waiver for take-home privileges. 2) Adopt a mandatory repair/replacement fee schedule, with a discount for those who purchase the \$30 damage waiver. It was noted that the damage waiver would still cover that student if the Chromebook ceased to work due to the manufacturer or Google, and a replacement was needed, or for any damage that, as determined by Mr. Mattix-Wand and the administration, was not due to student carelessness or negligence. Those decisions would be made on a case-by-case basis. Below is the fee schedule, as recommended:

Part	Regular Cost	Waiver Cost
Screen	\$53	\$29
Top Cover	\$29	\$11
LCD Bezel	\$19	\$10
Hinge Cover	\$18	\$9
Charging Port	\$9	\$5
AC Adapter	\$46	\$46 unless mechanical failure
Carry Bag	\$35	\$35

Further, the administration recommended that a plastic reinforcing case be purchased by the District and installed on all Chromebooks before 2014-15. Mr. Mattix-Wand noted that he conducted a trial installation of these cases on about ten Chromebooks this spring, and has not had one damaged one thus far. The total cost of these cases would be approximately \$9,000 to the District.

After some discussion of and questions concerning the above recommendations, the Board approved the above recommendations *in toto*.

Approve Disposal of Surplus and Obsolete Equipment

Mr. Mattix-Wand shared a spreadsheet with the Board that itemized the number of computers and peripherals that need to be declared surplus and obsolete. The most numerous of these devices were older PC's that were rendered obsolete by the fact that they cannot run Windows 7 operating system. Although the high school's main workhorse computing is done on Chromebooks (students) and MacBooks /iMacs (staff), there are still some specific applications in the Vocational Division and in some specific office areas which require a more modern PC which can run Windows 7. There are about 105 old PC's plus some other technology on that spreadsheet which were recommended for disposal.

Mr. St. Peters inquired as to how they would be disposed. Mr. Mattix-Wand noted that a firm in Godfrey would pick up these machines, along with some old CRT monitors for free.

It was noted that the old CRT monitors and TV's usually have a charge associated with their disposal but that the recycling firm indicated they would take those without charge due to the large quantity of PC's in the disposal.

The Board approved a motion that declared the list of PC's and other technology on the spreadsheet as surplus and obsolete equipment, and to authorize their disposal.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Robinson presented her Principal's Report to the Board, as follows:

Upcoming dates to remember

May	21	Pops Concert - 7:00 p.m.
	23	Oiler Olympics - 10:00 a.m.
	28	Senior Recognition Assembly
	29/30	Senior Final Exams
June	4	Graduation - 7:30 p.m.
	5/6	Underclass Final Exams

Committees

Focus groups will meet monthly during the 2013-2014 school year.

Miscellaneous

PSAE was April 23/24 and we had great attendance both days of testing. EAWR participated in End of Year (EOY) PARCC testing May 12th.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Pearson passed along an invitation from the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of the Phillips 66 Refinery to tour and attend an informative dinner at the Refinery on May 21st. He asked those in attendance to let him know if they wished to attend.

Plans are underway to possibly shoot some game scenes of a proposed new film, The Boys of Lincoln Place (or Men of Granite), which would chronicle the story of the 1940 state champion Granite City Warriors basketball team, a la Hoosiers. The screenplay would be based on the 2007 book, Men of Granite, written by sportswriter Dan Minoyan of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. Coach Steve Roustio of Granite City contacted Dr. Pearson to arrange for possible shooting in the Memorial and Auditorium Gyms (The "Aud Gym" was the actual gym where Wood River and Granite City played several games during this era).

The Superintendent reviewed a draft projection of the General State Aid payments that would come to EAWR and other area school districts. He observed that there seemed to be a large discrepancy between the projections, which did not make sense, given the notion that the bill was supposed to favor property tax poor and high poverty districts. He noted that these were draft projections, but, if they held to be mostly accurate, would be patently unfair, as compared with the two feeder districts and Roxana, which would all gain substantially (anywhere from 38-53% increases). EAWR's state aid increase is only projected at 1.2%.

Following Executive Session ...

The Board approved a motion to employ an entire new Volleyball staff, due to the earlier resignations of Coaches Lemmon and Zipprich. The new Head Volleyball Coach is Patti Scott, with Lauren Fester of East Alton as Asst. Volleyball Coach and Kelsey Westbrook, also of East Alton, as a volunteer Asst. Volleyball Coach. Ms. Scott returns to coaching volleyball at EAWR, after a stint as Head Coach from 2001-2006. Ms. Fester is a former prep and college volleyball player. Ms. Westbrook, currently a full time Optometry student and club volleyball coach, is a former EAWR volleyball player and was an outstanding student.