

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

1st Regular Board Meeting May 6, 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 6, 2014.

Review of Agenda Items for the May 13, 2014 Regular Meeting

2nd Reading of Recommended Board Policy Revisions

The Board expressed no concerns or asked questions about the policy revisions, which were discussed in detail at April's board meetings. The policy revisions would be adopted, then, at the May 13th Regular Meeting.

Review Tentative FY 14 Amended District Budget

Supt. Pearson reviewed 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.

The superintendent also observed that the tax collections for Debt Service were short by about \$13,000 to actually covering the cost of the bond payments, which means that the Debt Service Fund needed to use Interfund loans to pay expenses. He noted that the Board might wish to consider a special levy to make up the difference.

Discuss and Adopt Fees for 2014-15 School Year

The superintendent suggested increasing the "bad check" fee from \$15 to \$20, since districts costs of processing bad checks have risen. This \$15 fee has not been increased in at least 14 years. As an example, just the cost of postage for a certified letter is now \$6.50.

Also, raising the student locks fee from \$5 to \$8 was discussed. The school purchases locks now for \$7.50. This lock charge also has not been increased in recent memory, certainly in this century.

He also noted that he was not suggesting an increase in registration fees, which would mean that they would stay at \$70.

Discuss and Approve Resolution to the Withdrawal of Roxana CUSD #1 from Region III Special Education Cooperative:

The superintendent reminded the Board that the resolution to authorize the withdrawal of Roxana Unit #1 from the Region III Special Education Cooperative would be on next week's agenda. The withdrawal would be effective as of June 30, 2015.

Region III Director Cindy Ponce recently prepared a series of cost scenarios for administrative fees, which are annual charges each district pays for membership in the cooperative, with these charges based on student enrollment. Some of the scenarios actually showed decreased costs for membership after Roxana's withdrawal, due to Mrs. Ponce taking on some additional roles. Certainly, the administrative fees were not projected to rise after the withdrawal.

Approve Final School Calendar for 2013-14

Mr. Pearson reminded the Board that it would need to officially approve the final 2013-14 school calendar which he will submit the last day of school. He noted that the district used all five snow days as well as three "Act of God" days last winter. The last day of school remains June 6, 2014.

Nutritional Changes for 2014-15

The administration briefed the board on some of the strict rules changes that have come down from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Federal Free Lunch Program. Not only are stricter requirements made in terms of calories, sugar, fat content, etc. for food served in the lunch and breakfast program, but the new rules prohibit school fund raising snacks and candy from being sold during the school day. As Mrs. Robinson observed, if it cannot be sold in the cafeteria, students cannot sell it during the school day. The new rules do still allow for candy and sugared soft drinks to be sold after hours at concession stands, ball games, etc.

Interpreter at Graduation

Mr. Pearson reported that he had a request from a student who has a hearing impaired relative that requested an interpreter for graduation. The superintendent noted that he

had contracted with Paraquad from St. Louis, who would provide two interpreters, for the cost of just under \$400.

Following Executive Session

The Board employed Ms. Kelly Skelton of Dow as School Nurse, effective with the 2014-15 school term. Kelly will replace Nurse Donna DeConcini, who is retiring this summer. Ms. Skelton has been employed for the last seven years as an R.N. at Alton Memorial Hospital in the Wound Care / Hyperbaric Medicine Department.