

## From the EAWRCHS Board ...

### 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Board Meeting and Reorganization Meeting June 4, 2013

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of June 4, 2013.

#### Math Department Presentation

Math-Science Division Chair Lee Ann Parmentier addressed the Board about having the Math Department purchase the "Digital Path" on-line curriculum from Pearson Education. She used some examples from the Digital Path series from a trial Web access to show the Board members the advantages of the series. These new on-line math curricula cover Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra II instruction, with avatar-enabled interactive help aids for students, lesson guides for teachers, etc. and, most importantly, are aligned to the new Common Core Standards for math. The cost for one year of these math curricula is just under \$7,300.

Superintendent Pearson noted that he had planned to build this into next year's budget, and that this would replace the need to purchase math textbooks next year. Principal Robinson also observed that this purchase would allow the teachers and students to utilize their new Chromebooks in math classes. After some discussion, there was a consensus of the Board to have this built into the budget for 2013-14.

#### Review of Agenda Items for the June 11, 2013 Regular Meeting

Life, Safety Amendment Recommendation: Stadium Restroom and Locker Renovation

The superintendent reported that the Architect and he had just completed the ISBE \$50,000 Maintenance Grant application for the renovation of the two public restrooms at Memorial Stadium and the replacement of the athletic lockers in the football locker rooms in the Stadium. This grant requires a 50-50 local match, which the superintendent recommended come from the Life Safety Fund. However, in order to access the Life, Safety funds, the Board would need to also authorize a Life, Safety Amendment for this work. The architect has completed the necessary paperwork for that Amendment, but the Board is recommended to approve the application formally at the June 11, 2013 Regular Meeting.

Mr. Foxall had earlier reported that his maintenance crew would be able to do the renovation of the fixtures (commodes, stalls, urinals, fluorescent lights, sinks, etc.) on their own, as well as the locker installation. The superintendent noted that the old

football lockers were dented with some damaged and bent hardware, to the point that some constituted a safety hazard. The total estimated cost of these two projects would be \$100,000, with, hopefully, the Maintenance Grant absorbing \$50,000 of that cost. The superintendent reminded the Board of the poor condition of the stadium restrooms and that this had been a part of the Board's Strategic Plan for quite some time. He also noted that, even if the Maintenance Grant did not come through this year, that the Board should seriously consider doing the work, anyway, with the Life, Safety Fund balance being large enough to do the renovation and still have a fund balance of about \$290,000 afterwards.

Mrs. St. Peters commented that she had heard of another district had received some grant money to pay for these sorts of expenses and she would double-check and bring back that information to the superintendent.

#### BOE Policy 6.220 (District 1:1 Policy) – Hear 2nd Reading and Adoption

The superintendent recommended that the Board adopt this policy at its June meeting, This new policy specifies the Board's commitment to the 1:1 and describes the specific aspects of the Board's commitment to the program.

#### 2013-14 Student-Parent Handbook Revisions

Mrs. Robinson presented the changes to the Handbook, which the Board would be asked to approve at the June 11th Meeting. The changes are:

- Language clarifying issues that arose this year surrounding the new Community Service Graduation Requirement
- A bereavement day language is proposed which students could use with regards to both the final exam exemption and Renaissance qualification criteria. There has been an issue with students who had used their allowable number of sick days (3 per semester) for either being exempt from finals or qualifying for Renaissance Awards and who were getting penalized by the policies when attending the funeral of a relative.
- A new section that addresses the rules and procedures regarding the 1:1 initiative and Chromebooks is added, with some consequences for students who do not bring the device to school, fully-charged, or who violate the other provisions of the Acceptable Use Policy.
- A new section informing students and parents that students may be videotaped as a result of a new requirement that all student teachers be videotaped from time to time by their university.
- A new allowance for upperclassmen to have "college days" which are a part of many high schools' rules but, for some reason, was dropped from EAWR policy. Cyber-bullying was specifically addressed in the new handbook.

Mrs. Robinson praised the students and parents on the Handbook Committee for their ideas and feedback.

#### Declare 13" 2008 MacBooks and Other Old Technology Equipment as Surplus and Obsolete Equipment and Authorize Their Disposal

Mr. Pearson reported that, with the acquisition of the new MacBook Airs for teachers (purchased via the Lease Purchase Agreement and the ISBE Tech Loan), the 2008 MacBooks were not needed in their current function. The superintendent reminded the Board that the 2008 MacBooks were purchased through a special Federal School Improvement Grant. Gerry Mattix-Wand and he recommended that the old MacBooks first be offered for \$200 apiece to the teachers for their personal use, with the remainder being switched to the Art and Yearbook classes for their use (since the MacBooks could run some sophisticated Photoshop and other software, which the Chromebooks could not do as well. Mr. Pearson noted that the biggest Art class next year had about 22 students enrolled with another 18 enrolled in the Yearbook class. There are 45 2008 MacBooks in District inventory, currently. The Board would be asked to declare them obsolete and surplus equipment at the June 11th Board meeting.

#### Adopt Amended 2013 District Budget

The Board would be asked to adopt the Amended FY 2012-13 District Budget, as presented at the May 2013 Board Meeting in tentative form. Superintendent Pearson reported that, since the May meeting, there has been only one change to the tentative budget: an addition of \$3,000 to the science account.

A budget hearing (Special Meeting) would be held at 6:00 PM, immediately preceding the Regular June Meeting, as noticed in the Telegraph last month.

#### Adopt Prevailing Wage Rate Resolution

The Board would need to adopt the Prevailing Wage resolution at the June 11th meeting. This is an annual requirement for districts. The "prevailing wage rates" are ascertained and set by the Illinois Department of Labor, and concern all construction trade jobs, where private contractors perform work at the school. These rates have to be posted and given to potential contractors doing work at the school.

Mr. Pearson noted that, as per usual, the Board would be asked to approve an amended budget in June. The budget hearing notice has been placed in the Telegraph, noting that the Budget would be on 30-day display effective May 12, 2013.

## Hall of Fame – 2013 Update

The superintendent reported that the Selection Panel had met twice this spring and had made its selection of eight new inductees for the EAWR Alumni Hall of Fame. They are:

**Tracy Butler** (1988) – President and Co-Founder of Acropolis Technology Group, one of the most respected technology firms in the St. Louis area;

**Dr. Richard Erzen** (1946) – retired school superintendent, community college president, and college professor who was a basketball standout at EAWR;

**Sherrill Hanks** (1943-posthumous) – a legendary high school and college basketball coach at Quincy High School and Quincy College;

**Dr. Harold “Doc” Hudson** (1940) – a longtime area dentist and former EAWR board member, who was a star athlete at EAWR and starred at Northwestern University in football;

**Dr. Ashley Knight** (1978) – current Dean of Student Affairs at Harper College in Palatine and former on-air radio host at KSHE-95 and WLUP in Chicago;

**Dr. Scott Logan** (1975) – long-time successful and top rated OB-GYN in Lake Forest and on-staff physician with Northwestern Hospital in Lake Forest;

**John Messick** (1955) – star basketball player at EAWR who had a successful career as an aeronautical engineer with Bell Helicopter in Texas;

**Jean (Wolf) Stothert** (1972) – recently elected Mayor of Omaha, Nebraska and former City Councilwoman and school board member in the Omaha area, as well as distinguished career as a surgical nurse at St. Louis University Hospital.

## Hear Foundation Update

The superintendent reported that the EAWR Foundation Board recently met and decided to make its next contribution either for new percussion instruments for the band or purchase a new stage curtain for the Auditorium. The administration is awaiting word also from one of the Foundation Board members about a potential local donor who may give towards the stage curtain project. The Foundation has about \$13,000 in discretionary funds currently.

## Following Executive Session ....

The Board accepted the resignation of Steve Flowers as Asst. Boys Basketball Coach. Mr. Flowers has recently accepted a teaching and coaching assignment at Jersey Community School District.

The Board also approved the request for a Leave of Absence for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of the 2013-14 school year from Mrs. Denise Burris, Special Education Teacher.