

From the EAWRCHS Board ...

Regular Board Meeting

August 12, 2014

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of August 12, 2014.

Hear Report on Tentative FY 2015 District Budget

Supt. Pearson presented the highlights of the tentative FY 15 budget. He reviewed the projected fund balances and cash balances for each fund, noting that, although the District will not have to file a “fiscal reform plan” this year with its budget, that it may very well have to next year, since the one-year Operating Fund deficits almost come to one-third the amount of the anticipated Operating Fund Balance by June 30, 2015.

He projected that the Education Fund will lose about \$660,000 in FY 15, with the other two main Operating Funds (O&M and Transportation) expected to lose another \$3,000 in total. However, since the Education Fund was the beneficiary of the abatement of over \$1.6 Million in the spring of 2013, the Education Fund is still projected to have a small positive fund balance beginning with the 2015-16 fiscal year, despite the projected loss. And, the fund balance in Working Cash is projected to be over \$1.8 Million.

Also, he observed that the Board may wish to consider his budgetary recommendation that another Interfund Loan be made from Working Cash to the Debt Service fund, that would alleviate the cash shortfall caused by the moving of the lease-purchase obligations for the Chromebooks and other technology being accounted for in the Debt Service Fund, without a separate revenue source. Dr. Pearson observed that the auditors may recommend that the shortfall be transferred again this year from the Education Fund, which could put the Education Fund’s balance in the red by July 1, 2015. He reminded the Board that there is a lingering deficit in the Debt Service fund caused by the Olin abatement of two years ago, since the tax revenues for the bonds were cut short.

He also noted that the Education Fund might need another Interfund Loan, perhaps up to \$1 Million from the Working Cash Fund for cash flow purposes.

The positive news is that, after a two-year stint of negative fund balances, 2014-15 is projected to be a good year for the Tort Fund, with projections showing it back “in the black” at June 30, 2015.

The Budget will be recommended for approval at the September 9, 2014 Regular Meeting, following the Budget Hearing scheduled for 6:00 p.m. that night. The tentative FY 2015 District Budget is now on display in the Main Office and will be during normal office hours up until the Budget Hearing.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent reminded the Board that it would need to conduct a public hearing, as required by law, to waive the school holiday of Pulaski Day (March 2, 2015 this school year) to allow student attendance on that day. The waiver of Pulaski Day allows the district to "buy-back" one snow day by having school on that day, which compresses the length of the school year. The Board wishes to avoid having a June dismissal, as was the case in 2013-14.

Mr. Duncan asked if parents have been notified. Dr. Pearson noted that there was a blurb about that on the bottom of the new school calendars mailed out to all parents. In addition, the administration would be using other reminders throughout the next few months to parents and students to not schedule out of town vacations or trips on March 2, 2015, since that may very well be a regular attendance day. Mr. McCoy asked if a tentative graduation date was included in that parent calendar. Supt. Pearson responded that it was not. The Board will set Graduation likely next March.

Following Executive Session

The Board employed Mr. Mike Ragusa of Wood River as Asst. Football Coach. Mr. Ragusa has served previously as a volunteer football coach at EAWR.

The Board appointed Mrs. Katie Russell of Wood River and Ms. Jennifer Iken of Edwardsville as volunteer, non-paid Asst. Oilerettes coaches, both pending ASEP completion. The Board also appointed Mr. Trey Stille of Wood River as a volunteer, non-paid Asst. Football coach, pending receipt of a copy of his teaching certificate.