

## From the EAWRCHS Board ...

### Regular Board Meeting – September 6, 2011

What follows is an unofficial summary of the East Alton - Wood River Community High School District #14 Board of Education Regular Meeting of September 6, 2011.

#### Action Items Following Executive Session

The Board approved a motion to employ Kaye Snyder and Kathleen Kearby as Cooks (at the Cook 2 position) and to appoint Brittany Morell as Volunteer, Non-Paid Asst. Cheerleading Coach, pending ASEP approval.

The resignation of Tricia Cobine as Head Bowling Coach was accepted.

#### Review of Items on the Sept. 13th Regular Agenda

##### FY 2012 Budget:

Mr. Pearson reported that only a few adjustments had been made since the FY 2012 Budget was presented at the August Regular Meeting. He pointed out that the typical adjustments were made to certain line items due to some teachers experiencing a horizontal move on the Salary Schedule, and an adjustment was made to the General State Aid estimate due to uncertainty about the appropriation.

The budget now projects a bottom line loss of about \$316,000 in the projected Education Fund Balance by June 30, 2012, with all four Operating Funds expected to lose about \$200,000 during the 2012 fiscal year. The District's Operating Fund Balance (which includes Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, and Working Cash) is still projected to be strong, with an estimated total Operating Fund Balance to be approximately \$2.4 Million.

Mr. Pearson reminded the Board of the Budget Hearing to be held at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011.

##### Region III Withdrawal Resolution:

Mr. Pearson noted that the Board would need to adopt the Resolution allowing the four Macoupin County school districts (Bunker Hill, Gillespie, Mt. Olive, and Staunton) to withdraw from Region III Special Education Cooperative, effective June 30, 2012.

The Board held a discussion concerning why the four districts wished to withdraw, which Mr. Pearson responded that they were of the opinion that they could provide those special education services in their own smaller cooperative more efficiently.

##### Board Member Training:

The Regional Office of Education is going to offer school board members workshops on several

critical areas of Board governance, with the first session concerned with school finance and budgets. These sessions would be conducted by local consultants in Madison County, who are retired school administrators.

The Board discussed whether to attend the first module of school board member trainings, even though it would begin at 6:30 p.m. on the Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Board Meeting night. After some discussion, several Board members expressed an interest in attending, if the meeting schedule could be arranged so as to have the already-announced Budget Hearing at 6:00 p.m., and to also conduct the normal business of the Board, with the goal of being able to finish by a time reasonably early enough for the Board members to attend the training in Troy.

There was a consensus of the Board to change the starting time of the Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting to 5:30 p.m., with the Budget Hearing and Adoption to begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.

#### Summer Breakfast Option:

The Board reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by Mrs. Luckert and the superintendent regarding the financial report of the Summer Breakfast Option. This past summer was the first for offering the Summer Breakfast Option, which is a program sponsored by the Federal government and the ISBE. The program provides reimbursement of approximately \$1.80 per meal, and, in return, the District has to offer a free breakfast to anyone 18 or under in the community, during the time summer school is in session - whether that person was actually attending summer school or not.

Even though the Summer Breakfast Option expenses exceeded the reimbursement by a total of \$484.20, the Board - after some discussion - decided it was a worthwhile investment, given the fact that many of our less fortunate students may not have the opportunity for a nutritious breakfast on a typical summer morning.

#### Consider Aerial Images of the School:

Mr. Pearson reported that a vendor was offering aerial photos of the school for \$900. There would be 10 different views, from which the school would select one view for a framed 16 X 24 picture, as well as a portfolio of all views on a CD. Supt. Pearson noted that, although he could not necessarily justify the expense, the school had not purchased one of these since 1995, and that perhaps the Board might want an updated view of the campus to be displayed, as the other views are displayed on the Board Room wall.

After some discussion about the value of the offer, there was no consensus to proceed with this purchase.

#### Cell Tower Proposal:

Mr. Pearson reported that a national telecommunications company was interested in erecting cell tower antennae on the top of the Main Building chimney, and had sent a draft lease agreement and money proposal for the District's consideration. Mr. Pearson reported that, although the proposed lease payments were not too far out of line, their proposed lease agreement was being reviewed by Lisa Berns, of Tueth, Keeney, et al. She noted that the agreement needed language changes to protect the District, which she would be drafting shortly.

### East Building Boiler Project:

The asbestos abatement portion of the Boiler Project has been effectively completed, with the District only waiting on the final punch list and lien waivers from Farmer Environmental, before the contractor, Envirotech, could be paid from its invoice.

GRP Mechanical is beginning its work this week on the new boiler installation. Its substantial date of completion on the entire project is October 15, 2011.

### Ventilation and Cooling of East Building Courtyard:

Architect Brent Lance, Maintenance Director Jeff Foxall, and Mr. Pearson explored some options regarding air movement in the East Building, particularly the second floor classroom area, which was the main cause of the Interrupted Days being used in the last two weeks. Some of the temperatures on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor exceeded 90 degrees at 9:00 a.m., with temperatures in some classrooms exceeding 100 degrees in the early afternoon last week.

Brent Lance recommended an approach which featured the installation of giant ceiling fans to move the air, with the possibility of static air vents in the ridgeline of the glass atrium to help the top layer of air escape. He did note that the installation of fans would not be covered under Health, Life Safety funds, however.

His firm will supply the District with cost estimates as well as an engineering analysis of installing large ceiling fans on the existing I-beams, measuring stress of that weight. He guessed that these ceiling fans may be over 200-300 pounds each.

### Legislative Update:

The Board heard a report on the new requirement that all Board members - beginning in January 2012 - would have to pass an on-line test covering the Open Meetings Act, on the Attorney General's Website. Currently, superintendents have to complete such a test annually.