

EAST WASHINGTON SCHOOL CORPORATION – SCHOOL BOARD NOTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Members Present

Linda McClellan, President
Cecil ShROUT, Vice President
David Churchman, Secretary
Brian Motsinger, Member

Members Absent

Sue Jane Miller, Member

Guests

NEWS MEDIA:

NEWSPAPER

Salem Leader, Kate Wehlann

OFFICIAL GUESTS:

Mr. Steve Darnell, Superintendent

Ms. Christi Pruitt, Treasurer

Mr. Greg Hopkins, Trans. Director/Asst. to Superintendent

Ms. Lisa Thomas, ES Principal

Mr. Chad Johnson, ES Asst. P principal

Ms. Amber Sater, MS Principal

Mr. Darin Farris, HS Principal

UNOFFICIAL GUESTS:

Don Balentine

Debbie Humphrey

Cameron Smith

Troy Smith

Melanie Smith

Melanie B. Smith

Darlene Hall

Candy Brough

Caitlin Kemker

Steve Kemker

Delaney Wills

Katie Schlesener

James Schlesener

Pledge of Allegiance

President Linda McClellan led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed.

President Linda McClellan called the public hearing of proposed employment contract meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

Comments were welcomed from the public on the Proposed Employment Contract. There was no public opposition to the proposed contract.

Adjournment

The public hearing meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. It is recommended to call the regular meeting to order. Motion: Cecil ShROUT, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 4-0

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Call Regular School Board Meeting to Order

Recognition of Middle School Spell Bowl Team

The School Board of Trustees does hereby approve the recognition resolution.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: Cecil ShROUT, Vote: 4-0

Background Information Provided by Mrs. Deborah Humphrey

The Indiana Spell Bowl Junior Division is a competition sponsored by The Indiana Association of School Principals and Purdue University. It is designed to encourage academic excellence in spelling. School teams are composed of eight members (eight rounds) plus as many as eight alternates from grades 6-8 (at our school). Each student spells nine words from an earlier published list. Ribbons are awarded at Regionals for first, second, and third place according to class (based on student enrollment). All the scores are sent to the state office, and the office selects a particular percentage of the top scorers to compete at the state level.

Our EWMS Spell Bowl Team won First Place Blue Ribbons in their class and placing second overall at the Bedford Regionals on October 22, 2013. After the scores were sent to state, our team was not selected to go to state this year. However, we did place nineteenth out of fifty-one school in Class 3 across the state of Indiana, which is an important accomplishment

Top spellers were Talon Felker (six correct words), Katie Schlesener (five correct words), Delaney Wills and Caitlin Kemker (both with four correct words). Other team members included Elise Clift, Abby Foster, Mary Hiser, Ashtyn Hurst, Cassidy Jackson, Cameron Smith, and Allison Wall.

A special thanks to Mrs. Smith for proctoring and for participating in the parent round. Also, thank you to the parents who cheered us on at the Regionals. Thank you to Mr. Hoke, Aaron Smith, Greg Hopkins, Cheryl Backherms, and Amber Sater for all their support! GREAT JOB TEAM!

Business

Alumni Banquet

Mr. Greg Hopkins, of the Pekin-Eastern Alumni Association discussed what the association is trying to accomplish and asked for continued financial support to fund the banquet tickets for those seniors attending. He indicated that Country Cookin' in Salem will be catering the banquet again this year.

Motion: Cecil Shrout, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 4-0

Approval of Minutes and Executive Session

Board did meet in Executive Session for discussion of strategy for the following reason(s): To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to any discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(8) at 6:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 14 2014.

Board did meet in Executive Session for discussion of strategy for the following reason(s):

To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to any discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(8) immediately following the regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2014.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, January 14, 2014 were approved with any additions, corrections, or deletions as recommended by the Board.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 4-0

Vendor Claims/Payroll Claims

The Board approved Vendor Claim #6217 individually, Vendor Claims #6246 to and including #6357 and Direct Deposit Advices #31374 to and including #32038.

Motion: David Churchman, Seconded: Cecil Shrou, Vote: 4-0

Monthly Financial Reports

The monthly Financial Reports were presented to the Board. The Board approved the monthly Financial Reports as presented.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 4-0

Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriation

Superintendent Darnell explained to the Board the need to request additional appropriation for the purchase of the 78 passenger bus that the Board approved the purchase of at the January 14, 2014 meeting.

He explained that the Department of Local Government Finance did not grant appropriation in the Bus Replacement Fund for the purchase of the bus. There is enough money to back the request for additional appropriation.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Cecil Shrou, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 4-0

ADM Report

Superintendent Darnell provided the Board with the most up-to-date ADM information. A Power Point presentation was provided. ADM is up 6.5 students from the last count date in September of 2013.

Personnel

Approval of Personnel Changes

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the personnel changes as outlined.

Resignations

Extra-Curricular

- ✓ Jennifer Hurst has resigned her position as girls' middle school tennis coach effective immediately.
- ✓ Carla Coahran has resigned her position as Junior National Honor Society sponsor effective immediately.

Employment of Staff

Extra-Curricular

- ✓ Ms. Amber Sater, MS Principal recommended David Aly as Junior National Honor Society sponsor.

Homebound

- ✓ Ms. Amber Sater, MS Principal recommended Laura Purlee as the 6th grade homebound instructor effective February 10, 2014.

FYI

- ✓ Brent Whittaker will be volunteering as a 5th/6th grade boys' basketball coach.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: Cecil Shrou, Vote: 4-0

Extension of Select Administrative Contracts

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve contract extensions for the HS Principal, HS Assistant Principal, MS Assistant Principal, and the Assistant to the Superintendent for one year so that all administrative contracts extend through June 30, 2015.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Cecil Shrou, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 4-0

Salary Adjustment for High School Principal

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve an increase of \$850 for performance to the base salary of the high school principal's contract.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: Cecil Shrou, Vote: 4-0

Instruction/Curriculum

Approval of Wal-Mart Grant Application

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the Wal-Mart Grant application as submitted by Mrs. Lisa Thomas, ES Principal. The grant was awarded and a check received for \$250.00 on January 29. The elementary school plans to use that amount for professional development expenses.

It is recommended that the Board approve the Wal-Mart Grant application as presented.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: David Churchman, Seconded: Cecil Shrou, Vote: 4-0

Approval of Dairy Optimization Grant Application

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the Dairy Optimization Grant application as submitted by Mr. Greg Hopkins, Food Services Director. The grant is a competitive grant. If awarded, the grant money would be used to purchase insulated bags to carry food items to and from classrooms that are piloting the 'Breakfast to Go'. A blender for the elementary cafeteria would also be purchased.

It is recommended that the Board approve the Dairy Optimization Grant application as presented.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Cecil Shrou, Seconded: Brian Motsinger, Vote: 4-0

Approval of Donations

Ms. Lisa Thomas, ES Principal has submitted a request for approval of donations from Dare to Care. Fifty bags of food each week will be sent home with students who are experiencing food insecurity. Ms. Thomas was in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions regarding the donations. Ms. Thomas said two banks are helping with the funding of the donations. She hoped additional children will be served.

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the request to accept donations from Dare to Care.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: David Churchman, Seconded: Brian Motsinger, Vote: 4-0

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Presentation

Mr. Darin Farris, HS Principal, Amber Sater, MS Principal and Lisa Thomas, ES Principal were in attendance at the meeting to present the PLC and to answer any questions regarding the presentation.

Superintendent Darnell stated that the presentation is clearly within the vision of the district. He applauded the principals for their work putting together the presentation.

President Linda McClellan asked how the staff intended to 'pull it off'.

Ms. Sater, MS Principal stated that by using collaborative methods and teaching partners. By having partners the same concept for teaching is used. The partners then collaborate with each other.

Ms. Thomas, ES Principal stated that the teaching partners are already being used at the elementary school.

President Linda McClellan asked how the teaching would blend for the students. Ms. Sater said using collaborative teaching will get the students. Those that don't 'move on' will be taught by the partner teacher to get caught up.

Vice-President Cecil ShROUT asked if everyone was on board with this concept. Ms. Sater stated that there was support for this way of teaching.

Mr. ShROUT asked if this will be part of the teacher evaluation process. He asked if the principals will work together to make sure they are evaluating in the same manner. Ms. Thomas indicated they are and the rubric is in line with this type of teaching. The principals from each of the three buildings will be collaborating regularly regarding the learning communities.

Mr. Farris, HS Principal stated that the high school would have a bigger challenge. Mr. Farris said the teachers need to be more creative in teaching methods. He indicated there would be 'bumps in the road'. Mr. Farris said he would ask the teachers, 'Is this good enough for your own kid?'

Member Brian Motsinger asked if the 'gaps' between the three buildings would be filled. Superintendent Darnell responded by saying dialogue between the teachers is imperative. This shifts the focus on learning. Learning communities is research-based and it works.

Approval of Technology Plan

Mr. Don Balentine, Technology Director was in attendance at the meeting to present the technology plan and to answer any questions regarding the plan. He requested that the Board approve the plan.

The technology plan is on a three year cycle, making 2014 the year to submit the plan.

Three goals have been put in the plan. Mr. Balentine said he tried to align the goals to work with the expectations of the district.

Member Brian Motsinger asked what Mr. Balentine's thoughts were on home internet access. Mr. Balentine stated that he hoped within the near future all students will have internet access. He indicated he is constantly looking for ways to provide all students with internet access at home.

Vice President Cecil ShROUT asked Mr. Balentine what his thoughts were on going forward with the one-to-one in the classrooms. Mr. Balentine said Chromebooks are being used in the classrooms at the high school. He said there is an online blended learning program that potentially could be used as professional development for the teaching staff. Mr. ShROUT said affordability is an issue. Mr. Balentine said an issue is if we can sustain the program after purchasing the devices.

Superintendent Darnell said the committee working on the one-to-one program will evaluate to see if the program is valuable to learning and if the program has the research to back it.

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the Technology Plan.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 4-0

Schoolboard.net Presentation

Mr. Don Balentine gave a brief synopsis of the board management software for the board to consider. Schoolboard.net is a secure site for the Board to review meeting agendas. By using the software, it will be cost effective both in time and resources.

Mr. Balentine will provide the board with the website demo address for the software company so the Board can further investigate what the software has to offer.

Superintendent Information

Plan for Make-Up of Lost Student Days

Superintendent Darnell addressed the Board about a plan for make-up of lost student days due to inclement weather.

Mr. Darnell said he had met with the teachers' association, and the administrators regarding the plan and a survey to public will be sent and considered.

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the use of April 25 as a snow make-up day. It was initially a professional development day, but can now be used as a make-up day and the professional development day would be added at the end of the school year.

Motion: Cecil Shrout, Seconded: Brian Motsinger, Vote: 4-0

Superintendent Darnell asked the Board what their thoughts were. President Linda McClellan said if the Board is okay with the plan submitted, would the Board give Mr. Darnell the authority to act on the plan.

Vice President Cecil Shrout said the students and parents had the higher stake in the decision and he felt it would be okay to leave it to Superintendent Darnell to make the final decision based on the survey results.

Member Brian Motsinger wasn't in favor of either option, but he said it's something we would have to do to make up for the lost time.

A motion was made giving Superintendent Darnell the authority to act on the plan according to the results of the survey being sent out tomorrow, February 12, 2014. Member Brian Motsinger stated, 'majority rules'.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: Cecil Shrout, Vote: 4-0

East Washington School Corporation Plan for Make-Up of Lost Student Days

1. Use April 25 as a student day (current professional day for teachers only). The professional day for teachers would be added prior to the last day for teachers after the last student day.
2. Should the IDOE waive requested instructional days lost, the last student day would be determined by the number of waived instructional days.

3. Parents and staff would be surveyed to determine their opinion of how to make-up lost instructional time if the IDOE does not grant an additional waiver of days. The survey would pose two scenarios for consideration:
 - a. Add instructional days to the end of the school calendar. This would make June 3 the last student day.
 - b. Add one hour of instructional time to the end of the school day between February 24 – March 21, 2014. This option would result in the last student day on May 29 since three instructional days would be “made up” through extended time during the four weeks.
4. Should the survey results indicate a preference of adding an hour to the instructional day, the following schedule would be implemented:
 - a. Extend the learning day for students by one hour at the end of each day for a total of four weeks (20 instructional days). This schedule would be February 24 – March 21, 2014.
 - b. The extra hour per day would result in a total of 20 instructional hours that would equal 3 days (plus an extra three hours for a partial day that would be banked in case of further snow days).
 - c. This would make the last student day on May 29.
This would make the last teacher day on June 2 with May 30 as a professional development day for professional learning community work/accreditation work.
5. A special Board meeting may be held on February 18 for the purpose of approving any modification to the instructional day or extending the last student day to June 3.

Items by the Board/Late Items

- ✓ Secretary David Churchman noted that a lot of positive things are going on with learning in the district and thought a lot had been acted on at tonight’s meeting regarding education.

Public Comments

- ✓ Ms. Darlene Hall commended the Board for their efforts in supporting the implementation of professional learning communities. She expressed a clear connection between the learning communities and her child’s learning.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next School Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: Brian Motsinger, Seconded: Cecil Shrout, Vote: 4-0