

**EAST WASHINGTON SCHOOL CORPORATION – SCHOOL BOARD NOTES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

**Members Present**

Linda McClellan, President  
David Churchman, Vice President  
Sue Jane Miller, Secretary  
Theresa Gottbrath, Member  
Hector Nale, Member

**Members Absent**

**Guests**

OFFICIAL GUESTS: Mr. Steve Darnell, Superintendent  
Mrs. Joanna Trueblood, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Greg Hopkins, Trans. Director/Asst. to Superintendent  
Ms. Amber Sater, MS Principal

UNOFFICIAL GUESTS: Linda Wineinger  
Eric Albertson  
Jeff Clem  
Adam Rickard  
Jr. Sullivan  
Jerald Green  
Kendra Floyd  
Russell Hopkins  
Kyla Rickard  
Brenda Beach  
David Gottbrath  
Jodi Cole

**Pledge of Allegiance**

President Linda McClellan led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was observed. President Linda McClellan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Recognition of MS Student, Kyla Rickard**

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

Motion: Hector Nale, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 5-0

*Background Information Provided by Ms. Amber Sater, MS Principal*

*This year, Kyla Rickard submitted a poster to the Student Transportation Association of Indiana for Region 10. The competition is used to support the mission of STAI which is: The School Transportation Association of Indiana is dedicated to providing Members education and training opportunities to enhance safe school bus transportation for Indiana children. This year's theme was **Bully Free Zone**. Kyla did an excellent job representing Region 10, which is our school's region. She received 1<sup>st</sup> place in her grade level. Kyla's poster was then sent to the state*

*conference in June to compete at the state level. Kyla is the first student to place in this competition, and we are so proud of her and her artistic ability!*

*Thank you, Kyla, for representing East Washington Elementary at the Region 10 STAI Poster Contest.*

## **Business**

### **Public Hearing of 2016 Proposed Budgets, CPF Plan and Bus Replacement Plan**

The proposed budgets, CPF Plan and Bus Replacement Plan were addressed to attending patrons as necessary. Dialogue of the hearing included:

Superintendent Darnell shared a summary of proposed 2011-2016 budgets (rates and levies) and approved rates and levies. He pointed out that proposed budgets are always built high to protect the corporation when cuts are made through the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF).

Patron Linda Wineinger asked what type of supporting documents we submit to the DLGF. Superintendent Darnell informed everyone that the completed budget forms are what we submit to the state. What we advertise in the paper is our notice to the taxpayers, along with the CPF plan and bus replacement schedule. Forms submitted, which consist of cash balances on hand, how much appropriation has been used, and how much we anticipate using, etc. all goes into what the state reviews in order to determine the approved budget.

Vice President David Churchman proposed the question: If you ask for \$4.8 million, do you have an estimated amount of what you project they will give based on past years? Superintendent Darnell stated that based on past years trends, he would guess somewhere around \$3.2 million. Vice President David Churchman then asked if he had an idea of how much that would increase the tax rate. Superintendent Darnell predicted it would go from 1.0469 to around 1.07. Member Theresa Gottbrath stated that her prediction was 1.1202. Member Theresa Gottbrath then asked Superintendent Darnell if he would propose a referendum if we did not get the amount we wanted. Superintendent Darnell responded no. Superintendent Darnell reminded Board members that you have to ensure the best interests of students and corporation are included in the budget request, because it will be reduced. The thought is to request enough to cover your needs, so that when they do make cuts, you don't come up short.

Patron Brenda Beach asked if they determine each specific breakdown percentage. She noticed approved Capital Projects has been consistently .3 over time. Superintendent Darnell informed everyone that they determine each item based on cash on hand, how much appropriation has been used, and how much cash they predict the school will use next year. Historically, they keep Capital Projects consistently lower than requested.

Patron Linda Wineinger asked for a breakdown of capital projects. Superintendent Darnell stated that capital projects includes any type of building, construction or acquisition, upgrades in buildings and sports buildings, maintenance, utilities, technology related items including personnel costs, and \$650,000 HVAC improvements. Member Hector Nale stated that utilities do not come out of capital projects. Superintendent Darnell disclosed that while the majority of utilities come out of the general fund, a certain percentage does come out of capital projects. The law allows the school district to pay just over \$250,000 out of CPF.

Patron Jr. Sullivan questioned why some of the utilities are paid out of CPF, instead of just out of the general fund. Superintendent Darnell stated that he believes the thought process is it takes utilities to run the buildings. Jr. Sullivan stated that he runs a business and the only thing he is allowed to take out of Capital Projects is something physical. Jr. asked how we consider the different amounts within the Capital Projects budget. Superintendent Darnell communicated that the utility costs have been constant over time. We have repairs to make to buildings, but due to not enough money being in capital projects, we have had to keep pushing projects out in future years. Superintendent Darnell stated that if you look at the history of what's been approved for capital projects, it is running in the \$800,000 range. We could use \$1 million every year to make sure that things are maintained, but we have put off projects that don't have an immediate need.

Patron Jr. Sullivan asked where the assessed value is currently at. He was worried if we are raising our rates and the assessed value is slipping, is it enough? Jr. was wondering if our assessed rates are climbing. Superintendent Darnell stated that he believed AV had risen last year, after a decline the year before. Superintendent Darnell stated that he didn't have the specific numbers tonight, but he could get them to Mr. Sullivan.

Patron Brenda Beach questioned what other large allocations were included in the \$2 million capital project proposed levy besides the \$650,000 towards the HVAC. Superintendent Darnell stated that technology is a large portion of the capital projects with a total of \$534,000. That includes infrastructure, computers, and technology personnel salaries. Superintendent Darnell noted that connectivity for Internet is expensive, but we have to have it. Ms. Beach stated concerns that her son has had an iPad for the past two years, but doesn't have one this year and also that he has a class in which he is not allowed to bring home a book due to there not being enough copies. Superintendent Darnell informed Ms. Beach that the iPads are still used in the classroom, just not taken home; and he asked her to speak with Ms. Sater, MS principal, about not having enough copies of the book. Ms. Sater, who was present at the meeting, stated she wasn't aware of a book shortage and asked Ms. Beach to speak with her about it later.

Superintendent Darnell informed everyone that the budget request detail can be found through a link on our website as well as what was published in the paper.

Patron Jr. Sullivan stated that the Assessed Valuation (AV) really bothered him. Farmers took a hit a few years ago. President Linda McClellan stated that the school has always been very conscious of the total tax rate. Member Theresa Gottbrath stated that she understands his concerns. Further, she shared there is a cap on regular homeowner tax rates, so the biggest portion of where the money will come from is the agriculture community.

President McClellan asked for any further questions or comments. Member Theresa Gottbrath asked Superintendent Darnell how many days/people they needed to file an objection petition. Superintendent Darnell informed everyone that 10 signatures were needed within 7 days of the public hearing.

A. Approval of Minutes and Executive Session

Board did meet in Executive Session for discussion of strategy for the following reason(s): For discussion of strategy with respect to any of the following: Collective bargaining in accordance with I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)( - ) immediately following the regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, August 11, 2015 were approved with any additions, corrections, or deletions as recommended by the Board.

Motion: David Churchman, Seconded: Hector Nale, Vote: 5-0

B. Vendor Claims/Payroll Claims

The Board approved Vendor Claims # 8187 to and including # 8250, and Direct Deposit Advices # 40400 to and including # 40826.

Motion: David Churchman, Seconded: Hector Nale, Vote: 5-0

C. Monthly Financial Reports

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

Motion: Hector Nale, Seconded: Sue Jane Miller, Vote: 5-0

D. Staff Conflict of Interest Approval

It was recommended that the Board accept the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements for the following East Washington School Corporation employees:

John Hoke, Mike McBride, Melanie L. Smith, Carlotta Speigelhalder, Katy Singleton, Laura Temple, and Joyce Temple

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Hector Nale, Seconded: Theresa Gottbrath, Vote: 5-0

## Policy and Procedures

- A. Second Reading of Guidelines: 1520, 2221, 2423a, 2423b, 2430, 5320, 5330, 5540a, 5600A, 5605A, 5605b, 5610.02, 5610, 5610A, 5611, 6320A, 8390; Forms 2423F1, 2430F2, 5610.02F1; and Policies: 0100, 0130, 0140, 1130, 1214, 2410, 2421, 2423, 2430, 2461, 3113, 3120.08, 3140, 3214, 3410.04, 4113, 4140, 4214, 5540, 5610.02, 5610, 6320, 6460, 8390, 8500, 9700.01

Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the second reading of the Guidelines, Forms, and Policies.

Motion: Theresa Gottbrath, Seconded: David Churchman, Vote: 5-0

## Personnel

- A. Approval of Personnel Changes  
Superintendent Darnell recommended that the Board approve the personnel changes as outlined:

### **PERSONNEL:** **EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF**

Certified  
Classified

- ✓ Mr. Hopkins, Food Service Director, recommends Darlene Pixley as a MS Food Service employee at a beginning rate of \$10.25 retro-active to August 5, 2015.
- ✓ Mr. Hopkins, Food Service Director, recommends Chrystal Coats as a HS Food Service employee at a beginning rate of \$10.25 retro-active to August 5, 2015.
- ✓ Mr. Darin Farris, HS Principal, recommends Mary Applegate as a 1<sup>st</sup> shift High School Custodian at a beginning rate of \$11.25 effective September 3, 2015.

Extra-Curricular

- ✓ Mr. Farris, HS Principal, recommends Samantha Bradbury and Sarah Chauvin as Co-Sponsors for HS Cheer Block.
- ✓ Ms. Sater, MS Principal, recommends Austin Churchman as 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Coach.
- ✓ Mrs. Esarey, ES Principal, recommends Marilyn Doan as ES Student Council Sponsor.

## **POINT OF INFORMATION**

### **Retirement(s)**

Certified  
Classified

### **Resignation(s)**

Certified  
Classified

- ✓ Mr. Darnell, Superintendent, accepted the resignation letter submitted by Eric Colwell as Assistant Facilities Director, effective September 11, 2015.

#### Extra-Curricular

- ✓ Mr. Darnell, Superintendent, accepted the resignation letter submitted by Chelsea Fraley as 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Cheer Coach.

#### **Termination(s)**

Certified

Classified

Extra-Curricular

#### **Transfers**

- ✓ Ms. Sater, MS Principal, recommended Mike Jones as 5th Grade Boys Basketball Coach in June 2015, he will be transferring to 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach effective August 28, 2015.

#### **Volunteer Coaches**

- ✓ Mr. Farris, HS Principal, recommends Matthew Pickerill as a volunteer HS Tennis Coach.
- ✓ Mr. Farris, HS Principal, recommends Gina Farmer as a volunteer HS Cheer Coach.
- ✓ Mr. Farris, HS Principal, recommends Kelley Lee as a volunteer HS Cheer Coach.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Hector Nale, Seconded: Theresa Gottbrath, Vote: 5-0

#### **Instruction/Curriculum**

##### A. Approval of Field Trip Requests

It was requested that the Board approve the elementary, middle, and high school field trips for the 2015-16 school year.

Middle School Principal, Amber Sater, presented information about the new 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington D.C. field trip. The company used to take the trip is called World Strides. Ms. Sater handed out information packets to all board members. Member Hector Nale asked if there were a minimum number of people required to go, since there is a non-refundable \$99 deposit. Ms. Sater did not believe there was a required minimum, but she would have to check with organizers of the trip, Michael Gilliam and David Aly. She will know more information about interest in the trip after a parent meeting the following Tuesday, September 15, 2015.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: Hector Nale, Seconded: Theresa Gottbrath, Vote: 5-0

## B. Approval of Grant Applications

It was recommended that the Board approve the Grant Applications as submitted by Ms. Shari Dalton, Mrs. Leah Starrett, Mrs. Johnica Branaman, Mrs. Laura Temple, Mrs. Angelique Hornung, and Mrs. Judy Brown.

After due consideration, the same was approved.

Motion: David Churchman, Seconded: Sue Jane Miller, Vote: 5-0

## Facilities

### A. Roof Conditions/Repairs/Replacements – Discussion Item

Superintendent Darnell shared information gathered by Paul Hobbs, Facilities Director, about roof conditions. Fidelity submitted a quote for \$3,500 to take care of immediate needs, while Cottongim's quote was \$7,400. Member Theresa Gottbrath asked if any of these were under warranty. Superintendent Darnell stated that the repairs that were quoted were not on roofs under warranty. Member Theresa Gottbrath asked if we would be paying a \$10,000 deductible. Superintendent Darnell stated we would not pay a deductible on these repairs; they would be paid outright. Member Hector Nale asked if we had any explanation of why such a price difference between the two companies. Superintendent Darnell did not know why there was such a variation in price quotes. Patron Eric Albertson shared that the high school roof used to be a flat roof, but now has an angled roof built over top of it. This work was done by Cottongim 30-40 years ago. Many contractors don't realize they are dealing with two roofs, which could cause a discrepancy in quotes. He wanted to point out this information. Superintendent Darnell would like to have more conversation with Paul and proceed with immediate repairs as needed. Consensus of the Board was to do so.

### B. Cost of Contracted Pesticide Spraying vs. Staff Member Certification Expense – Discussion Item

Superintendent Darnell had conversation with Paul Hobbs, Maintenance Director, who believed he could talk to Alexander about possibly decreasing the amount of times we have the grounds sprayed and increasing the potency of the solution to decrease the amount we pay. This would reduce the overall cost from \$8,500 to \$5,000 annually. Member Hector Nale voiced concern over the possibility of Alexander being able to decrease our bill by such a large amount. Superintendent Darnell reiterated that Alexander has *not* agreed to decrease our bill; Mr. Hobbs wants to propose a change in our current frequency of application to Alexander. Member Hector Nale wants to have someone within the corporation to be trained to supervise an employee to do our own spraying. Member Theresa Gottbrath agrees with Member Hector Nale that the spraying needs to be brought in house. Linda McClellan voiced concern about stored fertilizer getting hard. Member Hector Nale stated that we currently house fertilizer on the grounds. Superintendent Darnell added that we currently store only small amounts of fertilizer. President Linda McClellan would like to

see if Alexander can cut our price before we make a decision. The item was deferred until next month at the Board meeting when more facts are known.

### **Superintendent Information**

#### **A. Homeland Security Grant Discussion – Discussion Item**

Superintendent Darnell explained to the Board two options for submitting a Department of Homeland Security proposal this year: hiring a school resource officer or a one-time purchase of security features to restrict/limit school access. (These are the two areas the State has said they would accept proposals about for this year's funding cycle.) Since we cannot commit dollars to a resource officer after grant funds are used, the Board determined that we should seek a one-time purchase of equipment staff deemed necessary, without ongoing expenses associated with the purchase.

#### **B. 50 Year Celebration of Eastern High School/EWSC**

Superintendent Darnell shared that during the 2017-18 year, the Eastern High School facility will celebrate 50 years of graduating students through the East Washington School Corporation. The current facility was built and first used during the 1967-1968 year. The building was dedicated on January 7, 1968. By consensus, the Board fully supports development of a community-based committee to plan and organize an event to celebrate the 50-year history of the school and corporation. Alumni, current staff, historians, students, and community members are encouraged to come together to plan, organize, and execute an event to celebrate the school.

#### **C. Certificated Evaluation Plan**

Superintendent Darnell shared that the current certificated evaluation plan for teachers, administrators and others with a teaching license will be submitted to the IDOE, as no changes were made from the prior year. Discussion with the teachers association had occurred prior with both teachers and administrators agreeing that no changes were necessary this year.

### **Items by the Board/Late Items**

None

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: David Churchman, Seconded: Hector Nale, Vote: 5-0