



Minutes for Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

**To Be Held in the District Board Room
1055 Griffiths Lane
Ashwaubenon WI 54304
(Phone: 920.492.2900)**

Monday, January 11, 2010

6:30 p.m.

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A. Call to order:

President Williams called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm at the district office.

B. Roll call:

Board Members Present: Laukka, Van Laanen, Williams, Crowley, Aubinger.

Board Members Excused: None

Others Present: David Schmidt, Brian Nelsen, Jill Rhude, Keith Lucius, Brad Taylor, Kris Hucek, Kurt Weyers, Jennifer Kozak, Pete Marto, Maria Arena

C. Declaration of quorum:

Quorum Present

D. Pledge of allegiance:

The pledge was recited

E. Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Crowley seconded by Aubinger to adopt the agenda as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

F. Citizens and/or delegations:

1. Public Forum – Any citizen and/or delegations
2. Student Presentations – Josh Drevs and Jessilyn Marth from Ashwaubenon High School student council provided an update on activities taking place at the high school.
 - Blood Drive - 75 people donated blood during this drive. Another blood drive will be held in February. The goal for the upcoming drive is 90 donors.
 - Food Drive - 500 items were collected in December for the food pantry
 - Link Program – This is a new program this year! 59 upper classmen are paired up with freshmen.
 - An Afternoon of Swing and Sweets will be held in April.
 - The choir will be participating in a trip Washington DC.
 - The choir and band are working on a selection for solo ensemble.
 - Talent show tryouts are currently taking place.
 - DI has 6 teams competing at the high school level.
 - Winter athletics have started. New this year is girls' hockey.
 - The theme for this year's prom is An Evening in Paris.
 - The first competition for Forensics is in February.
 - Eco Club – this is a new club has 25 members. They are working on recycling programs for the school.
 - AHS branch of skin cancer awareness has 90 members in its group. They work to assist and educate students about the risk of skin cancer.
 - Class scheduling will start within the next few weeks.

G. Consent Agenda:

Moved by Crowley, seconded by Aubinger to approve Consent Agenda items as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0.

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held Monday, December 14, 2009.
2. The schedule of checks written 12-5-09 to 12-31-09 (#75749 - #76224)
3. The schedule of manual checks written 12-5-09 to 12-31-09 (#127 and #965 - #970)
4. The schedule of High School Athletic check written 12-5-09 to 12-31-09 (#12469 - #12460)
5. Co-curricular contracts: There is 1 co-curricular contract being submitted for Board approval.

H. Superintendent's Report:

- **Technology Update** - At last board meeting the board approved the installation of a wireless network. This project will be completed within the next few weeks. It will allow all schools to be capable of handling wireless technology by the end of the year. Due to aging computers, staff desk top computers are being replaced with laptops.
- **ARRA Funds** - The federal dollars the district is receiving is being flowed through special education and Title 1. Money has been used in the hiring of the reading coach at Valley View, technology infrastructure, and professional development activities in reading and math.
- **Ashwaubenon Education Foundation Update** - This foundation is becoming a reality. Members of this group will present at the board meeting in February. Money raised by the Foundation will be used to accomplish things outside the normal budget.
- **School Board Election** - Schmidt listed the candidates that are running for the two open school board positions. Lots were drawn by Jennifer Bower and Nancy Pierce. The names will appear on the ballot as follows: Karen Brown-Schaible, Ginny Laukka, Robert Lotto, and Barbara Halron. Schmidt thanked Bob Crowley for his service to the board and welcomed the candidates.

I. Discussion/Presentation Items:

1. **Auditorium and Pool Project update** - Lucius introduced both projects and gave a brief update.

Pool: The overall pool is aging. There are an insufficient number of lanes and seating, no diving well and inadequate locker room space. The current committee is working with parents, the Village and funding groups. An architect has been hired to draw up plans. The plans are expected to be done in February. The approximate cost for the pool project is 6 million dollars. Williams open the pool project topic for discussion.

- Anticipated site of the new pool? The new location is currently being planned at the high school. As a result, the school will lose parking behind the field house.
- Was the Athletic Department represented during any of the discussions? Jeremy works for the Village and is part of the swimming group. The physical education teachers that use the pool were also consulted.

Auditorium: This space has existed since the high school was built and has never been updated. It has only one dressing room for everyone to share, no wing space, prop storage area or orchestra pit, and it has inadequate seating and stage space. The current committee has been working with an architect over the last 3 years. Many options have been reviewed for wing space and seating. A finalized plan was decided on and presented at a board meeting a year ago. The approximate cost was between 6-7 million dollars. The auditorium project topic was opened up for discussion.

- Do we have packets ready to present to the public? Not at this time.
- If they are needed quickly for fundraising, could we create packets? They could be put together quickly. It was encouraged to have some packets available.

- Does the committee have a process they want to follow next? The committee is looking for direction from the board (TIF money, Referendum, fundraising etc.).
- The board does not want to pit one project against the other. They are both important. The board needs to know the amount each project will cost, how much we currently have and what amount the district will need to spend.
- Confirmation was sought on the total cost of both projects totaling approximately 14 million dollars.
- It was stated that TIF is not immediate funding and would be not available for at least 5-6 years and that both committees are soliciting the same dollar amount from the same people. At the same time they are soliciting funding, the Village is looking for a new library and senior center and AEF will be starting to raise money for the Foundation. There is a concern that there is not enough fund raising dollars to cover all these projects.
- The group discussed the option of a referendum.
 - Timing of a referendum is important. If it is turned down the first time, it will be harder to pass in the future.
 - Is the current architect is on board or so we need to seek a new one? Lucius stated the architect is on board and would update the cost once we pursue a referendum.
 - It was recommended that if a referendum is pursued that a line is added stating we would use TIF money to reduce the debt moneys.
 - If a referendum was sought and passed, it would be over a year before anything would be started. The safety issues of the current auditorium need to be fixed now versus later.
 - The group discussed what it takes to go through a referendum. It was emphasized that everything needs to be well documented.
 - The public and the Village need to be sold on the idea of a referendum. There is a concern that the Village board would not vote for a referendum at this time.
 - The referendum needs to go through the Village to save tax payers money.
 - It was requested that Lucius compare the cost of the school district doing the referendum versus the Village. If it were to go to the Village board we would need to present the architect's plans and dollar amounts needed.
 - Information is key when putting together a referendum. The information we currently have needs to be revitalized
- Christin Jaworski (1103 Ernest Drive) spoke about her decision to open enroll her children from Green Bay into Ashwaubenon. This decision was based on better opportunities outside of sports available in Ashwaubenon. She stated her disappointment in the condition of the auditorium. She suggested looking at other communities in this area and see how Ashwaubenon compares.
- Lissa Marth (1475 Waterford) shared her concerns over the current situation of the auditorium. Three years ago it was bad and it has only gotten worse. Functional and safety concerns need to be addressed now. Fundraising for both projects needs to be done together. What was done with the 1.8 million dollars recommended to be set aside from TIF, and is the 3 million dollars from the village for the pool still in the picture?
 - The Community Life Improvement portion of TIF money is for these types of projects. The Village has not turned down these projects but does not have 3 million dollars to designate for them. It was suggested taking these projects to the CDA to find out that if the money becomes available, would they mark it for these projects.
 - The 1.8 million was put into the fund balance. \$60,000 of this was spent on the Parkview Project and the balance is still being reviewed.
- Bernie Rocheleau (7355 Karen Lane) shared his concern about the auditorium safety issues and how urgent they are. He discussed the report provided by the insurance inspector and the changes that resulted from that report. He explained the issues that result from no wing space, inadequate dressing room space, poor communication

throughout the auditorium and no prop space. He asked what can be done to address the safety issues until we have the money to change the auditorium

- Parts of the auditorium project are more critical than others. The district needs to work to creatively problem solve.
- People may be more willing to contribute if we had matching funds in hand.

Schmidt recommended administration put together a plan to be presented at the next board meeting. Crowley requested that it include a timeline from now until November. It was felt the community support/feedback it necessary. It was stated that with a plan, there will be stopping points that will allow for community feedback.

2. **5-year Budget Projection** - Keith shared his projected budget plans for the next five years. He began by stating his concerns over the State budget next year and how it will affect school budgets.

- Projected \$200 per pupil next year and \$100 the following. This is down from \$280 in the past. A reduction of \$180 costs the district \$400,000.
- Wisconsin Equalized Aid Guarantees are down from what has been projected in the past. Property values are not going up therefore this is not going up.
- Predicted decline in residents over the next few years.
- Open enrollment predicted an increase of 29, 28, 20, 24, 31 over the next five years. Schools that previously where closed to open enrollment are not accepting these students. Expecting so see an increase of 1% annually in future years versus a 2-3% in the past.
- Open Enrollment only makes sense if we are filling the existing seats and not adding building/space to accommodate these students.
- 82% of our budget is salaries. As we look at starting our budget process, our target is \$552,373. He predicted a reduction of 2.5 FTE yearly.
 - An estimated 5 teacher retirements yearly.
 - Review the salary and benefits package increases for teachers, administrators, support and exempt staff.
 - Reviewed the graph for the baseline, 2 year and 5 year trend for the Applied Population Lab Projections
- Equalization aid – \$7,832,443 for 10-11 year. Aid should remain stable unless things drastically change at the State level.
- Fund balances cannot be used to balance the budgets. Using these funds will hurt the district in the long term.
- Reviewed the graph that compared State aide to taxes over the next 5 years.
- The Long Range planning committee reviewed each building for current and future enrollment needs. They compared their findings to the reconfiguration suggestions. Lucius shared the predictions for the current year, 2011-12 and 2012-14.
 - Discussed the option of closing a building to save money. Lucius stated unless a building is moved off our ledger we would still have the upkeep and utility costs. It is wiser to look at current space versus closing a building. The cost of downsizing is far less than the reopening of a closed building.
 - Could we use existing space to address the auditorium needs? The cost of demolition to accommodate these two projects costs more than just adding on.
 - This budget projection should be available on-line within the next few days. It was suggested to provide quick links to this from the first page.

Schmidt informed the board that the staffing plans will be put together in late February early March. They will be brought to the board for approval. He reminded the group that they are not cutting the budget but rather overall expenditures.

J. Action Items:

1. **Approval of Board Policies** – Schmidt presented the revised policies for the board for approval. It was asked if the policy regarding law enforcement in schools was reviewed by

administration. Schmidt stated it has been reviewed and our actions will be inline with the policy. The previously discussed technology policy has been pulled. Brad is working with administration and other to make changes. The policy will be presented at the next board meeting.

Moved by Crowley seconded by Aubinger and VanLaanen to approve the revisions to the board policies as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

2. **Race to the Top MOU** - Schmidt explained the RTTT MOU. He stated the district is seeking board approval to sign the MOU. He stated that signing the MOU will allow us to stay inline for the RTTT dollars. If the money is received, we will at that time have to put a plan together. He recommended board approval. It was asked if Project Lead the Way is part of this. Schmidt stated it was and that we may be able to use this money to expand it into the middle school.

Moved by Aubinger seconded by Laukka to approve the signing of the Race to the Top MOU as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

3. **Hockey Co-op with Pulaski** - Schmidt stated that Ashwaubenon was approached by Pulaski to co-op to the district hockey program. Pulaski joined Howard Suamico last year. Howard Suamico has enough this year to be on their own. Allowing this co-op would help to support a varsity and JV team. It was recommended to the board to approve this co-op. Schmidt stated that other schools are looking to form the same type of co-ops. The board asked for confirmation that we pay only for league fees. They inquired about how this would affect open enrollment numbers.

Moved by VanLaanen seconded by Crowley to approve the hockey co-op with Pulaski as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

4. **E-mail Archiving System** – Lucius reported that the district email usage is growing and the server is getting bogged down with historical emails. With open records laws requiring more versus less information when it comes to emails it is becoming necessary to seek out an archiving system. Various systems have been tested and this one worked the best. The board discussed what is considered an open record and what is not.

Moved by Aubinger seconded by VanLaanen to approve the purchase of the email archiving systems as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

5. **Van Replacement** – Lucius reminded the board that the current district van was bought in 1976. He stated that we are putting more and more money into it for repairs. He asked the board to authorize the purchase of a new van for up to \$30,000.

Moved by Aubinger seconded by VanLaanen to approve the purchasing of a van as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0. Motion carried 5:0

K. Board & Superintendent Communications:

Williams stated he received a call from the grandparents of a Valley View student regarding a safety issue on the playground. Schmidt stated that the grandparents are working with administration on this issue.

L. Future Board Meetings & Topics:

- The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is Monday, January 25, 2010.

- Teacher negotiations – the board asked where in the process we are with teacher negotiations. Schmidt stated he met with Dean DeBroux and they are working on a date to meet again.
- Insurance Benefits – the board asked what should we to expect with President Obama’s Health Plan
- Energy Education Program – the board ask for an update on the energy program. Lucius provided a brief update. He stated Energy Education recommends providing a more thorough update after 6 months of data has been collected. Lucius stated they can expect this update in early spring.
- Adult crossing guard recognition week – Schmidt stated that there will be a luncheon for the crossing guards thanking them for the work they do.

M. Adjournment:

Moved by VanLaanen seconded by Aubinger to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. Aye 5, Nay 0.
Motion carried 5:0

Respectfully submitted,



Jay Van Laanen, Clerk