

Afterwards

A summary
of Wednesday's meeting
of the Board
of Education

February 20, 2008

Recognition

EFA assistant principal

EFA Principal Scott Williams introduced new Assistant Principal Linda Roe.

Board report

Board members

Lynn Grottenthaler voiced concerns regarding Night School.

Mary Beth Turner discussed visits to Broadway Middle and Coburn. She expressed support for Night School.

Mike Crimmins discussed his visit to Broadway Middle and expressed support for Night School.

Rodney Strange said he had been invited to read to pre-k students at Booth. He thanked the ETA for sending Valentine cards.

Associations representatives

ESSAC member Michael Lanning welcomed Linda Roe, thanked EFA Assistant Principal Tom Howe for his contributions and congratulated him on his retirement. He discussed preparations for the state math exams and thanked all units for their help with room moves at Beecher.

ETA President Doug Martin said the district and unit have met twice for negotiations since ETA filed for an impasse.

CMCW President Mike Thomas expressed concern about the timeliness of postings since the change in a personnel clerk from full time to .66.

ISEA member Udean Meggs expressed support for ETA negotiations.

Student reps

EFA student representative Kathleen Denicola said although juniors were given little notice that they would be taking the English regents in January, it was a success, with an 80 percent pass rate. She said many students don't know about the change to block scheduling.

Board committee reports

Policy Committee

Chair Mike Crimmins said the Board will receive a revised policy regarding administration of medication and a revised attendance policy. The committee will

consider a policy saying that age-appropriate materials, such as movies and music, must be used unless parental permission is received prior to their use.

Buildings & Grounds

Chair Anthony Fisher Jr. said the district is making progress regarding its issue with Keystone. He said the Beecher project is under way. DEC has expressed concerns regarding environmental issues at Southside; these concerns are addressed in the soil management plan, which has been communicated to DEC. He expressed concerns regarding the \$100 million project budget, saying the district must give clear directions to contractors and architects to avoid budget issues.

Audit Committee

Chair Rodney Strange said the last meeting was canceled. The claims auditor will come to the March meeting. The district can expect a draft of the state comptroller's audit in March.

Election Committee

Chair Dan Hurley said he was holding off on the final committee report until the next meeting due concerns of other Board members regarding confidentiality.

Superintendent's report

School Readiness Project

Don Keddell and Community Foundation President Randi Hewitt gave the Board updates on components of the School Readiness Project.

- Childcare: The infant/toddler program at Booth is a success, with parents requesting the program.
- Home visits: Program nurses have enrolled 96 percent of all newborns in the county since the program began.
- Parent education: There have been 16,000 visits to the project web site, and 1,300 community activities have been held.
- Health care: A counselor is available for day care providers who believe a child they are caring for may have emotional or behavioral issues.

Mr. Keddell also discussed the common countywide kindergarten screening program.

Parent University

Kristin Butler and Paige Kinnaird gave an overview of a new portion of the district web site designed to inform parents about district workshops and give them resources to use at home: www.elmiracityschools.com/parentuniversity.cfm.

Teacher mentoring

Deputy Superintendent Joseph Hochreiter and Principals on Assignment Sandy Mattison and Bob Bailey described the new teaching mentoring program, which pairs new teachers with veteran teachers for support and guidance.

Upward Bound Program

Superintendent Dr. Raymond Bryant provided an overview of the Upward Bound Program, a partnership with Cornell University that will give 35-40 students an opportunity to take classes at Cornell in the summer. The students will be assigned mentors from Cornell. Parents will receive both financial and academic counseling.

Night School

Mr. Hochreiter gave an overview of the Night School program, which runs from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Southside. Fifty students have enrolled.

Visitors

Ted Lax discussed the district's practice regarding changes to policies of high interest.

Tamara Miller discussed concerns regarding Diven Elementary School.

Tina Simpson discussed concerns regarding Diven Elementary School.

Tanya Ellis discussed concerns regarding Diven Elementary School.

Renee Dickens said expressed support for redistricting to alleviate overcrowding at Hendy and a new demographic study.

Udean Meggs presented a card of thanks to Dr. Bryant from minority students for his support of the trip to the Black College Expo in New York City. She thanked the employees who help education minority students each day.

Overcrowding

Dr. Bryant gave a presentation outlining eight possible options to alleviate overcrowding at Hendy. A fact sheet on the options is below.

The Board accepted Dr. Bryant's recommendation to move Alternative students and the STAR and CDU programs to Washington. A special meeting will be held at 6 p.m.

February 27 to further discuss options to alleviate overcrowding.

Fact Sheet

The Issue: Elementary overcrowding

The Board of Education will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m., Wednesday, February 27, at the Ernie Davis Middle School auditorium to discuss options to alleviate overcrowding.

Background

- ✓ Past Boards of Education developed a vision for the each of the district's elementary schools that includes: two sections of pre-kindergarten with class size no greater than 18; three classes at each grade level K-2, with class size no greater than 20; three classes at each grade level 3-5 with class size no greater than 24; room for 12-24 special education students; a library media center; music and art rooms; a computer lab; and a separate cafeteria and gym. Boundary lines were drawn to ensure similar demographics in each school to mirror the rich diversity of the district.
- ✓ The current Board of Education is currently dealing with the issue of overcrowding at Hendy, with 100 students more than the desired enrollment and more projected for the 2008-09 school year. The Board has also expressed a desire to explore facility issues related to instructional outcomes and to minimize changes by making facility decision that will stand for many years.
- ✓ The Board is considering creating an early education center at Booth, including pre-k classes from all elementaries except Pine City.

OPTIONS TO ALLEVIATE OVERCROWDING AT HENDY

OPTION	POTENTIAL IMPACT	COST, IN ANY
#1: Increase class size at Hendy (one-year solution).	Delivery of instruction made more difficult with greater numbers. Differentiated instruction and other strategies would have to be modified.	
#2: Add two doublewides at Hendy and move to maximum class size (multi-year solution).	Creates four new classrooms, with capacity for 31 classes.	Initial set-up fee: \$6,000. Yearly rental: \$40,800.
#3: Move Hendy pre-kindergarten and kindergarten to Booth.	Creates four classrooms. Returns one space to school use. Reduces by five the number of pre-k classes that could move to Booth.	\$247,000 or more, dependent upon staffing.
#4: Move Hendy fourth- and fifth-graders to Booth.	Reduces by 6-8 the number of pre-k classes that could be housed at Booth. Would allow for in-school older buddy program.	\$247,000 or more, dependent upon staffing.
#5: Move Hendy fifth-graders and Ernie Davis sixth-graders to Booth.	No room for pre-k at Booth. Still need for relocatables at Hendy. Model could not be recreated on Southside due to lack of available buildings.	\$247,000 or more, dependent upon staffing, plus cost of relocatables. Potential cost savings if no technology or health and consumer science in grade 6.
#6: Redistrict to create a new enrollment structure, such as grade-level buildings of pre-k/K, 1/2, etc.	Would equalize poverty and neutralize mobility. Focus on specific grade levels and curriculum. Capacity issues with 1/2 and 3/4 schools. More transportation required.	Additional transportation costs. Other costs not yet determined. Difficult to assess without further study.
#7: Redistrict west and east of Hendy, moving students along Hendy Creek to Pine City (46 students) and students from Hoffman Plaza area to Fassett (50 students).	No need for relocatables at Hendy. Hendy pre-k would still be at Booth. Fassett and Hendy demographics would change significantly. Creates need for assistant principal at Pine City.	Approximately \$65,000 for assistant principal at Pine City.
#8: Redistrict Hendy zone east of Gulnapp Avenue, moving students east of the Town of Elmira line to Fassett and Beecher.	No need for relocatables at Hendy. Hendy pre-k would still be at Booth. Fassett and Hendy demographics would change significantly. Beecher will undergo renovations in the 2008-09 year, and space would be an issue. This option impacts the most number of students and families.	Costs not yet determined. Difficult to assess without further study.

Consent items

The Board approved financial reports, a contract with CBIZ Valuation Group, a bid for grounds care products, a bid for waste removal and recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

Personnel

The Board approval appointments, resignations and other personnel recommendations.