

EASTLAND COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #308

Board of Education Meeting

February 17, 2016 6:30 p.m.

William Woessner, Presiding

MEMBERS PRESENT: Diann Cassens (via audio conference), Lorrie Heeren, Brian Heldt, Steven Snider, Jennifer Sturtevant, William Woessner

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Mark D. Hansen, Darcie Feltmeyer, Monica Burkholder

OTHERS PRESENT: DiAnn Adolph, Brandon Bull, Scott Johnson, Angela Mahoney

ADOPTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Heeren** to adopt the agenda as adjusted with the inclusion of additional bills payable. Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

CONSENSUS ITEMS:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Snider** to accept the consensus items as presented:

- Minutes of the January 20, 2016 Regular Board of Education Meeting; and destruction of the audiotape minutes of the June 23, 2014 Executive session, per statute;
- Payment of Accounts Payable for the month of February, 2016; and
- Approve the School Treasurer's Report for the month of January, 2016;

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

BOARD INPUT:

Board members discussed that 2015-16 is the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Eastland School District. Ideas were shared on how best to commemorate the milestone. Dr. Hansen was directed to develop a plan to share at the March meeting. Members were reminded that the March 16th Regular Meeting will be held at the Eastland Elementary School in Shannon.

Karl Henze entered the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Angela Mahoney, new Principal at the Elementary School starting in July, 2016, was introduced to all present at the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

No additional communications were presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ FINAL APPROVAL OF 3-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN:

A motion was made by **Snider** and seconded by **Woessner** to approve the Plan as presented. Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Henze, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

➤ UPDATE ON PROPERTY INSURANCE:

Superintendent Hansen shared information on the increases to property, liability and casualty insurance premiums resulting from the recent appraisal of the District's buildings and contents. In total, the appraisal estimated replacement values to be approximately \$7,000,000 greater than originally estimated/insured. The increases in the official statement of values will result in a \$2,034 increase in the annual premium.

➤ UPDATE ON BONDS:

On February 18, the District will close on the issuance of \$3,500,000 in Working Cash and Health Life Safety Bonds. Superintendent Hansen reported that the District was able to sell the bonds through a private placement, saving approximately \$25,000 in the costs of issuance. The placement will be through four (4) local banks at a blended interest rate over the 8-year term of 1.88%.

➤ APPROVAL OF BID FOR GEOTHERMAL PROJECT:

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Cassens** to approve the bid from **Loescher Heating and Cooling** for the geothermal HVAC project at Eastland Elementary School in an amount not to exceed \$1,511,000 after value-engineering and minor re-designs, including costs for architect fees and engineering. Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Henze, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

➤ APPROVE CURRICULUM CHANGES:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Heeren** to approve changes to the curriculum for 2016-2017. Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Henze, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

➤ APPROVE CURRICULUM GUIDE:

A motion was made by **Sturtevant** and seconded by **Snider** to approve the recommended changes to the Curriculum Guide for Eastland Jr/Sr High School for 2016-2017. Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Henze, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

➤ APPROVE 2016 – 2017 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Sturtevant** to approve the calendar for the 2016-17 school year as presented. Voice vote showed **all ayes.** **Motion carried.**

➤ **APPROVE NEW AND REVISED POLICIES:**

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Sturtevant** to approve the new policies and revisions to old policies as presented. Voice vote showed **all ayes**. **Motion carried.**

➤ **FINAL REPORT ON RACE TO THE TOP GRANT:**

In 2011, the Eastland Board of Education and Teachers' Association agreed to participate as one of 32 *Race to the Top* districts in the State. Over the four year period, participating districts were required to:

1. implement a comprehensive district improvement process,
2. align curriculum and instruction to the Common Core State Standards,
3. participate in the Illinois Shared Learning Environment, an interactive data system that tracks each student's academic progress,
4. develop local assessments and administer standardized assessments aligned to the Common Core,
5. establish teacher and principal induction and mentoring programs,
6. implement at least two (2) STEM programs of study,
7. monitor school climate and implement plans to sustain or improve positive climate indicators,
8. implement teacher and principal evaluation systems that use measures of student growth as a significant factor in the final rating.

As a participating district, Eastland received and expended \$42,334 of federal funds to support district improvement efforts. These funds were used to pay for professional development, to compensate staff for extra hours of work, and to purchase new curriculum materials, supplies and equipment. Grant funds were also used to purchase a 3-D printer and video production lab and a new Matrix software system for longitudinal tracking and monitoring of student assessment data. Eastland partnered with other *Race to the Top* districts throughout the state and is an early implementer of mandated educational reforms.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **BUS AND COMPUTER PURCHASES :**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Woessner** to approve a 5-year lease-to-own agreement for bus purchases at 1.9% fixed rate and a 4-year lease-to-own agreement for computer purchases at a 1.9% fixed rate through the **Exchange State Bank** of Lanark. Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Henze, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

➤ **FIRST READING OF PROPOSED SCHOOL FEES FOR 2016-2017:**

The Finance Committee presented recommended fees for a first reading. Fees will be approved at the Regular Meeting in March.

➤ **FIRST READING OF PROPOSED SUMMER SCHOOL PLANS FOR 2016:**

Administrators briefly discussed plans to offer in 2016 Summer School/Credit Recovery courses through the Illinois Virtual School for students in grades 7-12 who need to make up failed or February 17, 2016

incomplete coursework. Principal Feltmeyer suggested the possibility of adding summer school programming for elementary students found to be below grade level in reading or math, but recommended that this be delayed until the summer of 2017 to give the new principal and elementary staff time to research and implement a high quality, research-based program.

➤ **FIRST READING OF SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT:**

Superintendent Hansen shared that Chadwick-Milledgeville has informally requested to tuition-in pre-school special education students to the Eastland Special Education Pre-School in Shannon starting in 2016-17. He will work with Superintendent Schurman to draft a 2-year intergovernmental agreement for both Boards to consider at their Regular March meetings.

➤ **PRESENTATION OF STANDARDS-BASED GRADING:**

The Board and administrators discussed plans to transition from Traditional to Standards-Based grading. Standards-based grading seeks to evaluate and accurately reflect the degree to which a student has mastered the essential skills of a course or discipline. Members watched a short video clip and studied the current Kindergarten report card which is already standards-based. The transition will be implemented gradually over several years and will require training and education of staff, students and parents.

CLOSED SESSION:

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Sturtevant** to enter into closed session at 7:55 p.m. to consider information regarding:

- The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
- Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).

Roll call vote showed Cassens, Heeren, Heldt, Henze, Snider, Sturtevant and Woessner voting aye. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Heeren** to exit closed session at 8:36 p.m. Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Woessner** to approve closed session minutes. Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

➤ **APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL:**

A motion was made by **Henze** and seconded by **Heldt** to approve the following personnel actions:

- Approve the resignation of **Lisa Beach** as Eastland Elementary Art/Computers Teacher for the 2016-17 school year.
- Approve the hire of **Tyler Zumdahl** as Eastland Elementary Physical Education Teacher for the 2016-17 school year.
- Approve posting and/or continuing to post the following vacancies:
 - Full-time Business/Computers Teacher (gr. 7-12) for the 2016-17 school year
 - Full-time Elementary (gr. K-6) Art/Computers Teacher for the 2016-17 school year
- Approve posting a vacancy for a Summer Credit Recovery/IVS Facilitator for 2016
- Approve continuing to post the following vacancy:
 - Head High School Volleyball Coach for the 2016 season
- Approve the following additional volunteers for the Eastland-Pearl City football cooperative pending completion of volunteer screening process and IHSA coaching certification
 - Brock Musser**
 - Riley Asche**
- Approve continuing to post the following vacancies:
 - Substitute custodians
 - Substitute bus drivers
- Approve the hire of **Charity Hammer** as a substitute teachers' aide in the Early Step Pre-School
- Approve the reassignment of **Wendy Kindberg** from Special Route Driver to substitute driver effective January 27, 2016.

A motion was made by **Heldt** and seconded by **Henze** to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Voice vote showed all ayes. **Motion carried.**

These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Education.

William Woessner, President

Jennifer Sturtevant, Secretary