

Minutes of Board Meeting

<u>Regular</u>	<u>HS/JH Library</u>	<u>February 21, 2017</u>	<u>6:30 p.m.</u>
Kind of Meeting	Place	Date	Time

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:
Terry Schulting, President	Ben Andersen
DJ Loeffelholz, Vice President	
Donna Quinn, Secretary	
Glen Foote	
Don Kussmaul	
Harold Middendorf	
Others Present:	Others Absent:
Tori Lindeman, Superintendent	
Darren Sirianni, HS/JH Principal	
Crissy Johnson, Elementary Principal	
Grover Priebe, Building and Grounds Director	
Jeff Weydert, Transportation Director	
Corinne Meyer, Board Recording Secretary	

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. The East Dubuque Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 with 6 members present and 1 member absent. President Schulting called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The pledge to the flag was given.

2. Consent Agenda

Loeffelholz moved to approve:

2.1. Minutes for Regular Meeting held January 17, 2017.

2.2. Bills:

Bills: \$165,870.99

Imprest: \$6,170.00

District Activity: \$16,388.65

2.3. January 2017 Treasurer's Report.

Kussmaul requested additional explanation on an increase on year-to-date expenses from 2016 to 2017. Middendorf stated he would research.

2.4. Concur with suspensions (none).

On a second from Kussmaul, the motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the votes as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.

3. Recognition of Visitors and Correspondence

3.1. Annual Technology Needs Assessment - QNS Team: Brian Jones, Jim Gilley and Paul King.

Report provided by QNS for East Dubuque School District 119 examining: server infrastructure, computer equipment and recommendations.

Kussmaul asked about issues from last year experienced during students' online testing. QNS stated that this issue should be resolved by the addition of Wi-Fi access points in all classrooms.

Schulting asked about bandwidth, battery backup and cloud use to resolve server space issues. QNS responded that bandwidth was fine, the backup systems were good and the use of cloud space to store data was at the discretion of staff on how they chose to store their documents.

Loeffelholz asked for recommendation on technology grants QNS may have seen used in other districts. QNS did not have recommendation other than to

state they mostly see ag and vocational grants. Superintendent Lindeman stated she would research grants for technology resources.

3.2. Mr. Jim Appel

Mr. Appel thanked the Board, Superintendent and Principals for getting the Pledge back on the intercom during the morning announcements.

Mr. Appel expressed concern on the district's policy on delaying and canceling school during inclement weather, specifically during the recent ice storm, when new and weather reports recommended all stay off the roads due to dangerous conditions. He asked if anyone from the district walked the sidewalks or if they just drove, stating most sidewalks on that morning were a sheet of ice and treacherous for students and parents walking to school.

Mr. Appel asked that the district reevaluate their policies on school delays and cancellations to improve how they determine when to delay and cancel school, with multiple employees evaluating weather and road conditions.

Superintendent Lindeman stated that many factors are evaluated when determining school delays and cancellations due to weather. Superintendent Lindeman stated that the East Dubuque, Scales Mound and Galena superintendents all drive the roads, working towards each other trying to cover as much ground as possible and communicate with each other the conditions they experience.

3.3. Mrs. Debi Temperley

Mrs. Temperley addressed the Board regarding the change of bell schedules to start the junior high and high schools at the same time. She stated this was tried previously (many years ago) and it did not work and the junior high was returned to the elementary school building. Mrs. Temperley recalled that when the change was made again to move the junior high to the high school in 2011 promises were made by the administration that junior high bell times, lunches and passing periods would remain separate and that junior high students would not ride the bus with high school students.

Mrs. Temperley stated that she felt there was not sufficient communication with the parents, where feedback could be expressed, regarding the change in bell times for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mrs. Temperley expressed concerns regarding:

- Where the high school and junior high students would go upon arrival to school, if they had the same bus but different bell schedules.

- Would additional cook staff be needed if both high school and junior high students were arriving for breakfast together?
- Band and choir students are already riding the high school bus to arrive early to school for practice - how did this happen when it was promised junior and high school students would be bused separately?

Mr. Sirianni stated that most high school students riding the bus were freshman and sophomores, most junior and senior students drove, so there is not a large age gap in the junior and high school students that would be riding together. He also stated junior high students in band and choir have been riding with the high school students already without issue.

Superintendent Lindeman expressed that if there was an issue with certain students riding the bus together that those issues would be addressed directly; that all students should feel safe and supported among their classmates regardless of age and bullying and/or inappropriate behavior would not be tolerated. Superintendent Lindeman also spoke regarding the need for teachers to be able to meet and work as a team, which is very difficult with the elementary, junior high and high schools all on different bell schedules.

3.4. Ms. Alice Lundh

Ms. Lundh submitted a letter to the Board outlining the teachers' discussions on the three calendar proposals made for the 2017-2018 school year. The results were similar between option 1 and 2, with only two votes for option 3.

	Total Votes	Round	Jr./High
1	19	9	10
2	33	22	11

Calendar Option	Positives	Negatives
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full two weeks of break • Full spring break 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No in-service at the end of first semester • Full week to start with in-service and kids • No Friday before Easter off • Semester ending before Christmas break
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three-day start is highly effective • Semester ending after break • Earlier conference times 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day off before Thanksgiving • Friday off before Easter 	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer breaks between each quarter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long breaks are difficult for many of our students that thrive on structure and consistency • Frequent long breaks often create situations where teachers have to re-teach structures and routines and expectations at the elementary level • When we have breaks coming there is an uptick in bad behaviors • With frequent long breaks, staff will spend time re-teaching • Extreme heat in August creates concerns on the buses and in the square gym • Daycare for staff and parents becomes an issue • Older students that work part-time jobs who use that money to pay for college don't have as much time to work • Teachers and staff that supplement their income by working in the summer will not have that opportunity • Teachers that take classes over the summer to improve their teaching skills will not have the opportunity • Scheduling, buses and costs for ancillary activities (drama, music, academic team, sports) become logistical concerns and also eliminates the time for extra work.

Schulting asked if there was any documentation to support that academic performance improved with having the semester end before winter break. Ms. Lundh stated that students were often anxious to start break and we not as focused. Ms. Lundh also stated if the semester was required to end before winter break any snow days during the first semester could not be made up before testing and would add additional days for the following semester.

Board agreed that additional research and community feedback was needed on all calendar options but that calendar option 3 (the balanced calendar) would not be put in place for the 2017-2018 school year.

4. **Old Business**

4.1. Update: Directors for the Board of East Dubuque School District Foundation

Superintendent Lindeman submitted a letter to the board outlining the initial discussions held with potential foundation board members. Due to the inability of many of those interested to attend another meeting will be held in March.

There was addition discussion on the purpose of the foundation including how the foundation could provide funding for school related activities and materials as well as sponsor scholarships.

The Board encouraged anyone interested in being a member of the East Dubuque School District Foundation was encouraged to contact Superintendent Lindeman.

4.2. 5Essentials Survey Results

The results of the 5Essentials Survey were unavailable as of February 21, 2017. The survey website displays only a message stating the schools will be contacted when the results are ready.

Superintendent Lindeman stated that the elementary and high schools were on track to receive results but the junior high appeared to be just short of the 20% parent participation needed to receive data.

4.3. Calendar option survey results: certified staff, non-certified staff and parents.

Superintendent Lindeman discussed the feedback received from parents regarding the three calendar options proposed for the 2017-2018 school year.

Option	Votes
1	7
2	5
3	4

Loeffelholz requested additional review on what supporting data there was for each calendar option to help evaluate what would be the best for students in the long-term. It was discussed that some districts moving to a balanced calendar reported significant increases in test scores and decreases in absenteeism, while other districts did not report significant benefits. Kussmaul stated that, once students and teachers adjusted to the schedule, the issue of having to re-teach after the shorter breaks on the balanced calendar may be less than what teachers experience now after the extended summer break - that the students may be able to retain more knowledge and learn more during the year with a schedule change.

The question of how many farm students were currently enrolled that may be negatively impacted by not having the full summer break was asked. Mr. Sirianni

stated that it would be minimal, that there were approximately 4 students in school that lived on working farms.

Board reiterated that additional research, discussion and community feedback was needed on all calendar options. Superintendent Lindeman agreed to bring in more research data on the calendar options.

Discussion was also held on graduation being held the 1st weekend in June. Community members present expressed that it may be beneficial to allow graduating seniors to be dismissed a week early to allow them to start college summer courses that generally start mid to late May. Board agreed to discuss further and gather additional feedback from the community on the issue.

4.4. High School Weighting of Grades Updates - Darren Sirianni

Mr. Sirianni stated that discussions have begun with staff regarding the weighted grading systems and that additional discussions are needed before a comprehensive lists of staff pros and cons could be provided. One item there was consensus on was that if the grading scale was changed it should be for all students, not just incoming freshman of the applicable school year (with an example given where a freshman and sophomore were in the same class but the freshman would have to be graded on a different scale than a sophomore in the same class at the same time). Some cons that had been noted were that students currently work harder to earn an A and changing that would leave them less prepared for college. Also, teachers know what A, B, C, D and F work is and score appropriately within the current scale.

In response to the Board's request last month for data on how many students may be impacted, Mr. Sirianni pulled the grades for a four-year period from 6 randomly selected teachers. The results were as follows:

Grade Range	Number of Students
90-93%	135
60-69%	11
Below 60%	20

Mr. Sirianni also discussed that the current system does not account for pluses and minuses, though those appear on report cards - on the actual transcript it is just A, B, C, D or F and that it may be beneficial to students to provide additional weighting for performance that earned them a B+ compared to a student earning a B-.

Discussion was had on schools that weighted grades in a way that allowed students to earn over a 4.0. Mr. Sirianni stated that, in those cases, most colleges require the schools to unweight the grades to conform to a 4.0 maximum scale.

Pros noted during Board discussion on moving to a more standard grading scale were:

- The scale would line up with what most colleges expect to see. Currently, when a student requests their grades be unweighted for a college transcript a letter is attached to the transcript but the actual transcript is not updated. There was concern, especially with larger universities, that the letter content would be overlooked.
- A more uniform scale would be in line with all other schools in the region.
- Plus and minus weighting would reward the extra effort of students that came close to the next grade level.

4.5. Junior High / High School Daily Schedule for 2017-2018

Superintendent Lindeman stated the following points in support of aligning the bell times for the junior high and high schools:

- Confirmed that choral and band students in the junior high have been riding the high school buses for 4-5 years and there are approximately 40 junior high students participating in those programs currently.
- Many other schools in the area have all students on one bus without significant issue.
- With the junior high and high school students arriving at the same time the intent is for the high school students to continue to class while the junior high students would go to breakfast or a study hall until their first period.
- The junior high school students would still have their own passing periods and separate time in the locker bay.
- Aligning the bell times would significantly improve the district's ability to provide curricular and staff development and cultivate a more cohesive staff between the schools.
- Later start times consistently show improved performance academically.

Abby Edge, East Dubuque, stated that she had concerns regarding children with severe food allergies, that younger students were more likely to follow the rules but high school students are more apt to bring food on the bus regardless of the no food regulation. Her concern was not only with allergens being on the bus while the children were all riding together but also any food residue that may be left behind.

Discussion was held on how best to contact parents regarding updates from the school. Electronic and paper notifications were discussed. Mrs. Debi Temperley stated she felt mailing something to the parents was the best way, that sending a written notice home with the student isn't reliable.

4.6. Other Old Business
none

5. New Business

5.1. Action Item: Warrior Summer Adventure Program - Marla Quinn

Ms. Quinn submitted a letter to the Board requesting a partnership with the school to create the Warrior's Summer Adventure Program, a summer program for students in East Dubuque to learn in fun and creative ways.

The program proposes to enroll 50 students from 8:30 a.m. to noon for 15 days. The program would require use of school facilities and, including facilities use, has an estimated cost of \$10,575 - almost all of which has already been raised by Ms. Quinn, so no additional funds would be required from the school.

Superintendent Lindeman stated that the only requirement from the school is that they would need to do 1099 forms for those working in the school - that regulations have changed recently and they can no longer fund salaries through an activities budget.

D. Quinn asked about food service impacts to the district for a summer program. Superintendent Lindeman stated that food served would be in sack lunch format purchased with funds raised and would not have costs for the district. The Board also asked about bus requirements and Mr. Weydert stated the program would be using one bus and the cost of that was already included in Ms. Quinn's budget to be funded by the program.

Schulting asked if the current insurance would cover the program and Superintendent Lindeman confirmed that the existing insurance would be sufficient. Schulting also asked about the background checks needed and who would be responsible for those, Superintendent Lindeman stated the school would but the most likely scenario is that teachers would already be employed with our district or a neighboring district and completed background checks would already be available to the program.

Kussmaul asked if any Title I funds could be used for the program and Superintendent Lindeman confirmed they had looked into it and they could not.

D. Quinn asked if the district was going to share information on a student's academic needs with the program to allow them to be placed in the appropriate learning session, would that cause legal issues. Superintendent Lindeman confirmed that parents choosing to enroll their child in the program would sign a waiver to release the necessary information.

Additional discussion was had on which students would have the program available to them and how students would be enrolled.

The Board agreed that this was a good program and wanted to see it move forward but also needed a clearer direction on financial and other details.

Kussmaul moved to approve a motion to move forward with a partnership between the district and the Warrior's Summer Adventure Program. On a second from Foote, the motion carried on a vote of 5 ayes, 1 abstention and 0 nays with the votes as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn abstain, Schulting aye.

5.2. Action Item: Archery Trip - State Qualifiers Overnight Trip - Dan Welp

Middendorf moved to approve the Archery Team State Tournament Trip, March 23-25. On a second from Kussmaul, the motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the votes as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.

5.3. Informational Item: Annual NWSE Needs Assessment Projections for 2017-2018

5.4. Other New Business (none)

6. Information & Staff Reports

6.1. Elementary School - Ms. Johnson

Celebrations

The week of February 13-17 second grade students from Mrs. Eisbach's class organized a fundraiser to help support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Mrs. Eisbach used this authentic event to combine math, science, and language arts activity throughout the week All students participated in a variety of themed events during the week.

Crossroads Church in Galena sponsored our school over the winter break with a holiday giving tree. Pastor Bill Longmore emailed prior to the break for Thanksgiving to invite teachers to complete a wish lists. A few members of the

church were there Thursday, February 16, 2017 to present items to teachers during an all school assembly in the morning.

Thank you to the Tritz family for helping us receive 8 free Epipens. We now have 4 junior doses and 4 adult doses in house.

Tentative PARCC schedule provided to board.

Enrollment

Pre-K65		K-35	
1 -	45	2 -	40
3 -	40	4 -	45
5 -	40	6 -	53
			Total 363

6.2. High School/Junior High - Mr. Sirianni

Common Schedule: Some rough drafts have been created and more work will be done to create a schedule where the high school and junior high are beginning and ending their days at the same time while having different passing periods, lunch times and gym times.

Juvenile Justice Council: All 5th-8th grade students will be traveling to River Ridge schools on Wednesday, February 22nd to take a program to address self-worth, bullying and social relationships. This program is paid for through the Juvenile Justice Council and all county schools will be attending the program over a 2-day period.

Sportsmanship Award: The HS volleyball program, including the coaches, team, parents and administration, was recognized as the winner of the NWIVOA Sportsmanship Award for the Fall 2016 season. This award encompasses the entire Northwest region of Illinois, all school sizes included. Congratulations to those responsible for this recognition.

Enrollment for Spring 2017: (as of February 16, 2017)

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Students</u>		<u>Totals</u>		
7	62				
8	57				
9	52		August	January	February
10	62	7-8	118	119	119
11	55	9-12	213	202	203
12	34	Totals 7-12	331	321	322

Discussion was held on the possibility of having a driver's education course in the summer for the oldest in the sophomore class. Mr. Sirianni stated he would provide additional information on that at the next meeting.

6.3. Maintenance - Mr. Priebe

Buildings and classrooms have been disinfected to try and help prevent the flu virus from spreading.

Two heat pump compressors that went bad last week were repaired. Two heat pumps are also going to be replaced, that has been budgeted for.

The home girls' and boys' basketball season have come to a close. We have some very nice and respectable athletes! Just want to say that it was a pleasure to watch both of these teams.

The weather has been very nice! It has saved a lot on heating and has been nice on the salt reserve.

Fields will be prepped for softball and baseball seasons. The first game is scheduled for March 14th. We will be hanging the windscreens on the bleachers and hanging up all the batting cages. The softball field needs quite a bit of limestone to bring it up to playing grade. We will also be hosting softball regionals this year.

Geoff Cliff and I have completed the epi-pen training thru the Red Cross and are now certified to administer the drug if need be.

ALICE training has been completed at the Elementary School.

6.4. Transportation - Mr. Weydert

The entire fleet has passed it's 6 month inspections in Lanark, IL. I've been keeping an eye on the alternative fuel trends in regards to school buses.

According to an article in School Bus Fleet magazine, Diesel emissions at the tailpipe are ninety percent cleaner than they were ten years ago.

Diesel fuel has lower grams per brake horsepower per hour in nitrogen oxide, CO₂, non-methane hydrocarbon, and particulate matter than gasoline, propane, and natural gas.

With our current use of diesel buses we don't have to deal with logistical issues, cost, and fueling upgrades that come with switching to another fuel.

At this time keeping our fleet diesel powered makes the most sense financially and environmentally.

In Illinois, Sen. Ira Silverstein is sponsoring SB75, which, as of July 1, 2017, would require all new school buses to have seat belts for each passenger. As of 1/12/17 the bill has been referred to assignments.

SB75 would also require that the state board of education put rules in place to ensure that school districts require all passengers aboard the buses wear seat belts, but school bus drivers would not be liable for the failure of passengers to wear the belts. No reimbursement by the State is required in the implementation of this mandate.

Foote asked, in reference to school delays and cancellations in the event of inclement weather, if transportations or grounds staff went out to evaluate the conditions. Mr. Weydert and Mr. Priebe stated they evaluated conditions and referenced use of several weather and road condition reporting services.

6.5. Superintendent - Mrs. Lindeman

- 6.5.1. AASA National Conference of Education March 1-4, 2017
- 6.5.2. On PaCE to Thrive: Cultivating Community Action for College and Career Readiness
- 6.5.3. March Board Meeting: District Goal Update from Principals, Directors and Superintendent
- 6.5.4. March 2, 2017 - IASB Northwest Division Meeting: Four candidates will attend
- 6.5.5. Board of Education Candidate Forum will be March 14, 2017 at 7:00-8:45 p.m. in the high school Cafeteria
- 6.5.6. Health Life Safety approvals total \$505,296.00
- 6.5.7. March Board Meeting: Second Quarterly Superintendent Goals update
- 6.5.8. The Principal's (2) formal evaluations have been completed. A final meeting will be completed to review the entire process with the principals prior to March 1, 2017.

Superintendent Lindeman announced that Fidelity Bank & Trust recently approved 16 \$500 scholarships to students graduating this spring.

Loeffelholz asked if the Board should do something like a SWOT analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses and goals. Kussmaul stated that those are generally done in January and Mr. Sirianni stated that having a spring session would likely have low turnout. The Board agreed that it would be most beneficial to revisit this issue after the April elections.

7. Personnel

- 7.1. Action Item: Resignation of Jessica Pearce, Special Education Teacher
Foote moved to accept the resignation of Jessica Pearce as Special Education Teacher. On a second by Middendorf, the motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the vote as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.
- 7.2. Action Item: Retirement of Shelley Wills, Special Education Teacher
Foote moved to accept the retirement of Shelley Wills as Special Education Teacher. On a second by Loeffelholz, the motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the vote as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.
- 7.3. Action Item: Resignation of Jo Ellen Leibold, Food Service Director
Loeffelholz moved to accept the resignation of Jo Ellen Leibold as Food Service Director. On a second by Middendorf, the motion carried as a resignation with the vote as follows: Foote nay, Kussmaul nay, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn nay, Schulting nay.
- 7.4. Action Item: Resignation of Chris Cox, Junior High Football Coach
Loeffelholz moved to accept the resignation of Chris Cox as junior high Football Coach. On a second by Foote, the motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the vote as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.
- 7.5. Action Item: Resignation of William Reisen, Junior High Athletic Director
Foote moved to accept the resignation of William Reisen as junior high Athletic Director. On a second by Quinn, the motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the vote as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.
- 7.6. Action Item: Hire Anna Green as Assistant Girls Track Coach
Foote moved to hire Anna Green as Assistant Girls Track Coach. On a second by Loeffelholz, the motion carried on a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the vote as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.

8. Executive Session

Motion by Foote for the Board to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. On a second from Loeffelholz, the motion carried on a voice vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays with the vote as follows: Foote aye, Kussmaul aye, Loeffelholz aye, Middendorf aye, Quinn aye, Schulting aye.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

Motion by Foote to return to open session. On a second from Quinn, the motion carried on a voice vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

The Board returned to open session at 10:17 p.m.

9. Other Matters to Come Before the Board

None

10. President's Prerogative

none

11. Adjourn

Motion by Quinn to adjourn. On a second by Foote, motion carried by a voice vote of 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

The minutes contained herein were approved by the Board at its regularly scheduled meeting held March 21, 2017

Signed:

Attest:

Terry Schulting, President

Donna Quinn, Secretary