

**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2023**

The East Troy Community School District Board met in regular session on August 7, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Ted Zess at 6:00 p.m followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members also present were Anna Janusz, Dale Ames, and Adam Witkiewicz. Also present were Dr. Christopher Hibner, Amy Foszpanczyk, Amy Jenquin, Amanda Jones, and administrators/supervisors. No public guests were present. Ted Zess read the open meeting statement indicating that the meeting is open to the public as required by state statute and that notice of the meeting had been sent to the media and/or posted.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS POSTED

A motion was made by Steve Lambrechts for the approval of the amended agenda as posted. The motion was seconded by Anna Janusz. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Adam Witkiewicz and seconded by Anna Janusz for the approval of the minutes on June 12, 2023 (Regular Board Meeting) and minutes on July 20, 2023 (Special Board Meeting). Motion carried unanimously. Anna Janusz requested that an explanation be added on the financial impact of the state budget to the East Troy Community School District, which is approximately \$87,000.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PER BOARD POLICY

None.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Dale Ames and seconded by Steve Lambrechts for the approval of June 2023 payments in the amount of \$3,569,927.98 and receipts in the amount of \$1,029,615.32 as reflected on the financial statements. Motion carried unanimously..

VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Staffing resignation(s): A motion was made by Anna Janusz to accept the resignations as presented. The motion was seconded by Steve Lambrechts. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Staffing recommendation(s): A motion was made by Ted Zess to approve the hiring of Mrs. Victoria Franz (World Language/EL Teacher & Coordinator). The motion was seconded by Anna Janusz. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Anna Janusz to approve the hiring of Mr. Brian O’Leary (1.0 Activities Coordinator). The motion was seconded by Steve Lambrechtes. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. State Budget Update as it relates to E.T.C.S.D: Amy Jenquin, Director of Business Services, presented an overview of the district budget. She explained that higher revenues and less than predicted expenses contributed to a significant surplus for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Jenquin stated that almost every line item was less than budgeted for across the board, with some of the components being the high amount of staff turnover entering the 2022-2023 school year (with HSAs being forfeited), electing to not participate in one of the chromebook rollovers, and conservative spending. Dr. Hibner shared an article that he and Amy Jenquin wrote for the community and newspaper to be published on the effects of the State budget on E.T.C.S.D. Exercising good fiscal stewardship was highlighted, along with strong efforts made by the E.T.C.S.D. in order to do so both historically and into the future. Dr. Hibner again thanked the community for the passage of the operational referendum, but reiterated that the district is still facing a significant shortfall in the 2025-2026 school year as best projected at this time based on various assumptions and estimates - (\$765,000 structural deficit).
- D. Staffing Updates (informational): Amy Foszpanczyk provided a staffing update for the 23 - 24 school year. As of August 7, 2023, 14 of 17 licensed positions have been filled. The 3 remaining positions include: 4K Special Education, MS/HS Science, and HS Math. Additionally, there are currently 7 special education paraprofessional positions that have not yet been filled. Each of these have proven to be hard to fill roles. Last year we had 37 professionally licensed openings all of which were filled at this time. This illustrates a real crisis in education. More specifically, there are fewer qualified applicants and an increase in competition between districts for these qualified applicants. This highlights the ongoing importance of salary and benefits, and supporting ongoing professional development in an ever increasing competitive labor market.
- E. Professional staff member request for consideration of employment leave of absence: Moved to executive session.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A. District Administrator Report: Dr. Hibner shared general registration, staff letter and policy information from the 2023-24 Back to School Newsletter. The Summer 2023 Community

Newsletter focuses on the four strategic priorities and that will be available to community members in the next couple of weeks. Steve Lambrechts shared an overview of the recent Facilities Subcommittee, including high priority list items and cost of associated projects. The subcommittee decided to form a focus group to diligently work through these prioritizations. Mr. Hernandez, Building & Grounds Director, will be working to develop this focus group of individuals, which will also include assistance from PSI. Dale Ames discussed that he shared with Mr. Hernandez that his priority is energy conservation efforts around the district.

- B. Business Manager Report: Mrs. Jenquin shared that after careful review and talking to multiple people in three other school districts regarding their experience and overall review of CLOCworks, there is a significant setup cost and an ongoing monthly fee. While each of these individuals indicated that CLOCworks is beneficial in its implementation and service, it does not appear as if it would be beneficial in terms of return on investment. Additional training around high kilowatt usage and peak times of usage will be beneficial around the district to aid in energy efficiency and conservation efforts.
- C. Director of Teaching and Continuous Improvement of Student Learning Report: Amy Foszpanczyk presented the schedules for New Teacher Induction and the August Back-to-School Inservice.
- D. Director of Pupil Services: None.
- E. School Board President's Report: None.

X. POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

Use of District Facilities (policy 830) - *1st Reading* - Dr. Hibner shared that the review of this policy comes from the primary aspect of Mr. Jake Hernandez' Safety Coordinator position. This has a focus on access to facilities' use equitably, as well as processes/procedures in those accesses toward ensuring continued safety practices and the district not incurring additional expenses with the ongoing inflationary increases. Additionally this includes key fobs for staff and group access/community/non-community, as an example. Updates are proposed in fees for facility use, and a fee structure increase to better meet inflation. Dr. Hibner requested that the board look to move fairly quickly on (A) General Rules, (B) Supervision, and (K) District Issues Access Cards as a starting point of review and approval, potentially by the next August board meeting.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION – FUTURE ITEMS

Adam Witkiewicz suggested supplementing board meeting agendas with any external hyperlinks or documents that may be fairly simplistic to upload and link to for community members while watching the board meetings.

Dale Ames asked that administration consider having the independent health insurance consultant come in to speak at a future board meeting as he has been in communication with her. Administration feels strongly that USI should be notified before that is considered to keep a longstanding positive relationship, as well as then potentially it starts at a district administration level. Dr. Hibner advised to be cautious in that process so that staff do not feel threatened or leery of possible changes and it was suggested that the Benefits Subcommittee potentially start with that information and determine next appropriate actions.

XIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ted Zess made a motion to adjourn to executive session for the discussion of professional staff member request for consideration of employment leave of absence as provided under 19.85(1)(b), 19.85(1)(c), and 19.85(1)(f). Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Roll call vote to adjourn to executive session: Steve Lambrechts – yes, Adam Witkiewicz – yes, Dale Ames – yes, Anna Janusz – yes, and Ted Zess – yes. Motion carried unanimously and moved to executive session at 7:55 p.m.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Dale Ames made a motion to resume to open session at 8:00 p.m. Adam Witkiewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Adam Witkiewicz made a motion to accept the recommended leave of absence as presented by administration. Anna Janusz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Anna Janusz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

