

**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2023**

The East Troy Community School District Board met in regular session on September 25, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Ted Zess at 8:23 p.m followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members also present were Anna Janusz, Dale Ames, Steve Lambrechts, and Adam Witkiewicz. Also present were Dr. Christopher Hibner, Amy Foszpancyk, Amy Jenquin, administrators/supervisors, and six guests. 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 Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz for the approval of the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Dale Ames for the approval of the minutes from the August 28, 2023 (Regular Board Meeting). Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PER BOARD POLICY

Dave Banks, a parent, thanked all those involved for their work in keeping things going. Mr. Banks encouraged community members to reach out, participate, and share their perspectives as the voice of parents is important. Mr. Banks recognized that the district has made strides yet the open enrollment numbers are scary. Additionally, Mr. Banks identified the middle school study halls as an area of concern. He indicated that there is currently a section of 50 students in a study hall because they had no other option. The operational referendum was passed to ensure staffing. To address the study hall issue, Mr. Banks hopes that the district can find staff to offer their own expertise that will keep students stimulated and learning. He urged the district to think aggressively and use the referendum dollars to make real change.

Gene Rozmarynowski, a resident, shared his concerns regarding SAEBRS (Social, Academic, Emotion, and Behavior Risk Screener) and its link to social emotional learning (SEL). Mr. Rozmarynowski quoted the Pioneer Institute which stated that SEL poses a risk to student privacy. Mr. Rozmarynowski indicated that with SEL the focus is less on academics and more on attitude, mindsets

and behaviors. He also quoted an additional resource that states SEL leads to unlicensed therapy. Additionally, Mr. Rozmarynowski is concerned that the letter regarding SAEBRS was sent to families on September 19th and opt outs were to be submitted by September 25th. Additionally, action had to be taken in order to opt out. Instead, Mr. Rozmarynowski believes that families should have to opt in. Mr. Rozmarynowski also inquired about the process for community members to have their email address added to the same list as parents as he would like to receive the emails the parents receive. Finally, he reminded the board of the importance of reviewing socially progressive programs and keeping them out of our schools.

Larry Beier stated that programs like SAEBRS and AVID should be opt in rather than opt out.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Dale Ames and seconded by Anna Janusz for the approval of August 2023 payments in the amount of \$1,110,899.21 and receipts in the amount of \$4,510,513.54 as reflected on the financial statements. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Staffing resignation(s): A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Dale Ames to accept the resignations of Brian Blaszyński and Kirstin Kanoff. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Staffing recommendation(s): At the August meeting, the Board of Education approved the hiring of a Business Education teacher. As a follow-up, Stacey Kuehn presented the hiring synopsis of Mr. Austin Wilde, the newly hired educator.
- C. Approval of donation(s): A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to accept the donation of school supplies from Plymouth Tube Supply Company. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Recommendation regarding 2024 Varsity Football season: A motion was made by Adam Witkiewicz and seconded by Dale Ames to move forward with an East Troy Varsity Football team for the 2024 - 25 school year. Motion carried unanimously.
- E. Recommendation pertaining to athletic training services and contract agreement with East Troy Fire Department: A motion was made by Dale Ames and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to approve the athletic training services and contract agreement with the East Troy Fire Department as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Approval of Human Growth and Development Advisory Committee: A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Dale Ames to approve members of the Human Growth and Development Advisory Committee as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- G. Settlement Offer for Government Entity Claims Against JUUL Labs, Inc: A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to approve the settlement offer for government entity claims against JUUL Labs, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.
- H. Approval of SCN (Start College Now) amendment request: A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Ted Zess to approve the Fall CNA class adjustment as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- I. Updates related to high school athletics - participation numbers, facility projects, and review of core objectives and relationship with youth programs: Dr. Hibner read a memo from Brian O’Leary, Activities Director/Athletic Director, regarding student participation numbers in athletics and highlighted other extracurricular activities. In this memo, Mr. O’Leary stated that in order to ensure continued participation in our athletics program, we must build relationships with our youth coaches and directors. This would allow high school coaches to provide opportunities and insight regarding player and/or coach development while encouraging coaching philosophies, skill development, sport tactics, and continued participation. Anna Janusz requested additional information regarding numbers of student participation in all extracurricular activities and across all seasons as well as middle school participation numbers. Additionally, Ms. Janusz indicated that it would be beneficial to gather information regarding students’ interests. If students had time, what other activities would they participate in? Ted Zess suggested gathering information and data regarding the opportunities that are available to support students entering the workforce.

Jake Hernandez highlighted facilities projects related to athletics. This included projects that have been completed as well as those that will need to be addressed. Mr. Hernandez provided specifics regarding the completion of projects and existing needs for the high school gymnasiums, soccer field, football stadium, track, tennis courts, and baseball fields. Dr. Hibner explained that given the long list of projects that need to be completed, the Board of Education will need to determine whether or not they would like to access the fund balance to begin to address some of these needs. Dr. Hibner reminded the Board that the fund balance should only be used for one-time expenditures which these and other facility needs are at this time. Dr. Hibner reminded the community that if dollars were to be used at this time, these additional

positive variance comes from the 2022-2023 school year budget, not the operational referendum dollars for 2023-2026.

The Board has requested specific numbers for these athletic projects to be taken to the Facilities Subcommittee and to be reviewed and prioritized with all of the other projects that exist throughout the district.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A. District Administrator Report: None
- B. Business Manager Report: Amy Jenquin shared that there will be no short term borrowing for the 2023 - 24 school year, thus savings on interest. This is a result of hard work and continued efforts throughout the years toward increasing our Fund Balance.
- C. Director of Teaching and Continuous Improvement of Student Learning Report: Amy Foszpanczyk shared minutes from the September Student Learning Subcommittee Meeting.
- D. Director of Pupil Services: None.
- E. School Board President's Report: None.

X. POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

None.

XI. COMMUNICATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Homecoming will take place on October 13th. The parade will be held at 1:30. Additionally, there will be a community tailgating event at the concession stand beginning at 4:30. This will be followed by a soccer game against Mukwonago that will begin at 6:00. The marching band will perform at halftime. Following the game, there will be a bonfire for high school students. The dance will be held on Saturday, October 14th at East Troy High School.

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION – FUTURE ITEMS

Anna Janusz inquired about Policy #830. Dr. Hibner indicated that Mr. Hernandez will be seeking feedback from a variety of groups. Additionally, information related to insurance and liability has been gathered and will be shared. Dr. Hibner reminded the community that the fee structure is being discussed, but no action has been taken to date related to fee structures. Discussions regarding appropriate placement into fee categories will need to occur since it is being recognized that some current groups have not been placed properly according to our current policy structures. The district

does not want to discourage use of the facilities but we cannot incur costs. Additionally, Dr. Hibner noted that safety procedures and updates were approved and are being implemented/applied to facility groups.

XIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

None

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Ted Zess to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lambrechts