

**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes –March 18, 2024**

The East Troy Community School District Board met in regular session on March 18, 2024. 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, Adam Witkiewicz, Dale Ames, and Steve Lambrechts. Also present were Dr. Christopher Hibner, Amy Foszpanczyk, Amy Jenquin, Amanda Jones, administrators, and supervisors. Eighteen guests were in attendance. 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 and seconded by Anna Janusz for the approval of the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Steve Lambrechts and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz for the approval of the regular board meeting minutes from February 12, 2024. A revision request was made to change Anna Janusz’s title in the February minutes from President to Vice-President. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PER BOARD POLICY

Jinnesa Pluess, a community member and parent, addressed the athletic side of the facilities discussions that are currently taking place. From the perspective of youth football, the top priority is the condition of the field. The field is covered with clover and has many holes throughout. Additionally, the lights on the football field are in dire need of attention. The track also has holes and requires repair. Lastly, the soccer team does not have lights on the soccer field. While this isn’t everything, addressing these areas would definitely be a start.

Gene Rozmarynowski, a resident in the village of East Troy and a member of the Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC), addressed concerns regarding the process the CFAC followed. Tours were provided in each facility after the meetings. However, proposed maintenance needs were not pointed out during these tours. Perhaps the process should have started with a tour of each facility that

allowed time to point out maintenance needs, identify repairs and/or replacements, and provide a detailed cost of each item. The information that was provided included a range of costs for groups of items and did not specify if the cost was for a replacement or a repair. It seems as if replacements are considered when a repair may be sufficient. Improvements were to be identified as high, medium, or low priority. This task was frustrating as a clear understanding of the details for each maintenance project was not provided. East Troy cannot afford optimal learning environments and will have to settle for something less. Finally, Mr. Rozmarynowski suggested that having PSI perform these studies and make these proposals is a conflict of interest as they will be a beneficiary of the maintenance contracts.

Joe Jones, a taxpayer, a grandfather with grandchildren in East Troy Schools, and a member of the Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC), stated that some valid needs were presented. While he is in support of some improvements, Mr. Jones explained that East Troy and enrollment throughout the country is on a steady decline for at least the next ten years. Our pursuit as a community and a Board should be to create the best possible learning environment for our East Troy children that can be afforded. According to the November 2023 DPI Report Card, the district received a score of 70% which barely falls within the exceeds expectations category. Mr. Jones strongly values education but struggles with the focus on offering a lot of technical programs when we can't achieve some of the basic education. We need to do both and must do something different to elevate those numbers. The CFAC met five times to review the needs of the district's facilities. He felt the process drove the committee to semi-predetermined outcomes. Many members of the committee were very willing to dig into the details and look at things from a cost efficiency versus best outcome perspective. The objective is to achieve the best possible outcome at the lowest possible cost. The Board should consider a more holistic approach to address the needs of our school district. There are individuals and companies in the community willing to contribute their time and talent as they have a vested interest in the outcome. A community-based committee could look at the needs of the school district well into the future and formulate a long-term vision or plan. The committee could propose creative, innovative, incremental investments over many years to achieve this collective vision. If we hope to pass a referendum, taxpayers need to believe there is a plan and know that taxpayer dollars are used frugally for the best possible outcomes.

Bob Rice, a member of the Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC), shared that the conditions of the track and fields need to be addressed. The district needs adequate facilities which can help to limit liability. Mr. Rice questioned some of the items that were identified as high priority needs

including sod and irrigation at Little Prairie and Prairie View and some ceiling tile replacement at Prairie View. There is deferred maintenance like leaking roofs that need to be done before the nice to have items are addressed. We still need to meet as a committee and hone this in so that an overwhelming majority of the people who participate feel confident that this can be passed.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Dales Ames and seconded by Steve Lambrechts for the approval of January 2024 payments in the amount of \$1,874,565.56 and receipts in the amount of \$6,395,607.60 as reflected on the financial statements. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Dale Ames and seconded by Steve Lambrechts for the approval of February 2024 payments in the amount of \$1,709,574.54 and receipts in the amount of \$7,094,287 as reflected on the financial statements. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Staffing retirement(s): Ted Zess made a motion to approve the retirements of Sandy Kraklow and Claudia Felske. Adam Witkiewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Staffing resignation(s): Adam Witkiewicz made a motion to approve the resignations of Deb Leising and Cindy Borkenhagen. Ted Zess seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Approval of donation(s): Ted Zess made a motion to accept the donations as presented. The motion was seconded by Adam Witkiewicz. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. (Co)Operation Learn presentation: Christine Hamele, school counselor from Little Prairie Primary, provided an overview and shared the promotional video for (Co)Operation Learn. With a theme of Wonderful Wisconsin, the event will take place on Thursday, May 2nd from 5:00 - 7:30 at Little Prairie. Mrs. Hamele thanked the PTO for their ongoing support. Additionally, she recognized First Citizens Bank for a \$500 donation and Citizens Bank for a \$250 donation.. Lastly, Mrs. Hamele thanked members of the board for continuing to put students first.
- E. O.A.K. Boxes presentation: Savannah Kawleski, a junior at ETHS, presented information regarding the installation of an Overdose Aid Kit (O.A.K. Box) at East Troy High School. As part of the presentation, Savannah described the contents of the O.A.K. Box and identified village, town, county, and state statistics that contribute to the need for this project. Additionally, Savannah highlighted the partnerships with HOSA and the Start Healing Now Foundation that

will allow for ongoing management of the kit. A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Anna Janusz to install an O.A.K Box at East Troy High School. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) process/feedback/scenarios: Lauren Wanner, Craig Stranathan, and Chris Gerrity from PSI facilitated a presentation to highlight the process that has been followed to address the district's need to properly maintain and upkeep facilities while lacking sustainable, predictable funding within the state-established revenue limits leading to the deferment of large-scale repairs and replacements. The presentation highlighted the timeline, facility conditions assessment, capital improvement planning, and the creation of the Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC.). The purpose of the CFAC was to provide meaningful input as the Board of Education and administration analyze potential solutions to address facilities issues. In order to provide input, the CFAC was presented with potential improvements identified through a facility study and then worked in small groups to determine priorities. Using the themes identified by the committee, scenarios were then developed. Again, these are simply starting points for much more further discussion and additional information obtained - such as repair and or replacement pertaining to certain identified areas within the scenarios. These six scenarios were introduced and will be revisited in depth at the Board Workshop session which will be held on Wednesday, March 20th at 5:30 in the high school library.
- G. Discussion and action, if appropriate, regarding Community Survey Proposal per School Perceptions: Anna Jausz made a motion to table the survey discussion and action until after the working session and bring this item back at the meeting on April 8th. The motion was seconded by Dale Ames. Motion carried unanimously.
- H. IGET Annual Report presentation: Martha Bresler and Lloyd Sineni from the Intergenerational East Troy Community Center (IGET) provided a look back on the last five years and highlighted the program and events, the space, annual activities, participants, milestones, and goals. Additional information is available through a monthly newsletter that is available on the center's website and social media pages.
- I. Discussion and action, if appropriate, regarding impact needs for the 2024 - 2025 school year: Administrators presented the following impact needs: Act 20 professional learning, a 1.0 FTE elementary reading interventionist, a 1.0 FTE middle school agriculture teacher, a 1.0 FTE middle school / high school Spanish teacher, a reconfiguration of the Teaching & Learning Department, an increase of 18 current special education paraprofessionals from part-time status to 36.25 hours, and a 1.0 FTE special education teacher. It should be noted that additional needs

were presented including an update to the wireless infrastructure at the middle and high school, the purchase of network switches for a partial infrastructure refresh, a 1.0 FTE community liaison custodian, a reconfiguration of the special education program support teacher into a special education coordinator position, and a Human Resources professional. The wireless infrastructure and network switches will be purchased using this year's budget. The 1.0 FTE community liaison custodian and HR professional have been put on hold per the directive of Dr. Hibner. The reconfiguration in special education will be funded using Transfer of Service dollars and, as a result, has no direct financial impact on the district's budget. Dr. Hibner described how these impact needs can be addressed for the 2024-2025 school year per utilization of Fund Balance while attempting to maintain the current dollar amount within the Fund Balance per positive variance from the 2022-2023 school year and the projected 2023-2024 school year and possible plans into the 2025-2026 school year. A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Dales Ames to approve the recommended impact needs. Motion carried unanimously.

- J. Approval of Early College Credit and Start College Now applications for Fall 2024: A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to approve the Start College Now and Early College Credit applications as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- K. Approval of Social Studies Resource adoption: A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz for approval of new social studies curriculum through TCI and DBQ. Motion carried unanimously.
- L. Overnight field trip request(s): Stacey Kuehn presented the following overnight field trips: FBLA State Conference in Green Bay, FFA Annual Retreat in Wisconsin Dells, HOSA State Leadership Conference in Wisconsin Dells, East Troy FFA to Atlanta, and a trip to Costa Rica during Spring Break of 2026. It should be noted that the cost of the trip to Atlanta is increasing the likelihood that East Troy students will not attend. Additionally, the trip to Costa Rica is still in the planning stages. A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Dale Ames for the approval of overnight field trips as requested. Motion carried unanimously.
- M. Recommended protocol for district/schools related to State athletics: A motion was made by Adam Witkiewicz and seconded by Dale Ames to approve the post-season protocols as presented with updated verbiage that a 2nd place finisher is aligned with a 1st place finisher. Motion carried unanimously.
- N. Policy 411.1 - Student Bullying / Harassment / Hazing: A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Dale Ames for the approval of Policy 411.1 - Student Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing. Motion carried unanimously.

- O. Policy 453.6 - Medication Administration: A motion was made by Anna Januz and seconded by Ted Zess for the approval of Policy 453.6 - Medication Administration.. Motion carried unanimously.
- P. Notice of School Board Election: Dr. Hibner read the notice of election.
- Q. Choose Board of Canvassers for election in April: A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz for the approval of the Board of Canvassers - Steve Lambrechts, Ted Zess, and Stacey Kuehn. Motion carried unanimously.
- R. Summer course offerings: Amy Foszpanczyk presented the Summer School 2024 Course Guidebook. Course offerings will be sent to families on Wednesday, March 20th. Registration will open on April 8th and will run through April 19th. Registration is first come, first served. Families who are interested in enrolling students are encouraged to do so early in the registration window as courses are expected to fill up quickly.
- S. Athletic Hall of Fame: On behalf of Brian O’Leary, Aaron Judd provided details regarding the creation of the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. The current plan is to induct 3 to 5 members per year and hold an annual induction dinner or ceremony the week of Homecoming. The first induction will be held during Homecoming 2024 which falls on the weekend of September 27th.
- T. Evaluation of District Administrator: Moved to executive session.
- U. Preliminary staffing proposals - from time to time, the board needs to adjourn to executive session to address specific personnel regarding budgetary implications for future years: Moved to executive session.
- V. Employee leave of absence request: Moved to executive session.
- W. Personnel - updates related to professional staff employment: Moved to executive session.
- X. Update regarding former employee alleged misconduct: Moved to executive session.
- Y. Update related to multiple student behavioral issues: Moved to executive session.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A. District Administrator Report: None
- B. Business Manager Report: None.
- C. Director of Teaching and Continuous Improvement of Student Learning Report: Amy Foszpanczyk reviewed minutes from the February Student Learning Subcommittee meeting. Minutes included the following topics: Act 20 legal updates and a review of the work completed by the Social Studies Curriculum Review Committee.
- D. Director of Pupil Services: None

E. School Board President's Report: None

X. POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

- A. *1st Reading of New Policy*: Care of District Property
- B. *1st Reading of Policy 829* - Naming School Facilities
- C. *1st Reading of Policy 840* - Gifts, Grants, and Bequests
- D. *1st Reading of Policy 851* - Advertising in the Schools

XI. COMMUNICATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board will have an open workshop session on Wednesday, March 20th at 5:30 in the library at East Troy High School to address the various scenarios regarding capital improvements and a closed session pertaining to the bids and timelines of resurfacing of the track and lights for the football and soccer fields.

The Board will also meet in closed session on Thursday, April 4th at 5:30 with USI to discuss health insurance rates.

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION – FUTURE ITEMS

Anna Janusz requested an update regarding Clockworks.

XIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to adjourn to executive session for the discussion of staffing proposals, evaluation of district administrator, employee leave of absence request, updates regarding professional staff employment, former employee alleged misconduct, and an update related to multiple student behavioral issues as provided under s.s.19.85(1)(b), 19.85(1)(c), and 118.125. Roll call vote to adjourn to executive session: Steve Lambrechts-Yes, Adam Witkiewicz - Yes, Dale Ames - Yes, Anna Janusz - Yes, Ted Zess - Yes. Motion carried unanimously and the Board moved to executive session at 9:22 p.m.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

At 11:44 p.m., a motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Anna Janusz to resume to open session to take action based upon discussion in executive session as per s.s. 19.85(1)(b), 19.85(1)(c), and 118.125. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Anna Janusz to accept the employee leave of absence request as presented by administration. Motion carried unanimously.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Dale Ames to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lambrechts