

**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2024**

The East Troy Community School District Board met in a special open session on March 20, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Anna Janusz at 5:30 p.m. Board members also present were Dale Ames, Steve Lambrechts, and Adam Witkiewicz. Also present were Dr. Christopher Hibner, Jake Hernandez, Amy Foszpanczyk, Taylor Baumeister, Brian O’Leary and eleven guests. Anna Janusz 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.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS POSTED

A motion was made by Steve Lambrechts and seconded by Dale Ames for the approval of the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PER BOARD POLICY

Cari McBurney, a taxpayer, East Troy parent, and a member of the Community Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC), expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to learn and to provide input and feedback. While she wasn’t thrilled with the outcome of the committee’s work, she stated that she does not harbor any harsh feelings. Mrs. McBurney communicated that the committee needed more time to brainstorm as innovative ideas were just beginning to be shared at the end of the last meeting. She indicated that a few members of the committee do not feel like their work is done and have continued the conversation. They are interested in exploring additional options and ideas. Mrs. McBurney struggles with the idea of putting millions of dollars into repairs when the community cannot see the results of their financial support. She suggested that the district consider building something new and cautioned a vote to move forward with an option that doesn’t encompass everything that is hoped for.

Joe Jones, a member of the CFAC, addressed the idea of repairs versus replacements. He suggested that there are instances where repairs can save money that could either be left off of a referendum or applied toward a different project. Mr. Jones indicated that there is a lot of energy among committee members and there is a willingness to continue meeting. He also discussed the flaw that exists in school budgets and suggested that budgets should include dollars designated for capital projects. We cannot control DPI or the legislature, so we must focus on what we can control. Until this is fixed, Mr. Jones feels that we are destined to repeat the referendum process until the community is exhausted and shuts down. To

address this concern, Mr. Jones suggested pursuing a more permanent and maybe even radical solution. This could include forming a political action group, right sizing, or taking our school private.

Bob Rice, a member of the CFAC, expressed an interest in continuing the work of the committee. While he is not interested in “keeping up with the Joneses,” Mr. Rice does believe that the district needs to work on maintaining the facilities. He reminded the Board that credibility is lost when they return from a failed referendum with a lower cost option.

Gene Rozmarynowski, a member of the CFAC, reminded the community of the last capital referendum in 2015 and expressed concern that, when the current operational referendum expires, the district will need to ask for more. Mr. Rozmarynowski shared that there are many citizens who simply cannot afford additional tax increases.

Erin Halkin, a member of the CFAC, expressed appreciation for the diverse group that came together to discuss the facilities. Ms. Halkin expressed the need for a strategic long-term plan that provides a vision, plan of action and related milestones. She believes that an athletic complex will provide several benefits as it will allow the community to see their money, will serve as a source of pride, and will provide an opportunity to bring in revenue. Additionally, Ms. Halkin discussed the work that needs to be done at the middle school and identified two safety concerns: the middle school traffic pattern and access that is provided at the main entrance of the middle school. She suggested looking at technology options and ideas that could assist with providing greater safety and security at the entrance. Perhaps there would be an option that would be lower on the cost scale than rearranging the entrances. Lastly, Ms. Halkin discussed the state of the transportation facility describing it as “in rough shape.” .

John Steffen, a member of the CFAC with a background in facility management, addressed the need for the justification of projects. While he recognizes that the school district will have to spend some money on facilities, he believes that there are some lower cost options that could address and improve the condition of the facilities. Additionally, Mr. Steffen suggested that the district might be missing some ideas that the students would really benefit from and people could see when they visit the schools.

V. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

- A. Board of Education workshop session regarding CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) pertaining to facilities: Representatives from PSI led a presentation that addressed the following: introduction and goal, assessment process (facility study), CFAC charge and process, six scenarios (A - F), CFAC survey results, and potential next steps. It should be

noted that the results of the facility study can be found on the district website. Questions to prompt discussion were provided including: What additional information would you like in order to move forward? What do we want to accomplish? How do we get there? What do we need to learn from the community? After discussion, next steps were identified including: 1.) a guided tour provided to the Board and members of the CFAC to see the condition of the facilities and to identify maintenance needs in each building, 2.) the CFAC to reconvene to get down to two or three scenarios, 3.) additional information to the district's website to continue to assist the community on the current condition of our facilities, 4.) a rationale for the needed projects, and 5.) a cost comparison and pros and cons of repair versus replace related to switchgear at ms/hs which is currently being done, generator, HVAC, and roofs which also is in the investigatory stages of determining..

- B. Discussion and approval of bids as related to scope for East Troy High School stadium lights and resurfacing of track: Moved to executive session.

VI. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Anna Janusz made a motion to move to closed session; pursuant to Wis. Stat. 1985(1)(e), regarding deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed; specifically, to consider the bids related to East Troy High School stadium lights and resurfacing of track. Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Roll call vote to adjourn to executive session: Adam Witkiewicz-Yes, Steve Lambrechts-Yes, Dale Ames-Yes, Anna Janusz-Yes. Motion carried unanimously and the Board moved to executive session at 7:59 pm.

VII. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

At 8:47 p.m., Anna Janusz made a motion to reconvene to open session to take action based upon discussion in executive session as per s.s.19.85(1)(e). Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Adam Witkiewicz made a motion to accept the stadium lighting project to include the football and soccer field and resurfacing of the track and approve bids from AFS as the track contractor, Pieper as the electrical contractor, and Musco as the light supplier. Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lambrechts