

**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2025**

The East Troy Community School District Board met in regular session on February 17, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Ted Zess at 6:00 p.m followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members also present were Anna Janusz, Adam Witkiewicz, and Kevin Bong. Steve Lambrechts joined the meeting at 7:15. Also present were Dr. Christopher Hibner, Amy Foszpanczyk, Amy Jenquin, Taylor Baumeister, Kirstin Kanoff, Amanda Jones, 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 Adam Witkiewicz and seconded by Kevin Bong for the approval of the regular board meeting minutes from January 13, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PER BOARD POLICY

None.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Adam Witkiewicz and seconded by Anna Janusz for the approval of January 2025 payments in the amount of \$2,750,688.94 and receipts in the amount of \$7,249,449.81 as reflected on the financial statements. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Presentation by Brian Brewer, Managing Director at Baird Public Finance, regarding financing plan for borrowing referendum funds: Brian Brewer, Managing Director at Baird Public Finance, introduced a parameter resolution which includes “not to exceed” limits. The number listed is \$33,000,000, which is a combination of the \$19,400,000 from the November 2024 capital

referendum and a refinancing of up to \$13,600,000 from the 2015 capital referendum. The refinancing of the remaining 2015 referendum dollars to a lower interest rate can save an estimated \$500,000 plus in interest. Mr. Brewer presented a historical perspective of interest rates and addressed short-term versus long-term interest rates. We are currently in a time period where short-term rates are higher than the long-term cost of borrowing. This will allow the district to maximize earnings in the project account. These investments can be used to complete the scope of work or pay down debt. The financing plan goals include: meeting the referendum impact of \$.021, minimizing interest cost, maximizing investment earning, and minimizing interest rate risk. As part of the process, the district was required to obtain a third party credit rating. Moody's assigned the district Aa2 which maintains the level it had on the 2015 referendum borrowing. It should be noted that the median for Wisconsin school districts is Aa3 or A1 both of which are below East Troy's credit rating. Following the established timeline, the proceeds will be delivered to the project account on the closing date of March 12, 2025. The repayment of bonds will begin in March of 2026.

- B. Approval of bond proceeds management firm to assist with reporting, arbitrage tracking, management, and investment of referendum approved bond proceeds: Investment management firms assist in earning a return, monitor spend-down requirements, provide guidance regarding IRS reporting. Three companies were consulted and PMA received the highest score on the report card. A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to approve PMA as the management firm. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Resolution authorizing the issuance of a portion of and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$33,000,000 general obligation promissory notes: Amy Jenquin reminded the board that the \$33,000,000 is a combination of the \$19,400,000 from the November 2024 capital referendum and a refinancing of up to \$13,600,000 from the 2015 capital referendum. A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz for the approval of the resolution authorizing the issuance of a portion of and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$33,000,000 general obligation promissory notes. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Capital referendum update on project scope and design presented by PSI: Jake Hernandez, Director of Buildings and Grounds, introduced representatives from Performance Services (PSI). Design meetings have been occurring since November with a focus on Phase One improvements, which will take place summer 2025. Phase Two improvements will take place in summer 2026. Phase One improvements include all projects at Prairie View Elementary and site and roof improvements at East Troy Middle School. Work has already been done in planning for Phase

Two improvements for the future. Bidding has begun for Phase One improvements, which will be presented to the Board of Education in March 2025. Estimated bidding for Phase Two will occur in fall or winter 2025. Representatives presented summaries of plans for Phase One improvements. At Prairie View, these projects include: improvements to ensure a secure entrance, the replacement of all wood windows, the replacement of the entire roof, the addition of a weather barrier to the exterior gym walls that will address water infiltration, and the replacement of the chiller. At East Troy Middle School, these projects include: the replacement of the entire roof, sitework that will separate the bus drive from the parking lot, the addition of a queuing lane and a sidewalk, fencing for the dumpsters, additional asphalt for play area - basketball hoops, the addition of light fixture heads to the parking lot, the replacement of concrete at the front of the building, and paint for the canopy structure. Phase Two projects will be completed during the summer of 2026 at East Troy High School. These projects include: the replacement of a portion of the roof and the replacement of mechanical units. It should be noted that, due to the refrigerant change implemented on January 1, 2025, old units will not be able to be refurbished and will instead be replaced. Updates can be found on the East Troy website referendum page and will be shared on social media.

- E. Review of bids for capital referendum project (Chiller at Prairie View Elementary): Moved to executive session.
- F. Staffing retirement(s): A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Anna Janusz to accept the retirement of Jane Wolfe and Teri Dallas. Motion carried unanimously.
- G. Staffing resignation(s): A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to accept the resignation of Amalia Santos. Motion carried unanimously.
- H. Approval of donation(s): A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Kevin Bong to accept the anonymous donation of \$125,000 for the purchase of a new scoreboard for the East Troy football field. Motion carried unanimously with the board's thanks.
- I. Employee leave of absence request(s): Moved to executive session.
- J. Professional staff employment update: Moved to executive session.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- A. District Administrator Report: None
- B. Business Manager Report:
 - i. Current Baird Model: Projections for the 2026 - 2027 school year indicate that without an operational referendum, the district will have a deficit of \$4.3 million. Declining enrollment

continues to be a challenge. Because this decline is spread across the district, reduction of staff is not an option in addressing this issue.

- ii. January Pupil Count: The average between September and January is used in the equalization aid. It should be noted that the number of preschool students who receive special education services increased by 7 between September and January while the number of 12th graders decreased by 9 which was mostly due to early graduation. Other decreases were spread between multiple grades. For FTE calculations, preschool students are counted as a 0.50 FTE/student while all other grade levels are counted as 1.0 FTE/student.

C. Director(s) of Teaching and Continuous Improvement of Student Learning Report:

- i. Amy Foszpanczyk provided an update regarding the 2025 summer school session. Classes will be offered to students in grades 4K through 11th grade. However, due to an ongoing decrease in enrollment at the middle school and challenges in finding staffing, the district will be offering limited options at this level including: math support, reading support, SSAC, and band lessons.
- ii. A two-session book study of *The Anxious Generation* will be held on February 25th, 2025 and March 25th, 2025 from 5:30-7:30 pm in the East Troy High School cafeteria. Over 55 people have signed up for the discussion. The first session will address the move from play-based childhood to phone-based childhood and the impact that has had on children. The second session will address the collective action that we can take as a community to address the impacts of technology and social media.

D. Director of Pupil Services: Amanda Jones provided an update regarding transportation to Lakeland, which will result in a cost savings for the district.

E. Director of Human Resources: Kirstin Kanoff provided a recap of the first annual National Fun at Work Day celebrated on January 31, 2025.

F. School Board President's Report: None

X. POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

Title IX Policy Update: In the recent US Department of Education “Dear Colleagues” letter issued on January 31, 2025 and the revised “Dear Colleague” letter on February 4, 2025, the Office of Civil Rights (ORC) will be enforcing Title IX 2020 regulations and, in effect, invalidating the 2024 regulations. As a result, policy 412/2264 will be rescinded and policy 412/2266 will be amended.

1st Reading - Policy 761 - Food Service Meal Charging Policy for Delinquent Accounts

XI. COMMUNICATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION – FUTURE ITEMS

None.

XIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Anna Janusz to adjourn to executive session to discuss and take action regarding employee leave of absence request(s), professional staff employment update, and review and selection of bids for capital referendum project as provided under s.s.

19.85(1)(b), 19.85(1)(c), 19.85(1)(e), and 19.85(1)(f). Roll call vote to adjourn to executive session:

Steve Lambrechts - Yes, Adam Witkiewicz - Yes, Kevin Bong - Yes, Anna Janusz - Yes, and Ted Zess - Yes. Motion carried unanimously and the Board moved to executive session at 7:39 p.m.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to resume to open session per s.s.19.85(1)(b), 19.85(1)(c), 19.85(1)(e), and 19.85(1)(f). Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Anna Janusz to approve the purchase of the Daikin Medium Efficiency Chiller. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Steve Lambrechts to approve the leave of absences as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Anna Janusz and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lambrechts