

**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2013**

The East Troy Community School District Board met in special session on January 10, 2013. The meeting was called to order by President, Brian Wexler at 6:33 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Mike Zei, Martha Bresler, Murry Mitten, Dawn Buchholtz and Brian Wexler. Also present were Dr. Christopher Hibner, Kathy Zwirgzdas, Amy Foszpanczyk, administrators, 22 guests and one reporter.

Brian Wexler 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.

Brian Wexler offered an apology to the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee for his comment regarding the \$41 million dollar recommendation. Mr. Wexler acknowledged the Committee's long hours and work and stated that the Committee created a foundation for the Board to work with and a list of District needs to prioritize. Mr. Wexler stated that the Committee's work is greatly appreciated.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PER BOARD POLICY

Julie Erkamaa gave credit to the administrators and Board for their efforts that she believes are not recognized and thanked often enough. She recommends that referendum information be posted on the District website for the public to easily access and that the District should have a few open houses for the public to tour buildings in the District. She believes that the high school has been neglected over the years and that the public need to know.

Ann Zess expressed that there are several people that are angry about the "price tag" of the auditorium. She believes that this upcoming referendum can either be a set back or spring the District into growth; the Board needs to keep in mind how many students are leaving the District and what we [the District] need to do to retain students. She reminded the Board that decisions that are made now, will impact the District and students for many years. She felt that the prior referendum did not address many of the District's immediate needs and is scared that the next referendum will not pass, due to not having the correct priorities included.

Carol Zess questioned the educational value of an auditorium versus that of a STEM program and believes that if those two areas were separate on the referendum, that there would be more support for the STEM project.

Michael Erkamaa stated that he believes that the District needs to update their facilities and need to have a “backing” from the community to move forward.

Ann Probst compared East Troy to a small town in Michigan and believes that the facilities are subpar. She believes that a referendum is a good financial decision and that if the buildings are up to date, that people won't be as likely to school choice their children out of East Troy.

Larry Mitten believes that East Troy lacks pride in its schools and the District is in need of updated facilities. He stated that the District needs upgraded elementary schools, STEM programming and an auditorium, but the Board needs to make the priorities clear to the public.

Tim Griffin stated that the auditorium is a need not a want. He also stated he toured the current Tech Ed department and was appalled by what he had seen; STEM programming needs to be updated. He also stated he believes that the District website needs to be updated and that the District should use social media to get the word out about the referendum.

Paul Kielas explained that he has taught in the Tech Ed department for 36 years and that the last update to the department was the last ET referendum. He also explained that it is difficult to buy new equipment using the regular school year budget. He asked that the Board inquire about who would use the auditorium; he doesn't want the auditorium to be like the middle school stage. He assured the other speakers that graduation will *not* fit in the auditorium, unless there is a limit on how many guests each graduate may bring. He also explained that over his many years teaching in the Tech Ed department, there have been several trends; it's not necessarily what is being taught, but the new label that is put onto it. He believes that ET has moved with the times and is somewhat leery of jumping into “STEM”. He asked the Board to reflect on why students are leaving East Troy and/or the elective courses and what will retain/build those programs. He also asked the Board why they are repairing old buildings versus adding onto the Prairie View site and moving the administrative offices there as well.

Sue Griffin commented that the fifth through twelfth grade music programs have approximately 37 performances a year and that a gym is not an adequate venue. She also discussed other districts that have auditoriums and how they have to turn away outside groups and that their enrollment in music programs increased.

V. REFERENDUM OPTIONS

The Board, along with administrators and representatives from Bray Architects and Miron Construction discussed several referendum options. They began with two options from the prior meeting and one new option to discuss in further detail. Multiple other scenarios were discussed throughout the

evening. The option discussed in most detail included a new cost of approximately \$1.35 million to update Doubek's infrastructure. The option included a new heating system, air conditioning, roof repairs, electrical upgrades, restroom upgrades, asbestos abatement in areas that will be renovated, paint, new doors, and carpeting. The short term plan is to keep students at Doubek, with the long term plan being to build new at the Prairie View site for the grades currently in Doubek. When that transition occurs, the District Office, East Troy Alternative School, and possibly other new programs would utilize Doubek.

A motion was made by Dawn Buchholtz and seconded by Mike Zei for accepting a referendum resolution that includes a short and long term solution at Leona Doubek, construction of a driving loop at Prairie View, middle/high school security and high school renovations and additions including STEM classrooms and an auditorium for a total of \$19 million. Discussion included reducing the first referendum by the athletic improvements of \$500,000. Roll call vote: Murry Mitten, aye; Martha Bresler, aye, Mike Zei, aye; Dawn Buchholtz, aye; Brian Wexler, aye. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Murry Mitten and seconded by Dawn Buchholtz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Zei

These minutes will become official minutes pending approval of the Board of Education at the next regular school board meeting.