

**EAST TROY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2023**

The East Troy Community School District Board met in regular session on April 10, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Board Member Ted Zess at 6:00 p.m followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members also present were Dale Ames, Steve Lambrechts, and Adam Witkiewicz. Also present were Dr. Christopher Hibner, Amy Jenquin, Amy Foszpanczyk, Amanda Jones, administrators/supervisors, and four 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 Steve Lambrechts for the approval of the agenda and both amended agendas. The motion was seconded by Dale Ames. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Steve Lambrechts and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz for the approval of the minutes from March 13, 2023 (Regular Board Meeting). Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PER BOARD POLICY

David Amyx, resident, distributed materials for the Board to review. He indicated that he would like clarification around keyboarding, which is an elective that the district is choosing to have, along with any other non-required course offerings, as the district should be responsible in reporting on how these additional referendum dollars are spent. Mr. Amyx stated that Dr. Hibner is now charged with a mission of leading the district in transparency about how these additional dollars will be spent.

John Lightfield, resident, spoke to thank the Board and administration for the effort put forth in meeting with the residents of East Troy Community School District. Mr. Lightfield shared the challenge behind the lack of state funding not keeping pace with inflation for numerous years and that for a district not receiving adequate funding, the district in order to balance their budget must cut from the operational budget (salaries/benefits and programs). He indicated that changes must occur at the state level for schools to be properly funded.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Tabled to April 24, 2023 Regular meeting.

VIII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

A. Staffing Retirements: None

B. Staffing Resignations: Ted Zess made a motion to approve the resignation of Elle Maus. Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Outcome of referendum question: Dr. Hibner thanked the voters in the East Troy Community School District regarding the April 4, 2023 non-recurring referendum (3 million per year for the next three years) of 9 million to help maintain programming and staffing and investing in ETCSD and the children it serves. He stated that approximately 55% of voters were in favor/support of the referendum. He thanked everyone for taking the time to learn more about the needs of the school district, as well as the financial implications. The financial assumptions are still such that, as the district enters the 3rd year of the referendum (2025-26), the district faces a 2.0-2.2 million deficit. The district will continue to recognize that it cannot wait for year 3 (2025-26) to account for the 2.0-2.2 million deficit. It is important to recognize that the district has to be diligent, and continue to be fiscally responsible.

D. Health insurance benefits for 2023-2024 school year: Assumptions were built into the 2023-24 school year for increase of salaries at 4% for staff and health insurance at a 12% increase. The Board does not control the revenue limit, so factor is outside of the Board control. Dr. Hibner indicated that there is a balancing act of fiscal responsibility, alongside our Strategic Priority #2 of Healthy Organizational Culture. It is going to be important for the Board to consider the implications and balance during a very challenging labor market. Kirstin Kanoff (Salary and Benefits), explained the three options that are available for the Board to consider for the 2023-24 school year per the health insurance benefits. Dr. Hibner asked the Board to consider sending a potential advisory survey to staff to gauge their overall input into their preference of plan(s), as well as a potential bridge of support over time (weeks or months) to a potential provider switch. The Board discussed the implications of having staff complete a survey, based on the results. Ted Zess made a motion to approve surveying the ETCSD staff of two health insurance options. Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Administration budget proposals / programming for 2023-2024 school year: Baird model forecasts 2.2 million deficit in 2025-26 school year, but Dr. Hibner indicated it is important to remember that the numbers are fluid, with the state budget unknown, and other variables of huge consideration. Two things that the district can try to control are salaries and health insurance benefits. The revenue limit in the Baird model forecast was a \$100 per pupil increase. The Hold Harmless exemption will no longer be in effect for next school year. This needs to be a consideration to whatever the state level per pupil increase is set at due to the fact of the impact for one year of not having this exemption any longer. Administration will look at enrollments, course options, class sizes, and retirement/attrition. The district also still has a lot of capital and building maintenance needs that will need to be further discussed. On April 24th, the administration will bring forth the 2023-2024 budget proposal for consideration as it relates to staffing and programming.

F. Settlement Offer for Government Entity Claims Against JUUL Labs, Inc (lawsuit against national vaping manufacturers): Ted Zess made a motion to approve the Settlement Offer for Government Entity Claims Against JUUL Labs, Inc. Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

G. National social media litigation regarding mental health crisis: Dale Ames made a motion to approve the National social media litigation regarding mental health crisis. Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

H. 2023-2024 WiSNP (Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing) Agreement – Steve Lambrechts made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 WiSNP (Wisconsin School Nutrition Purchasing) Agreement. Dale Ames seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Updated special education transportation agreement with Dousman beginning next school year: Ted Zess made a motion to approve the Updated special education transportation agreement with Dousman beginning next school year (2023-24). Adam Witkiewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Overnight field trip request: Steve Lambrechts made a motion to approve the Overnight field trip request of the high school jazz band to UW-Eau Claire. Dale Ames seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

K. Preliminary staffing proposals: Moved to executive session.

L. Professional staff employment: 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: Summer School 2023 Update - Registration opened on April 3rd and closes on April 21st. Communication will continue to go out to grow the numbers at the middle and high school.

D. Director of Pupil Services: None

E. School Board President's Report: None.

X. POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

None.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION – FUTURE ITEMS

1. Dale Ames would like to increase the district's Marketing and Business relationships with local businesses. He would like to see the district increase enrollment by building these increased opportunities and partnerships within the community. He also suggested that perhaps the district needed a 'marketing strategy.'

XIII. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ted Zess made a motion to adjourn to executive session for the discussion of preliminary staffing proposals and professional staff employment – contract renewal / non renewal as provided under s.s. 19.85(1)(b) and 19.85(1)(c). Steve Lambrechts seconded the motion. Roll call vote to adjourn to executive session: Steve Lambrechts-Yes, Adam Witkiewicz-Yes, Dale Ames-Yes, Ted Zess - Yes. Motion carried unanimously and moved to executive session at 8:00 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ted Zess and seconded by Adam Witkiewicz to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lambrechts