



School District of Altoona

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Dr. Connie Biedron, Superintendent

www.altoona.k12.wi.us

ALTOONA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
District Board Room
809 7th Street West
February 1, 2016
6:30 p.m.

1. The Regular Meeting of the Altoona Board of Education was called to order by Board Vice President, Robin Elvig at 6:30 p.m. in the Altoona
2. Roll call was taken and the following were present and absent:
Helen S. Drawbert, President; Absent
Robin E. Elvig, Vice President
Michael J. Hilger, Clerk
Bradley D. Poquette, Treasurer
David A. Rowe, Member
Dr. Connie Biedron, Superintendent
Joyce M. Orth, Board Secretary
3. Reading of Public Notice. All posting requirements were met and posting places are noted: Altoona City Hall, Altoona Post Office, school district office, high school office, middle school office, and elementary school office.
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Rules for Meeting
6. Approval of Minutes. a. January 18, 2016 Special Meeting. Motion by Rowe to approve the January 18 Special Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Hilger. Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, abstain; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 3-0. b. January 18, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion by Rowe to approve the January 18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Poquette. Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0. c. January 28, 2016 Special Meeting. Motion by Poquette to approve the January 28 Special Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Hilger. Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0.
7. Public Participation. a. Non-Agenda items - public comment and concern. Dave Rowe recognized Altoona's 42nd Eagle Scout from Troop 90, Alejandro (A.J.) Rowe and noted A.J.'s project and fundraising efforts. Dave also mentioned that school start times were recently changed in the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District for the 2016/17 school year, and that 47 CVTC students from Altoona are named on the Dean's List. b. Agenda items - public comment and concern. None.
8. Treasurer's Report. a. Approval of Checks for Payment. Motion by Rowe to approve General Fund checks totaling \$918,776.08 and Student Activity Fund checks totaling \$123.30 as presented, seconded by Hilger. Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Information. **a. School Showcase.** (1) Student Representative's Report. Claire Pszeniczny shared recent events and activities at the high school including an ACT seminar, Locopalooza, registration for 2016/17 classes, STAR testing, and junior class conferences. Upcoming events include MORP, Valentine's Day, and the Music Booster's Valentine Dinner. Claire also shared an overview of the Interact Club. The Music Booster's Valentine Dinner will be held on February 21 at the Florian Gardens. (2) Impact Therapy. The school counselors, Amy Bauman, Brooke Kaldor, Heather Burich Holle and Jay Mielke presented the Impact Therapy approach that the counselors have been using to reinforce concepts. The approach, which combines creative counseling techniques and theories, is action oriented. (3) Depot. Heather Burich Holle, also shared an overview of the ninth-grade transition program called, Depot. The program utilizes a ninth-grade staff and upper-class mentors that work directly with freshman students. Students are assigned to a freshman-only study hall, and have access to homework help as well as help with study and organizational skills. Heather also reviewed NC data as of early-November 2015. All students with D- and NC grades were required to remain in a Depot study hall. **b. Committee Reports.** (1) Parks & Rec Committee. Board representative, Brad Poquette, shared highlights from the January 25 meeting. **c. General Information.** (1) Candidates for School Board and Ballot Order. Mike Hilger announced the ballot order for the candidates for the two school board seats in the spring election. First on the ballot is David Rowe; Bradley Poquette will be listed second. (2) Policy Discussion: Policy 424 – Participation of Non-Public School Students in District Courses and Activities. Policy 424 was discussed. The amendment reflects Wisconsin statute 118.133, which allows home-based education program students to participate in interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in their resident school district on the same basis and extent as enrolled students. **d. President's Report.** (1) 2016 State Education Convention. Highlights from the Convention held January 19-22 in Milwaukee were reviewed. (2) Legislative Breakfast. The Chippewa Falls school board will host the legislative breakfast at the Avalon Hotel and Conference Center on February 22, 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. (3) WASB Legal and Human Resources Conference. The WASB will offer this conference February 25-26 in Wisconsin Dells. If attending, board members will register with Joyce by February 15. **e. Superintendent's Report.** (1) Parent Advisory Committee. Dr. Biedron shared the topics of discussion from the January 28 meeting. Topics included were the Citizen's Community Federal Rail's Branch at the intermediate school, state testing, building projects, the change in start and end times, etc. Information about the special education parent liaison services program was also reviewed. (2) Cluster A Board Retreat. The Augusta School District will host the 2016 Cluster A Board Retreat on February 17 starting with an optional tour at 6:00 p.m. Tom Thibodeau, Viterbo University, will present, "Showcasing Servant Leadership." (3) Reports Related to 2nd Friday in January Pupil Count. Reports as of January 8, 2016 were reviewed. As of that date, 1573 students were enrolled, with 212 nonresident open enrolled students attending in the district, and 123 resident students who attend school in another district. The adjusted pupil count of 1,510 compares to 1,519 in September. (4) On Track for the Future! Building Project Update. The current status of projects was reviewed. (5) Studer Education Update. To date, the results of the Employee Engagement Survey have been shared with special education and building-level staff. Dr. Owen will present the results of the Employee Engagement and Support Services surveys to the board on March 7. (6) Early Retirement and Proposed Amendment to the Handbook Language. A revision titled Voluntary Early Retirement was distributed, and discussed. Changes made and reflected in this version include an early retirement benefit for professional educators with 9 to 14.99 years of service. See 10.e. (7) Proposed Staffing Changes. Staffing changes proposed for 2016/17 were reviewed. Changes include the addition of full-time positions: two middle school teachers, a custodian (need to be determined) and a school psychologist. In addition, elementary teacher positions would be reduced from 32 to 28, and two middle school aide positions would be eliminated; the part-time high school study hall aide position would be increased to full-time to include coordination of online programming. See 10.f. (8) Other Meetings, News and Events (Items announced in this category are not intended for discussion). Two Altoona students represented the Interact Club at today's Rotary meeting.

10. Board Action after Consideration and Discussion. a. Consider Retirement of First Grade Teacher. Motion by Rowe to accept the retirement of Kathleen Carlson, grade 1 teacher effective at year end 2015/16, as presented, seconded by Hilger. Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0. b. Consider Retirement of Elementary Art Teacher. Motion by Rowe to accept the retirement of Donna Walther, art teacher effective at year end 2015/16 as presented, seconded by Poquette. Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0. c. Consider Employment Recommendation to Fill Special Education Paraprofessional/Aide Position. Motion by Rowe to employ Douglas Titera as .75 paraprofessional and .25 recess supervisor for a limited term (remainder of the 2015/16 school year) as recommended, seconded by Hilger. Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0. d. Consider a Modification of the Professional Educator's Early Retirement Incentive for Those Who Retire at the End of The 2015/16 School Year. Motion by Elvig to amend the current voluntary early retirement incentive for professional educators found on page 24 of the Professional Educator Handbook to allow employees who retire at the end of the 2015/16 school year and who will be at least 54 by September 1, 2016, to apply for and receive District payment of 50% of the District's share of the health insurance premium for active employees until the retiree reaches age 57. At that time, the District will begin paying the full District contribution at the time of retiree's retirement until the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare (currently at age 65) or dies. Motion second by Poquette. Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0. e. Consider Amendment of Voluntary Retirement Clause. Motion by Rowe to amend the Voluntary Retirement Provision contained in the Professional Educator Handbook (page 24) with the revision distributed at the board meeting and titled Voluntary Early Retirement, seconded by Hilger. Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0. (See 9.e. (6)) f. Consider Approval of Staffing Changes for 2016/17. Motion by Poquette to approve the staffing changes for 2016/17 in their entirety as presented, seconded by Hilger. Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0. (See 9.e. (7)) g. Consider Application for New Cooperative Team Sponsorship - Wrestling. Motion by Rowe to approve the application for new cooperative team sponsorship with Regis High School for wrestling, seconded by Elvig. Hilger, yes; Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0.
11. Adjournment. Motion by Rowe to adjourn at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Poquette. Poquette, yes; Elvig, yes; Rowe, yes; Hilger, yes; Drawbert, absent. Motion carried 4-0.

The next Regular Meeting of the Altoona Board of Education is scheduled for Monday, February 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the District board room.

Joyce M. Orth CAP, Board Secretary

District Clerk

Date

The vision of the Altoona School District, in partnership with our students, their families, and our community, is to build a foundation for life-long learning and the emotional well-being of our students. We are dedicated to offering large school opportunities with a small school approach.