

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EDGAR  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER  
April 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Corey Mueller at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Corey Mueller

**Roll Call:** 5 school board members + 1 student representative (Corey Mueller, Gary Lewis, Becca Normington, Pam Stahel, Carver Higgins) 3 administrators (Cari Guden, Lisa Witt, Megan Koroeh), 32 guests.

**Oath of Office:** Alison Reinders was sworn in as the newest School Board member, after being elected on April 4. She will take office April 24.

**Public Participation:** None.

**Staff/Student presentations:**

- Morgan Mueller presented the quarterly finance report. The quarterly tax is due April 30. The next referendum will be due in 2026 or 2027. Morgan is watching spending. Budget cycle – on track with the budget. Admissions are up since COVID. Ended teacher spending in March. 2023-2024 budget process: looking at a deficit due to paint booth costing more than expected. A salary increase averaging 5% is proposed. CPI is 8%, and want to keep salaries in line with CPI. Health insurance proposals: Expecting to switch to Aspirus. Transportation: Board approved a 5% increase last month. Next year's budget: Considering enrollment, staffing changes. The DPI proposed budget includes increased funding per member on revenue limits, increased per pupil aid, and special education. ESSER funds are ending next year. Building improvements are taking place.
- Cari Guden reviewed teacher and support staff wages. She looked at teacher compensation increases at other schools, with the average increase being 4.48% (increases ranged from \$8.68 to \$1.78). An average increase of 5.2% is proposed for Edgar. We are #23 in the state. Support staff salaries: proposed increase average 4.6% for the state. Edgar's proposed increase is 6.1% (20<sup>th</sup> out of 149 districts). The proposed increases are factored into the budget. Increases are given as a flat dollar amount that averages out to the 5.2% increase.
- Lisa Witt presented a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) review: PLCs are looking at data. Conducted a survey about the curriculum assessing strengths and weaknesses. Monthly meetings are being conducted. ELA is the priority this year. Tom McCarty is reviewing process, monitoring the MS/HS CIP. Teaching about mental health, ACT scores are in, but incomplete. Forward test data is not in yet – will be a guide for next year. More will be reported about this in June.
- Cari Guden and Lisa Witt discussed School Safety and Drills: Safety is one of the top priorities. The school conducts required drills and extra drills. Lockdowns and holds are

conducted with Officer Geske. They reported that they find holes to fill and improvements to make with each drill. Nothing is black and white, and an actual emergency cannot be predicted. Elementary: Procedures are part of our safety plan. The office takes in 35 changes per day on how kids will get picked up. The school needs to be strict so kids get where they need to be. All visitor traffic must come through the front door for safety. The school is planning inservice time to practice scenarios: Table top disaster plan with limited time to react. Lots of credit goes to office staff to know who to let in the doors.

### **Administrative Reports:**

- District Administrator: Cari Guden shared her March meeting schedule. She reviewed preliminary open enrollment counts: the school has received 2 applications to enroll in and 4 applications to transfer out, three of these are 4k kids we have never had. The 2023-24 employee handbook will be discussed in May. Board members have copies for review. Changes are due prior to the Friday before the May School Board meeting. The May meeting time was changed to 4:30 on May 17.
- Elementary principal: Lisa Witt reported that summer school has 256 students enrolled. Summer school will be held Monday-Thursday, 8- noon. Preschool screening: 20 students are enrolling in 4k – a small class size. Some chose 5 days a week, others opted for M/W/F. Forward testing was held April 3-14 for 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade and middle school. Reading 2 days, math 2 days. B.e.s.t. screening: data meetings held today (April 17); happy improvements. Fastbridge testing is coming up May 1-12 – reading and math. Family Fun Night last night featuring Emanuel’s Dream (A Walk in Their Shoes), and Emanuel at several schools today and tomorrow. Earth Week is April 24-27. Science night is April 27. Report cards were sent out April 11. Administrative professionals day is April 26. Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12.
- High school principal: Tom McCarty reported that Forward testing is finished. Senior dates include: portfolio interviews continue, Scholarship and Awards night is May 17. Graduation is May 26 (Board members to arrive at 6:40). Valedictorians are Rachel Schneider and Natalie Krause. A mock accident will be held at school on April 21.
- Special education update: Megan Koroch projected 94 students will be in special education next year. Special education is retaining all staff for next year. Spring games will be held April 20, with 215 participants expected. April 5 was Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, celebrated with a breakfast for paras. Conducting a climate culture survey to see what to improve next year. The mental health committee is working on a grant for the school to receive \$75,000 for 2023-2025 mental health navigator, staff training and more.
- Student Report: Carver Higgins reported on high school spring sports underway. Prom/post-prom will include prizes, bowling, companionship. Large group choir will be April 20. Band will travel to Madison Opera House next week. FBLA: Rachel Schneider moved on to nationals. Parking lot: students proposed solutions for the school to

consider. Students would like to have digital clocks in hallways. Students want to use the weight room after school when they are not in sports. Students propose that a coach be scheduled to be in the weight room on certain days of the week to allow students to lift with supervision.

**Board member report:**

- None

**Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of prior meeting agendas and minutes, financial statement and bills for payment:
  - A motion was made by Pam Stahel, seconded by Becca Normington, to approve the agenda and minutes for the March 8, 2023, regular school board meeting, as well as the financial statements and payment of bills. Motion carried 5-0.
- Personnel:
  - A motion was made by Becca Normington, seconded by Megan Wesolowski, to approve the following (the motion carried 5-0):
    - 2023-23 Compensation for Teachers – a 2-step increase on the compensation plan, for an average increase of 5.2%
    - 2023-24 Compensation for Support Staff – a dollar-amount raise for hourly staff to remain competitive, an average 6.1% increase.
    - 2023-24 Support staff compensation plan – an increase of \$1 for each level of the compensation plan.
    - 2023-24 school calendar
    - 2023-24 teacher contracts
    - Elections – results and oath of office (conducted earlier in the meeting to allow Alison to attend regional New Board Member orientation)
    - Teacher retirement – Kevin Ruplinger
    - Co-curricular coach retirement – Tom Baumann
    - Co-curricular coaching changes - track
    - Staff hires (none)
    - Support staff retirement – Mr. Unger
- Policy:
  - Wellness Triennial Assessment – Policy #8510 Wellness
  - Neola updates (second reading) of several policies. Policy #5250 was eliminated because it was a duplicate of another existing policy.
  - A motion was made by Megan Wesolowski, seconded by Gary Lewis, to approve the policies above. Motion carried 5-0.
- Finance:
  - A motion was made by Pam Stahel, seconded by Corey Mueller, to approve the proposed Aspirus Health Insurance Rates for 2023-24. Motion carried 4-0 (Becca Normington abstained)

- A motion was made by Pam Stahel, seconded by Becca Normington, to approve the Delta Dental Rates for 2023-24. Motion carried 5-0.
- ESSER budget – no changes were made. No vote was needed.

**Public participation:** A guest proposed the school add into the curriculum a project to construct and sell additional dwelling units (tiny homes), with multiple learning opportunities. Trempealeau Schools have such a program.

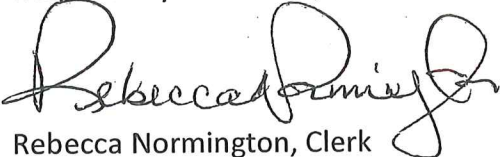
**Board suggested future agenda items**

- EATS building recommendation
- School Board reorganization following election

**Adjournment:**

- A motion to adjourn was made by Pam Stahel, seconded by Becca Normington. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca Normington, Clerk