

D. C. EVEREST AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
6300 Alderson Street, Schofield, Wisconsin 54476

Special Meeting

May 24, 2010

5:00 p.m.

MINUTES**1. Call to Order**

The Board met at 5:00 p.m. for the spring retreat.

2. Roll Call

Attending were board members Helen Ackermann, Joshua Dickerson, Mary Hancock, Jason Jablonski, Rita Kasten, Larry Schaefer and Diane Stroik. Also attending were Superintendent Gilmore, Assistant Superintendents Owens and Alt, cabinet members Thomas Johansen, Steven Pophal, Randy Weller, Casey Nye, Ronald Foreman, Julianne Fondell, Kimberly Hall, and Jennifer Zynda; teachers DJ Huddleston, Lynn Burzinski, Ann Wiernik, Brian Engebretson, Beth Umlauf, Barbara Lawrence and Beth Schultz.

After a brief dinner, 5:15 Gilmore opened meeting by asking those present to introduce themselves and tell why they are excited about the district.

3. Community Survey Discussion

The survey was distributed and questions assigned to each group.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?	WAS THERE ANYTHING SURPRISING?	RECOMMENDATIONS?
<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People want a wide range of course offerings. • People support K-2 lower class size but not as strong a support for low class size in grades 3-5. • Respondents value participation in clubs, sports, etc. • Community does not overwhelmingly support an alternative school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some questions did not include cost, but respondents were still supporting. • Expected support for clubs, sports, etc. to be a bit higher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower class sizes K-2. • Offer a wide range of courses for all students.
<p>Group 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers can be interpreted many ways. • Need to compare all answers • Community does value summer school (52%), but not as highly as other items on survey (clubs, drama, sports – 86%). • Drivers education is important (66%) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in summer school was consistent with or without transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open school libraries during summer to keep books in students' hands. • If summer school is offered, make sure there are no barriers.
<p>Group 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the people who took survey, there was significantly support for increase in fees. • Regarding before/after school programs with/without transportation: • Overwhelming support for after-school – do early start times prohibit before? • A place for kids to be with supervision. • Transportation not that important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support to increase fees in these times...surprised people did not say "hold the line in taxes." • Even with tough times, there is a good base of people who are not willing to cut no matter what. • Uncommitted makes it hard to read. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan to look for future – (fees should go up, but still be manageable). • After school programming – pursue this, but perhaps not transportation.

<p>Group 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public understands the importance of preparing students for continued education beyond high school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-year old kindergarten – always that that was valuable & important, yet over 50% felt it was not important or had no opinion (possible price tag attached?). Noncommittal on the offering of online classes...expected more people to think it was important. Pleasant surprised that results indicate a support in gradual tax increase to provide necessary resources & programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jump start this summer: Continue to think about cost effective way to decrease the gap that kindergartners arrive with. Educate public that the gap students enter kindergarten with exists and the cost increase that is involved. Educate (clarify to) the public in AP courses being offered and number of students participating in such programs. Educate the parents "outside the box to work inside the box!"
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There was then a general discussion about the value of the survey and tonight's discussion. Important items were:

- Variety of courses.
- Strong extra & co-curriculars.
- Support to increase fees.
- Critical to educate for beyond high school.
- AP classes and communicating results to the public.
- Online courses.

There was discussion as to the best way to educate the public about the responses to the survey: Let public know this was the response and the district will take action on the responses. If the public doesn't like the action, let them know they should respond to surveys. Most important thing is to keep the public informed.

4. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Rita A. Kasten, Clerk

Elizabeth M. Schultz, Secretary to the Board

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not the official minutes of the Board of Education until they are approved at the June 22, 2010 school board meeting.