

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MARCH 30, 2009 (5:30 PM)

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the counties of Scott and Muscatine met for their Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 30, 2009, pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, at the Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Patt Zamora called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. (The earlier time was scheduled due to conflicts for two board members later in the evening.)

The following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors; Nikki DeFauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Absent: Director Richard Clewell and Superintendent Julio Almanza. Sitting in for the superintendent was Executive Director Ethel Reynolds. Student board members present for the meeting included Austin Laugen and Rebecca Briesmoore from Central High; Amber Renard and Rebecca Emry from West High.

COMMUNICATIONS

I. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. ~~Wednesday, April 1, 3:45 PM, Legislative Advocacy Committee, Conference Room B, Administration Service Center~~ Meeting was cancelled.
- B. Monday, April 6, 7:00 PM Regular Board Meeting (Public Hearing for Community Input on Amendments and Budget at 7 PM)
- C. Wednesday, April 8, 3:45 PM, Board Policy Committee, Conference Room B, Administration Service Center
- D. Monday, April 13 – Spring Break – No School
- E. Thursday, April 16 – Kindergarten Roundup Day
- F. Monday, April 20, 5:30 PM, Additional Committee of the Whole meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room (Tentative)
- G. Monday, April 27, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center
- H. Open Forum – Seven people talked about the need for a new band/orchestra room at Walcott. One person talked about school drop out rates.
 - 1. Grant Leacox, 201 40th Avenue, Blue Grass, 7th grade, talked about jazz band and all the distractions for students at Walcott who have to use the cafeteria as a classroom. It is difficult for students to hear while staff members are preparing meals in the kitchen; water has been leaking on instruments from holes in the ceiling when it rains; the storage room is too small to store equipment properly; and there is a need for some new area for the music students at Walcott.
 - 2. Troy Gipple, 14 Timberline Drive, Blue Grass, talked about the condition of the music area for students at Walcott. Troy shared his concerns about the percussion assembly and students who meet at 8 in the morning. It is very difficult to practice because of the kids coming in for breakfast at the same time we practice. We have a temporary wall but that doesn't keep the noise out. Percussion instruments are loud and equipment can be damaged with water leaks from the ceiling. It doesn't leave a very good impression with visitors to Walcott and the storage space is extremely small. Troy said he won't have a chance to use a new music room but he was speaking for

- students in the lower grades who will follow him in their musical pursuits.
3. Lynne Leacox, 201 40th Avenue, Blue Grass, has three children involved in music and feels music is an important part of the curriculum. We have excellent staff at Walcott working to make music a priority for students. They understand the joy of music, how it helps with discipline, and health of students. They work with students on deciding what instruments they should play and instructors are keeping the program going under difficult circumstances. We appreciate what the Board can do to make this better.
 4. Tina Gipple, 14 Timberline Drive, Blue Grass, shared her perspective as a parent and felt this discussion involves all students who have a right to performance instruction. The room is inappropriate for teaching a class and we have waited 23 years for something to be done. We are tired of trying to make this work and improvements need to be made. The work is needed now and parents don't want to wait while other priorities seem to take over again. We have been patient, but now are growing tired. We hope the Board will address this situation at Walcott and take some precise action to place music instruction as a priority at the building. Five other intermediate schools have music rooms, but not Walcott. Mrs. Gipple said Troy was her son and she was pleased he wanted to talk tonight. She went through a list of problems with the current music area such as being in the corner of the cafeteria, rehearsals at 8 AM when kids are eating breakfast, distractions while meals are prepared in the same area, achievement compromised, safety concerns for the equipment, wall space inadequate, and students have difficulty staying interested under these circumstances. Please do something as a Board to make improvements in the music area at Walcott.
 5. Kent Dubberke, 6441 131st Street, Blue Grass, talked about his concerns with the condition of the music area at Walcott. So board members could understand the noise problem, two students demonstrated practicing on their instruments as Mr. Dubberke spoke to the Board. Other people made noises that were distracting during the presentation. Mr. Dubberke talked about the cooks working in the same area as the students were practicing, having a very small area to study, and other inadequacies for the music program at Walcott. He hoped this demonstration would help the Board understand the problem better.
 6. Kim McDonald, 9 Elm Wood Drive, Blue Grass, talked about her experience with music and working with Mrs. Hill at Walcott. Mrs. Hill was giving lessons to one class in the cafeteria and it was almost impossible to hear what was being said. She had to scream to get the kids to hear her instructions. The room is next to the cafeteria and not conducive to a good learning environment. A new music room needs to be away from this kitchen area and in a quiet space so students can concentrate.
 7. Donna Dubberke, 6441 131st Street, Blue Grass, thanked the Board for the opportunity to bring the music room concerns to their attention. The parents wanted to illustrate the problems for students and how difficult it was to concentrate with all the noise. The cooks are preparing food from this area for about 2500 students in the district. It is noisy and not an appropriate learning environment for the students at Walcott. She felt music was a fundamental part of being human—like having a mother sing lullabies to her baby, having the radio playing, or just think about the movie “The Titanic” without having music as a part of the story. The Walcott band room is in a corner now but with the one-cent sales tax dollars, we hope there can be a

new place for music education at the school. She knows it takes time to sort out all the priorities for district improvements and parents want to know when these decisions would be made. Please make this a priority when you come back with plans for our building. Since February 23 when we first spoke, 980 instructional hours have been compromised with these poor facilities. Learning potential has been lost but you can give students the spirit of excellence by approving a new music area at Walcott. Please make this a priority for our students at Walcott.

8. Jim Collins, 6415 Patrick Pointe Road, Davenport, addressed a recent article in the *Quad City Times* about drop out rates. He appreciated the fact our numbers are going down in Davenport, and we are ahead of other schools in Iowa with our programs. Other school districts have had an increase in drop out rates, while Davenport numbers have gone down. Mr. Collins was a parent of five, and grandparent to ten children. As a representative of the community, he was concerned about the 255 students who dropped out last year and the 300 the previous year. Our numbers are going down, but that are still a lot of students who dropped out. If we don't invest today for the future, we will not have a future. "You can't teach them until you reach them." If the kids are on the street they are being taught things but those are negative habits. Mr. Collins applauded what we are doing and wants to convey this is most important. As a citizen, he was here so the Board knows the numbers are still unacceptable. We have to come together and figure out how to stop the children from leaving our schools. He called on the Board today to find out about programs that are keeping students in school and apply them here. He will continue to come back to the meetings until we work out a better system for our kids. He thanked the Board for what was being done. He will not go away until we make this happen together.

CONSENT AGENDA

II. CONSENT AGENDA

To conserve time and focus attention on non-routine matters on the agenda, the Board considered a number of items grouped together as a Consent Agenda, all items to be approved in one motion.

A. Reading of the Minutes of the Last Regular and Intervening Meetings

The minutes from the last Regular Board Meeting and intervening meetings were presented for approval as follows: Regular Board Meeting March 9, 2009 and Committee of the Whole March 16, 2009.

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Johnston, Christy Girls' Varsity Soccer North High	12% \$3,198.00
Schiffke, Timothy Sr High Cheerleading North High	19% \$5,064.00
Tangen, Meredith Girls' Assistant Varsity Track West High	10% \$2,665.00
Voss, Tonya Girls' Assistant Varsity Soccer West High	8% \$2,132.00

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Bell, Kimberly Title I Family Involvement Liaison Buchanan Elementary	Effective: March 10, 2009 Salary: \$10.58/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Burrage, Charlesetter Food Service Cashier II Madison Elementary	Effective: March 10, 2009 Salary: \$8.58/hr Hours: 4.25 hrs/day
Cox, Michelle Food Service Worker Sudlow Intermediate	Effective: March 30, 2009 Salary: \$8.21/hr Hours: 2.5 hrs/day
Ehlinger, Sadie Para Educator Sudlow Intermediate	Effective: March 13, 2009 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Hedgecock, Paul Custodian Washington Elementary	Effective: March 11, 2009 Salary: \$11.89/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Malito, Jodie Para Educator Smart Intermediate	Effective: March 9, 2009 Salary: \$8.79/hr Hours: 5.5 hrs/day
Thomas, Frederick Para Educator Central High	Effective: March 11, 2009 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Thomas, Shanequa Food Service Worker Williams Elementary	Effective: March 30, 2009 Salary: \$8.21/hr Hours: 2.5 hrs/day

RETIREMENTS: ADMINISTRATIVE

McClurg, Linda	Effective: June 30, 2009
Director Human Resources	Years of Service: 5 yrs 11 mos
Administration Service Center	Total Yrs. Of Service: 8 yrs 10 mos

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Nisly, Jenelle	Effective: End of 2008-09 School Year
TAG Facilitator	Years of Service: 7 yrs 10 mos
Williams Intermediate	

RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Gustafson, Peggy	Effective: End of 2008-09 School Year
Science	Years of Service: 21 yrs
North High	

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Buening, Rebecca	5%
Technical Director	\$1,333.00
Central High	

Darland, Douglas	8%
9 th Grade Volleyball	\$2,132.00
Central High	

Meyer, Emily	8%
7 th Grade Volleyball - 2 nd Team	\$2,132.00
Walcott Intermediate	

Peiffer, Barry	7%
Girls Cross Country Track	\$1,866.00
Central High	

Peiffer, Barry	10%
Boys' Assistant Varsity Track	\$2,665.00
Central High	

Schiffke, Timothy	10%
Assistant Sr High Cheerleading	\$2,665.00
North High	

Van Hulle, Michael	10%
Girls' Varsity Assistant Track	\$2,665.00
North High	

APPROVAL OF BILLS

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

A resolution was recommended by the Administration for adoption of bills.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the following: "Resolved all claims presented to the Board having been duly certified as correct by the Secretary, reviewed by the administration and board members, and they are hereby audited and allowed as just claims and warrants drawn on the Treasury for the several amounts. Further Resolved, the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented, with the exception of one voided check #258849 to Hy Vee for \$39.54 (wrong vendor)." Director De Fauw seconded the motion.

Director Tupper was concerned with Check #258606 to Airtran for \$7,500 and asked that this check be considered separately from the rest of the list. Board members agreed to amend the motion to exclude check #258606 and consider it separately.

ACTION: The vote on the motion to approve the bill list with one voided check #258849 and to exclude Check #258606 to be considered separately was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Roberson, De Fauw, Tupper, Johanson, Krumwiede, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

Separate Action on Check #258606

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board approve Check #258606 to Airtran for \$7,500. Director Johanson seconded the motion.

Director Tupper said in reviewing the bills, he saw this check was for a deposit for travel in July. He figured we would be looking at \$30,000 in air line tickets to have 100 people attend a conference out of town. He calculated with meals and lodging, it could amount to \$100,000 in expenditures for staff development. Director Tupper felt the District could hire two new teachers for this amount of money. At this time with the type of budget problems we face, the Board should not approve this expenditure.

Mrs. Reynolds explained this staff development was tied in with the High Schools That Work and Middle School Initiatives programs (part of Title dollars). The administration examined this expenditure also and had concerns. However, after talking with the administration, they felt this staff development was effective and people have brought back ideas to share in their buildings to help with student achievement. They will be doing something different next year and have noted the concerns about travel expenses.

Mrs. Tangen said the source of the funding for this staff development was not from general funds but from DINA dollars. We have a contract with the High Schools that Work program and we have to pay for the training which is conducted out of town as part of the contract. Director Tupper asked for an estimate of the conference expenses we have in the contract. Mrs. Tangen said it was no where near \$100,000 but she didn't have the contract with her tonight. She will try to get this information to the Board in their packets on Friday.

MOTION TO POSTPONE

Director Tupper moved the Board postpone action on releasing this check until the next board meeting. Director Johanson seconded the motion.

Director Krumwiede noted this was not money coming from the general fund or a part of the budget so it can't be used to hire more teachers. If this is part of a contract, we have to follow the plan outlined. Director Tupper thought we shouldn't be obligated to spend the money to travel and could have someone come here to train instead and use the money for something else. Mrs. Reynolds noted the money has to be spent for staff development training. Director Tupper felt the District could bring in people to train staff instead of having our people go out of town.

President Zamora asked about the contract obligation. Mrs. Tangen said she would have to bring that information back to the Board. Vice President Roberson talked about going forward with this item for travel because we have to pay for the staff development already in place. Director Tupper noted this was for the next fiscal year and they are trying to pay for the travel now. President Zamora noted this was just a deposit for tickets in order to hold a lower price when tickets are actually purchased.

Director Johanson asked about problems that would arise if the Board set this aside and didn't send in the deposit check. Mrs. Tangen wasn't sure of the terms of the contract with Airtran for travel in order to hold the lower priced ticket rate.

ACTION ON MOTION TO POSTPONE: (Failed)

The vote on the motion to postpone was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Tupper, Johanson, De Fauw. Nays: Roberson, Krumwiede, Zamora. The vote was tied so the motion failed.

ACTION ON ORIGINAL MOTION: (Carried)

The vote on the motion to approve Check #258606 to Airtran for \$7,500 was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Johanson, Roberson, Krumwiede, and Zamora. Nays: Tupper, De Fauw. Motion carried.

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**IV. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION****A. Bid #590 -- Harrison Elementary Heating & Cooling Renovations**

The administration recommended Bid #590 for heating and cooling at Harrison.

MOTION: Director Krumwiede moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation to accept the lowest, responsible, responsive Bid #590 received from Ryan & Associates, Davenport, IA in the amount of \$708,900 for the heating and cooling renovations at Harrison Elementary. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Krumwiede, Tupper, Johanson, De Fauw, Roberson, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Bid #592 – West High Boiler Replacement

The administration recommends Bid #592 for boiler replacement at West.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board approve Bid #592 for the lowest, responsible, responsive Bid #592 received from Johnson Contracting Company, East Moline, IL in the amount of \$424,170 for the boiler replacement at West High School. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

Director Tupper asked for the rationale for this project being done now with the budget situation as it is. Mr. Scott Martin said the Board heard about the reasons previously which stated this boiler was 50 years old and one of the boilers was put out of service by the State due to its condition. It is unsafe and the repairs needed to maintain this would not be practical. If we would have a problem with this boiler in the winter, it would be very serious and expensive. Director Tupper noted then the project had a real sense of urgency for safety reasons.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Roberson, Tupper, De Fauw, Krumwiede, Johanson, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

V. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Budget 2009-10 & Budget Amendments 2008-09 Updates

Mrs. Tangen was available to address concerns or questions from the Board dealing with the proposed budget for 2009-2010 and the amendments for 2008-2009. The budget information was originally presented during the March 16 Committee of the Whole meeting. Director Tupper asked about how the Board could structure the budget with additional resources. Mrs. Tangen first spoke about spending authority. Even though we have extra money in our fund balance, within the next two years we could have a negative balance with expenditures going way they are. We can't keep spending on long-term commitments and we have to look at the fund balance staying positive. Director Tupper wondered if there were ways we could use other funds to help the general budget items. Mrs. Tangen explained several years ago they looked at items to move from the general fund to PPEL and Local Option funds. Buses used to be out of the general fund but now we lease the buses and this expense can come out of PPEL. There just isn't anything else we can move to provide additional funds in the general budget. We looked at technology and some expenses may come out of PPEL or Local Option. Out of the \$400,000 for technology, some expenses have to come out of the general fund for software and licenses; equipment may be able to be moved for up to \$100,000 but that depends on how it is used.

Non-categorical expenses of \$1 million were for the new accounting software and data collection. We have to keep old licenses for technology until everything is moved into the new software programs. This expense was needed because of the outdated system and it couldn't accommodate our

needs anymore with a very old program and State requirements for financial recordkeeping. Director Tupper asked about the expenses for Edison Education and Mrs. Tangen explained how this worked. The contract said we wouldn't spend more for Edison than we would spend normally on Jefferson School. We have worked at computing the costs and we make adjustments for expenditure reimbursements.

Director Tupper had questions about the number of employees we listed in the last audit and wondered what our current FTE was now. He thought it looked like we had an increase of 165 employees and he didn't know where they were placed. Mrs. Tangen said she would have to get back to him with exact figures for his question. Mrs. Reynolds responded many of the staff increases have to do with grant dollars coming in for a specific time period. Director Tupper didn't think that many people would be hired for grants and he wanted more information on the increased numbers.

Vice President Roberson asked about the people who are helping out students as liaison agents. They check up on the kids and help them stay in school. He said Mr. Collins spoke at Open Forum about the drop out rate, and we have lowered those numbers. In going forward with our budget, will we reduce any of these positions which are helping reduce our drop out rates? He had concerns with getting grant money for programs and then not having money in the general fund to make them sustaining programs. Mrs. Reynolds noted the liaison employees are paid out of Allowable Growth dollars. We hope to keep these positions open since they are having such a positive reaction. Mrs. Tangen noted at a recent funding stream meeting, they looked at ways to make sure the special funds are not cut for this type of program.

Vice President Roberson said he was in Florida recently and they are laying off 1000 people in the school system because of budget shortfalls. But our District actually has some money we can spend and we could borrow. We are being very careful with having a positive budget and not having a negative balance. He also talked about the unemployment in Pontiac, Michigan and they are thinking of laying off the whole school district. He appreciated the work of our staff in keeping this at a high level and a positive budget.

Director Tupper hoped the Legislative Advocacy Committee may want to look at the funds available for drop out prevention and any legislation which could affect the funding stream we need. There were questions about the stimulus money and when we would receive funds. Mrs. Tangen said we could get a first payment in April but we don't know the qualifiers with the funding. We will have to show the impact of the dollars and may have to have specifics on the children helped. Payments would probably be in April and October and there will be an ICN conference this week that can answer some of our questions.

Director Johanson had questions about Allowable Growth funds. Mrs. Reynolds explained there are specific Allowable Growth dollars for at-risk children that we use. We call this Allowable Growth but it is different from the State formula. We use this Allowable Growth money for drop out prevention. The Board continued to talk about State budget cuts, recent revenue projections for the State, and affects of the stimulus dollars. Mrs. Tangen said the intent of the

stimulus money was to first backfill reductions the State was making and it is earmarked for education. Director Johanson said at the Legislative Forum on Saturday, the legislators were not informed about the money and how it would be used. Mrs. Tangen said she has been in contact with Margaret Buckton at IASB who was trying to explain the stimulus funds. The states don't have a choice and have to fulfill the commitments from last October to fully fund districts with the stimulus dollars. The State has to make the budget whole first before spending the money elsewhere.

President Zamora commented about the drop out rate article and noted the numbers were from last year and our numbers this year should be even better. She also said our budget has to be figured without the stimulus money. Mrs. Tangen said we won't know about the stimulus dollars until after the budget needs to be certified by the State. President Zamora said this was a wise decision not to count those dollars. If we get the stimulus money, it will be a bonus for us.

Director Tupper brought up the intermediate staff changes in team time and he would like to meet with the intermediate school principals to discuss this change. Mrs. Reynolds said other reductions are also being considered such as the elimination of a high school administrator, reduction in the nursing staff, and other items. Mrs. Tangen said they are working with the principals on staffing formulas. Vice President Roberson said he had a number of e-mails about the teaming time reductions and people say they are making growth through this process. Mrs. Reynolds said they are working with the middle school staff and looking at how this affects the schedule. They will not completely eliminate team time but we are working out a plan to have some form of team time. Director Roberson also hoped the District would use more technology next year for training and working with the kids. A lot of students do better in front of a computer and that is a more successful way to reach them.

Director Tupper wanted to have the intermediate principals meet with the Board before the budget was approved. President Zamora wasn't sure that was possible and she would have to talk with the Superintendent to see if that can be arranged on such a short notice. Mrs. Reynolds said the next meeting with the intermediate principals will be on April 14 and they could do something after that time for the Board.

The public notices were published in the Quad City Times on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 announcing the meeting on April 6 @ 7:00 PM as the time for public hearings on the amendments and budget items. The hearings will be at the beginning of the Regular School Board Meeting in the Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center on April 6.

B. Budget Guarantee Resolution

Mrs. Tangen talked briefly about the budget guarantee resolution the Board should make so the District receives a budget guarantee from the State for 2009-2010. The wording for the resolution was included in the budget book presented on March 16. Action on the resolution can wait until next week on April 6 when the Board will vote on the budget and budget amendments. The resolution for a budget guarantee will need to be taken prior to the State deadline in April whether the district is eligible or not.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS**

There were no additional reports from the administration or requests for information from board members.

VII. BOARD REPORTS

Director Johanson talked about attending the Legislative Forum on Saturday, March 28. Our Board resolution about the early start date was mentioned. The legislators appreciated knowing how we felt about this matter and wanted to be informed about things relative to legislation being considered.

President Zamora thanked the people who attended the Saturday meeting with legislators and for working on the resolution.

Director Krumwiede explained how he and Director Johanson were going to have to leave early tonight in order to attend an Iowa Association of School Boards' ICN meeting at North High at 7:00 PM. The workshop was on community, media, and legislative relationships. They were honored to have been asked to share with other districts our vision process as part of this workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board adjourn. Director Tupper seconded the motion. By consensus the Board agreed to adjourn.

President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary