

REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 6, 2009

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the counties of Scott and Muscatine met in open session for their Regular Board Meeting on Monday, April 6, 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 7:00 PM.

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. Superintendent Julio Almanza and other administrators were present for the meeting. Student board members attending were Austin Laugen and Rebecca Briesmoore from Central High and Brion Coleman from North High.

BOARD GOAL, OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES 2008--2009

Director Krumwiede read the mission and vision statements: "The Davenport School Board will actively support the efforts of the superintendent, district, staff, and families to ensure continuous student achievement for all students. The vision statement is: "Education that challenges conventional thinking, prepares all students to compete in a global society and inspires our students, parents, staff, and community to answer the question, "What if?"

PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing Amendments to the Budget 2008-2009

President Zamora announced this was the time and place for the Board to conduct a public hearing Monday, April 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street. The public hearing was for the purpose of amending the current school budget by changing estimates of expenditures in the areas of instruction, total support services, non-instructional programs, or total other expenditures. President Zamora stated any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed amendments.

There were no requests to speak during the Public Hearing on the amendments to the 2008-09 budget; no written objections were presented. President Zamora declared the public hearing closed. It was noted a copy of the amendments to the current 2008-2009 budget appeared in the *Quad City Times*, on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Action on the budget amendments would take place later in the meeting to meet the April 15, 2009 deadline.

B. Public Hearing for the Proposed District Budget for 2009-2010

President Zamora announced this was the time and place for a public hearing on Monday, April 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street on the proposed 2009-2010 school district budget. She stated any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.

There were no requests to speak during the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for 2009-10; no written objections were presented. President Zamora then declared the public hearing closed. It was noted a copy of the detailed budget appeared in the *Quad City Times* on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. Action on the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget would take place later in the meeting to meet the April 15, 2009 deadline.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION****A. Amendment to the 2008-2009 Budget**

A recommendation from the administration was made to approve the 2008-2009 amendments to the budget.

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation to amend the 2008-2009 Certified Budget in the area of Instruction from \$111,562,416 to \$111,677,701; Total Support Services from \$41,413,350 to \$44,463,515; Non-instructional Programs from \$6,594,635 to \$8,121,429; and Total Other Expenditures from \$27,099,760 to \$28,511,083. The reasons were redefinition of functional expenditures and identification of additional funding sources. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

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

B. Proposed Budget for 2009-2010

A recommendation from the administration was made to approve the proposed budget for 2009-2010.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board accept the recommendation from the administration for adoption of a Proposed Budget Estimate and the Tax Levy rate for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year for total requirements as published and presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. The proposed property tax rate per \$1,000 taxable valuation will be 17.09412; the total requirement for the proposed 2009-2010 budget will be \$231,983,534. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

There was a period of time for discussion of the proposed budget. Questions were asked about the property tax rate and the impact of staff reductions for programs in the district. Mrs. Tangen noted the tax rate would remain the same as last year with no increase. The superintendent and other administrators spoke to the matter of program impacts. They talked about middle schools and how the principals were looking at schedules and the use of time in their buildings. They were directed to utilize more instructional contact time with students and they will have to reduce areas such as team time or course offerings. Mr. Almanza showed a prepared graph showing a historical review of the budget, modified allowable growth, and expenditures from FY2000 to FY2010. He explained the spending authority and expenditures shown on the chart. We are spending significantly more than we will get from the State in the future. We have attempted to put more money into areas the Board has requested such as drop-out prevention and reading programs. The gap is increasing, and if we continue following this trend, we could end up with a gap in spending authority the State allows and what we spend. We are bringing the budget in line and were charged to benefit all children in our schools while increasing our fund balance. We have accomplished those goals and believe it is prudent to approach the proposed budget in this manner. We will have impacts for the District but we can weather the changes.

Mr. Almanza also talked about having two years of stimulus money and then it will stop, so we can't use this to figure our budget. We don't have the information we need at this point and the budget has to be certified to the State by April 15. Director Tupper commented about the recovery package to the State he heard about on Friday. Mrs. Tangen noted we are only showing our spending authority and the stimulus money is not reflected in the budget. Mrs. Reynolds was asked to talk about the implications of the proposed reductions to staffing. She explained how the principals were looking at numbers but would have to wait until registration to make additional recommendations for their buildings. The Board was told about Smart Intermediate School not offering Spanish next year because of a decrease in the demand for this class. The numbers are low for the Spanish class and Smart will keep some team time instead. At Wood Intermediate they will not have team time but will offer other options during the student contact day or look at before and after school and the Wednesday early dismissal days. Collaboration can be a part of staff development according to Mrs. Reynolds.

Dr. O'Melia addressed questions dealing with exploratory offerings which will have the most impact next year. There could be higher class sizes and we will eliminate courses where the numbers are too low. We will continue to offer the core courses in the curriculum and whatever is required by law. Each school was given an FTE and the list of required classes that are determined. The principals are looking at staff availability and student requests. Director Tupper expressed his disappointment in learning about these decisions at this time and not prior to approving the budget. The superintendent said the administration talked about reductions earlier and they were continuing to review plans with principals. Much of this depends on what registration yields for electives before cuts are made.

Mr. Almanza emphasized the proposed budget was for spending authority and estimated revenue. The Board will decide on how they may exactly spend dollars later. The revenue estimates have been posted in the paper and can't be raised at this point in time. We are still planning on the impact of the budget based on our spending authority and revenues available for next year. Director Tupper noted the budget could be amended at a later point, but this was very difficult for the Board to vote on without knowing the full impact of this budget. Vice President Roberson shared the same concerns and asked when the Board would know the details on what was going to happen in buildings. He wondered about the impact on student achievement with reductions in staffing and course offerings. He wanted to know more about the impact of teaming and if outreach areas would be affected. He commented about the reduction of a Spanish class and what that would do to student achievement at Smart. The Board had asked for more information on the impact on student achievement before.

Mr. Almanza explained how team time has been used for the last 13 years and asked if board members felt this was really making a difference with student achievement. Vice President Roberson responded if the administration didn't think team time was working, why they didn't tell the Board before instead of coming to them in a crisis. The superintendent talked about the unexpected reduction in revenue from the State because of the economy. We are addressing these matters and trying to offer the best education we can for all students. Student achievement happens in the classroom with teachers and children working together. We establish resources and attempt to offer a variety of exploratory classes for enrichment. We will continue to maintain the required courses, but electives with low numbers may change. We see the value of the electives but are required to offer certain classes by law for student achievement. Mr. Almanza talked about how the Board wanted equitable course offerings but expressed concern about time lost when students are transported to other schools. The administration doesn't know what to expect down the way as far as future revenue or cuts from the State. We are using our resources carefully so we don't have to put off tough decisions now and in five years have to cut \$4 or \$5 million out of the budget. We are trying to plan ahead now and don't have all the answers at this point but still have to propose a budget by the deadline date the State has set.

There was discussion about the number of students needed in a course to hold the class and how flexible can the buildings be with registration. The administration was getting the information to the Board as quickly as they could but the Board has to make the final decision regarding the budget. Vice President Roberson felt like this type of discussion was good to have so people in our community can hear the obstacles the district has to face. The public needs to know how the decisions are made and the reasons behind the choices we have to make. Director De Fauw talked about enrichment classes and thought it was easier to eliminate these types of courses even when they benefit students. She expressed concerns with a trend as North High had eliminated German and now Smart Intermediate was thinking about eliminating Spanish classes. She wondered if students were being discouraged from taking language classes so numbers went down and courses could be eliminated. Students will need language classes to advance to the next level and for college.

Student board members were asked their opinion on enrichment courses being offered. Austin said we had taken several AP classes because they were more stimulating and he wanted to be with other students who really were interested in learning and being challenged. Some students are only taking classes for graduation and not necessarily for the sake of learning. Rebecca talked about having four years of Spanish and she planned to minor in this in college. She also took advanced math and engineering courses because that was the area that interested her the most. Brion choose engineering classes so he could learn more for his career. Spanish classes were good and students learn about different cultures in those courses. He wished he could have taken German at North but it wasn't offered anymore. It is good for students to learn about the global market and customs in other countries.

Director Johanson had questions about the graph presented by the superintendent on the maximum authorized budget. The administration answered additional questions about the graph and what the lines showed for future trends. They talked about enrollment decreases, shortfalls, and reserve funds. Mr. Almanza again spoke about spending authority and allowable growth projections. Director Krumwiede mentioned articles the Board had read recently about how other school districts in Florida and Michigan were making cuts. He works with the AEA and districts all over are making difficult decisions regarding budgets and expenditures. He said the superintendent talked with the Board about team time and options we would have to make. If we don't make these decisions now, we will have to make options in the future to close schools or cut classes or increase class sizes. We have listened to the administration and have had conversations about the problems ahead. The Board needs to allow the administration to choose the methods that are in the best interest of our students and buildings. Each building has different needs and we must trust the central administration and leaders involved with making the best decisions given the budget constraints presented.

Director Tupper understood the difficulties with preparing the budget and problems caused by the State funding. He said the Board talked about travel and gave some ideas about ways to reduce expenses. His major concern was the Board needed to have discussions at the board table earlier. We need to have information prior to the last minute when decisions are made. He understood the administration was limited by the State and Federal government restrictions. Director Tupper thought the stimulus package was requiring the State to fill in the approved funding they promised in the fall and would backfill Title 1 and Special Education funds. The superintendent responded with ways the administration has been meeting goals and offering options to students. He felt the administration was addressing concerns of the Board and were identifying students who were potential drop outs. The Board can see the benefits of how the money has been spent for these purposes.

President Zamora commented about asking the administration to balance the budget and do miracles at the same time. We have had team time for 13 years and we don't have any proof this is improving student achievement. She felt it was logical to ask the administration to balance the budget and since there was no data about middle schools having team time and showing improved student achievement, why do we continue to have this? The budget has a deadline from the State for approval. We want the administration to predict the future and they don't know the impact until changes are made. We are still being flexible and can make changes in the budget if it doesn't suit the needs of the children. The stimulus money is a one-time funding

stream and it may have restrains. The Board has to be responsible with the budget. President Zamora was very disappointed, however, to learn about the reduction in the Spanish class in 7 and 8th grade at Smart and was worried about the long-term affect this will have for the students when they want to take a language in high school. She supported the work of the staff in trying to come up with answers to difficult questions and believed they were doing things in the best interest of student achievement. She appreciated the work of the Board in trying to understand the budget and the impact before voting.

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

C. **Budget Guarantee**

The administration made a recommendation for approval of the budget guarantee at this time.

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board approve the following resolution for a budget guarantee as recommended: "RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District, consistent with Iowa Code Section 257.14, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2009-2010 in order for the regular program district cost to be 101% of the 2008-09 regular program district cost as allowed under section 257.14 Code of Iowa." Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Tupper asked for clarification regarding this resolution for action. Mrs. Tangen explained the budget guarantee was like an insurance policy and we can invoke taxes. We are not eligible for the budget guarantee at this time, but it was recommended by the State that we take action now in case we need it later. If we don't pass a budget guarantee at this point, we can't do it later. Director Johanson was troubled with the concept of the budget guarantee and wondered the probable impact on the tax rate. Mrs. Tangen talked about the funding and how we this would give us the authority to levy taxes to bring the District up to 101% of the regular program district costs. We don't know the figures now since we would have to know the cuts in State funding before we would use this. The superintendent said Iowa has allowed us through the budget guarantee to get up to 101% of the prior budget. It is not an absolute but if we had a cut in our funding, then we could levy the tax. We are only guaranteed the authority to levy tax but we don't have to do it.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Wednesday, April 8, 3:45 PM, Board Policy Committee, Conference Room B, Administration Service Center
- B. Monday, April 13 – No School – Spring Break Holiday
- C. Thursday, April 16 – Kindergarten Roundup at Elementary Schools
- D. Monday, April 27, 5:30 PM Closed Session Superintendent's Evaluation; and 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center
- E. Monday, May 4, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, West High IMC
- F. Open Forum – There were no requests to speak at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

IV. 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 Meeting

The minutes from the last Regular Board Meeting March 30, 2009 were presented for approval.

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Leaves, Supplemental, Etc.

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Estes, Geoff Assistant Sophomore Softball North High	7% \$1,866.00
Johnston, Eric Girls' Assistant Varsity Soccer North High	8% \$2,312.00
Kern, Zachary Girls' Assistant Varsity Track North High	10% \$2,665.00 prorated to \$1,903.50 for 10 weeks remaining in the season
Melton, Dick Assistant Varsity Softball North High	14% \$3,731.00
Toohill, Mary Girls' Assistant Varsity Track North High	10% \$2,665.00 prorated to \$1,522.80 for 8 weeks remaining in the season

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Heitz, Heather	Effective: March 30, 2009
Food Service Worker	Salary: \$8.21/hr
Wilson Elementary	Hours: 2.5 hrs/day

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Nemmers, Jeremy	Extension of Unpaid Leave of Absence
LOA	Effective: June 8, 2009 – end of the 2009-2010 school year

Swift, Traci	Unpaid Leave of Absence
Language Arts	Effective: 2009 – 2010 School Year
Wood Intermediate	

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Schaffert, Danielle	Unpaid Leave of Absence
Para Educator	Effective: April 3, 2009-June 5, 2009
Children's Village Hoover	

ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA**RESIGNATION/TERMINATION: CLASSIFIED**

Nichols, Penny	Effective: March 30, 2009
Para Educator	Years of Service: 2 yrs 1 mo
Walcott Elementary	

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of the Addendum to the Personnel Section. Director Johanson seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION****A. Bid #598 -- Central High Gym Restroom Addition**

The administration recommended Bid #598 for approval.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation to accept the lowest, responsible, responsive Bid #598 received from Ryan and Associates in the amount of \$97,400. As the result of value engineering, we recommend a change order to deduct \$7,500 – Adjusted contract amount would be \$89,900. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Johanson was curious about the value engineering process and the relationship between the budget estimate and the bids received. Mr. Scott Martin talked about the original construction estimate and how it should have been readjusted to current times. Director Johanson also asked if there were guidelines used that would make the administration reject all bids when they go over a certain

percentage from the budget estimate. Mr. Martin said they were comfortable with the bids that came in and felt the valuations were right. He explained some of the things they looked at were unforeseen when they first made the budget estimate and dealt with exhaust systems. All of the bids came in with close numbers, so we believe this was the correct amount at the current time for the work proposed.

Director Tupper brought up the next bid to be considered and this was also over bid from the estimated budget. He wondered if the reasons for the higher numbers were due to the market or something unusual in the work force now. Mr. Martin felt some of this was market driven and there was a lot of interest in the work. The architects couldn't tell him why the prices were going up so much but felt it was a competitive market place. They thought the \$150,000 budget for Walcott was too low in that bid. The bids for Walcott were close and costs will increase in the future.

Director Tupper wondered about future projects Mr. Martin mentioned and Mr. Martin said it depended on budget funds. He hoped prices would not continue to increase. President Zamora asked for an explanation of value engineering on this project. Mr. Martin said they will take out something not required in the project. He talked about the storage space area and how they will make changes to use value engineering to reduce costs. He mentioned tiles in several areas. It was too late to adjust the specifications for the bidding but we could reevaluate the project and still maintain the things we needed. Mr. Almanza asked Mr. Martin to explain at what point we reject all bids. Mr. Martin said there wasn't a percentage but we talk to Mrs. Tangen about those types of situations. We know this went over the estimated budgeted amount but there wasn't any mistake in the bidding.

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

B. Bid #599 -- Walcott Restroom Renovation

The administration made a recommendation for approval of the lowest, responsible, responsive Bid #599.

MOTION: Director De Fauw moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation to approve the lowest, responsible, responsive Bid #599 received from Precision Buildings in the amount of \$195,200; and as a result of value engineering, we recommend a change order to deduct \$19,665.45 so the adjusted contract amount would be \$175,534.55. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

Director Johanson noted his previous concerns with this project when other things were needed at Walcott, such as a band room. He also thought the price had been estimated at \$144,000 at that time and wondered if the scope had changed. Even with value engineering the cost was \$25,000 more than before. He asked Mr. Martin to talk about the sense of urgency with this project.

Mr. Martin explained how the current bathrooms didn't meet the ADA guidelines and there was ADA money to do the work. We have targeted to get this project done. The second issue deals with sanitation conditions of the bathrooms. There are ventilation problems and we can't clean these areas properly anymore. There will be a number of improvements with the new renovation including touchless soap dispensers, ventilation improvements, better air quality, and upgrades. Privacy issues have been a big concern for the boys' bathrooms and we need to fix this at Walcott School. Director Johanson mentioned this sounded like it was a high priority item and we do have ADA funding to use on the costs for renovation. Mr. Martin

said this also was using PPEL funding for the work and it was a high priority for staff, students, and the community. Mrs. Tangen explained that money had been set aside for ADA improvements and identified in the budgets. Mr. Martin said they don't like to put one project over another, but there was a definite need for this renovation at Walcott. At this time there isn't proper side clearance for the toilets in the bathrooms, the sinks don't meet ADA standards, and the mirrors are too high. Those were just a few of the problems as well as air quality and ventilation.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS

President Zamora mentioned Local Government Day on Thursday, April 28 and the opening ceremonies at City Hall at 8 AM. She was not available to attend and asked for someone from the Board to make some comments at the event. Director Tupper said he would be an alternate but would prefer to have someone else attend. Director Krumwiede said he was available and would say a few words on behalf of the Board.

VII. BOARD REPORTS

Director Krumwiede attended the Central High variety show and congratulated the students on their performances. Director Krumwiede mentioned the Iowa Stories Reception planned for Thursday, April 30 at 6:30 PM at Williams Intermediate School. This is an event honoring retired teachers and intermediate students are preparing an oral history project with stories about retired educators. He went to Smart Intermediate and spent three hours being interviewed. There will be a lot of interesting stories told that evening and everyone was invited to attend. Director Tupper asked for a follow up from last time about travel and would like a report to clarify some of our practices. Mr. Almanza explained the information would be included in the Board packets this week. Director De Fauw mentioned an event going on at North High tonight where over 600 students and family members were enjoying music from the honor choirs and vocal groups performing for families and community members. President Zamora mentioned a special award CFO Marsha Tangen was receiving from IASBO and \$1000 to attend the next international convention. Someone will be coming to Davenport to present the award to in the spring. President Zamora noted the Board would meet for an Exempt Negotiation Session (closed) following the adjournment of this meeting.

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 8:15 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary