

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

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, September 29, 2008 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 Richard Clewell; Nikki DeFauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. The superintendent Julio Almanza and other administrators were present. Student board members in attendance were: Brion Coleman (North High); Austin Laugen and Rebecca Briesmoore (Central High); Amber Renard (West High); and Kat Austin and Mike Lagrange (Kimberly Center).

BOARD GOAL, OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES 2008--2009

Vice President Roberson read the Board Goal: "Davenport School Board will actively support the efforts of the superintendent, district, staff, and families to ensure continuous student achievement for all students." He emphasized the objective that we expect all students to make a minimum of one year's growth in reading, math, and science as measured by the Iowa Growth Model. President Zamora added the Board would also be working on policies tonight to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

The Board President welcomed the two newest student board members from Kimberly Center: **Katharine (Kat) Austin** and **Michael (Mike) Lagrange**. The students joined others at the student board table and participated in the discussions during the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

I. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Monday, October 6, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, Jefferson/Edison (There will be a tour of the building at 5:15 PM prior to the meeting.)
- B. Wednesday, October 8, 3:45 PM, Legislative Advocacy Committee, Administration Service Center, Conference Room C
- C. Monday, October 13, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center
- D. Wednesday, October 15, 3:45 PM, Board Policy Committee, Administration Service Center, Conference Room B
- E. Thursday, October 16, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, Meet the Candidates Forum (Iowa State Senator and Representatives), Madison Elementary School, Auditorium
- F. Monday, October 20 – Possible Board Workshop (details pending)
- G. Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 PM, District Annual Retirement Dinner, Clarion Hotel in Davenport – **tickets available in Superintendent's Office** (Reservations required by October 15 to assure a seat at the dinner.)
- H. Open Forum for Community Input – No one asked to speak.

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. An addendum was added for additional personnel recommendations. The changes are shown in **BOLD** below.

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

The minutes from the Organizational and Regular Meeting held on September 15, 2008 were presented for approval.

B. Preschool Meal Price Modifications

The administration recommended a reduction in the preschool breakfast price to \$1.00 and preschool lunch price to \$1.85.

(Note Only: The previously approved price for preschool breakfast was \$1.15 and preschool lunch was \$2.10 – April 14, 2008.)

C. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Abbott-Hass, Karen
Floating Teacher
Children’s Village Sites

Degree: B.A. – Step 3
Effective: October 1, 2008
Salary: \$30,030.00 prorated to \$28,406.76
(175 days of 215 day contract)

Alexander, Julie
Kindergarten
McKinley Elementary

Degree: B. A. – Step 11
Effective: September 29, 2008
Salary: \$40,950.00 prorated to \$34,530.81
(156 days of 185 day contract)

Nau, Beth
Kindergarten
Harrison Elementary

Degree: M.A. – Step 11
Effective: September 18, 2008
Salary: \$45,045.00 prorated to \$39,566.48
(162.5 days of 185 day contract)

Prouty, Susan
Nurse
Monroe Elementary

Degree: B.S.N – Step 8
Effective: September 22, 2008
Salary: \$42,502.73 prorated to \$30,480.048 (150 days of 185 day contract) + \$3,765.18 (30 days of 45 day contract @ .63 fte)

ADDENDUM ITEM ADDED 9/29/08
APPOINTMENTS: NON-BARGAINING CERTIFICATED

Martin, Anita
Curriculum Specialist, Science
Administration Service Center

Degree: M.A.
Effective: October 1, 2008
Salary: \$68,344.00 prorated to \$55,008.58
(165 days of 205 day contract)

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Bernet, Julie	7%
Flag Line Instructor	\$1,866.00
North High	
Harris, Mitzi	5%
Vocal Music	\$1,333.00
McKinley Elementary	
Kresse, Sam	7%
Girls' 7 th Grade Basketball	\$1,866.00
Williams Intermediate	

Correction to 8/25/08 Board Agenda:

Long, Gary	6%	RESCINDED
Department Head (.5)	\$799.50	
Smart Intermediate		

Schiffke, Timothy	10%
Assistant Sr High Cheerleading	\$2,665.00
North High	
Shelley, Hannah	7%
Girls' 7 th Grade Basketball	\$1,866.00
Williams Intermediate	
Smiley, Jodi	6%
Intramurals	\$1,599.00
McKinley Elementary	
Voss, Tonya	8%
8 th Grade Volleyball	\$2,132.00
Williams Intermediate	
Wilbricht, Jennifer	6%
Department Head (.5)	\$1,599.00
Smart Intermediate	

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Briones, Christina	Effective: September 23, 2008
FNS Worker	Salary: \$8.21/hr
Smart Intermediate	Hours: 2.5 hrs/day
Carr, Mia	Effective: September 23, 2008
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.44/hr
Adams Elementary	Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Chism, Eugene	Effective: September 22, 2008
Juvenile Court Liaison	Salary: \$29,016.00 prorated to \$24,292.44
Wood Intermediate	(180 days of 215 day contract)
	Hours: 8.0 hrs/day

Dahm, Caryn Para Educator Adams Elementary	Effective: September 26, 2008 Salary: \$8.79/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Graves, Patricia FNS Cashier I Walcott	Effective: September 12, 2008 Salary: \$8.42/hr Hours: 3.0 hrs/day
Gutierrez, Sarah FNS Worker Williams Intermediate	Effective: September 29, 2008 Salary: \$8.21/hr Hours: 2.5 hrs/day
Hoeksema, Vanessa Para Educator Smart Intermediate	Effective: September 19, 2008 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 6.0 hrs/day
Hoskins, Carlos Para Educator Wood Intermediate	Effective: September 8, 2008 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Jones, Laci Para Educator Madison Elementary	Effective: September 15, 2008 Salary: \$8.79/hr Hours: 2.0 hrs/day
Knepp, Melissa OST Associate Field Coordinator ASC (housed at Young)	Effective: September 22, 2008 (Corrected 9/29/08) Salary: \$27,473.00 prorated to \$21,626.35 \$21,344.41 (202 days of 260 day contract) Hours: 8.0 hrs/day
Kramer, Keri Juvenile Court Liaison North High	Effective: September 24, 2008 Salary: \$29,016.00 prorated to \$24,022.52 (178 days of 215 day contract)
Lemos, Ivone Para Educator Children's Village West	Effective: September 22, 2008 Salary: \$9.90/hr Hours: 6.25 hrs/day
Lingle, Teresa FNS Worker Central High	Effective: September 22, 2008 Salary: \$8.21/hr Hours: 3.25 hrs/day
Rowland, Tina Copy Center Operator Operations Center	Effective: October 2, 2008 Salary: \$11.52/hr Hours: 6.0 hrs/day
Van Camp, Nicole Para Educator West High	Effective: September 15, 2008 Salary: \$8.79/hr Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Brammann, Pamela Nurse Buchanan Elementary	Effective: September 30, 2008 Years of Service: 7 mos
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RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Hobbs, Jake	8%
9 th Grade Wrestling	\$2,132.00
West High	

Howard, Christopher	5%
Technical Director	\$1,333.00
North High	

Jones, Allison	14%
Assistant Varsity Softball	\$3,731.00
North High	

Jones, Michael	10%
Boys' Assistant Varsity Track	\$2,665.00
West High	

Smeltzer, Sherry	10%
Assistant Sr High Cheerleading	\$2,665.00
North High	

Stout, Ronald	14%
Girls' Varsity Tennis	\$3,731.00
West High	

RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Fuller, James	Effective: September 12, 2008
Para Educator	Years of Service: 17 yrs
Central High	

Paterson, Linda	Effective: September 15, 2008
Para Educator	Years of Service: 12 yrs
Eisenhower Elementary	

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Bray, Sandy	Effective: September 10, 2008
FNS Worker	Years of Service: 19 days
Central High	

Chism, Eugene	Effective: September 19, 2008
Positive Behavior Support Liaison	Years of Service: 3 yrs
Walcott	Reason: Other district employment

Dameron, Kelly	Effective: September 19, 2008
Para Educator	Years of Service: 11 mos
Central High	

Graham, Catherine	Effective: October 3, 2008
Para Educator	Years of Service: 3 yrs 10 mos
Children's Village West	

Hart, Brittany
FNS Cashier
Central High

Effective: September 19, 2008
Years of Service: 5.5 mos

Hodges, Theresa
Para Educator
Children’s Village Kimberly Center

Effective: September 23, 2008
Years of Service: 3 yrs 6 mos

Rowland, Tina
Clerk III
ASC

Effective: October 1, 2008
Years of Service: 1 yr
Reason: Other district employment

Turcinhodzic, Sanita
Para Educator
Washington Elementary

Effective: September 26, 2008
Years of Service: 4 mos

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Ingram, Patricia
Para Educator
Madison Elementary

Unpaid Leave of Absence
Effective: September 29, 2008 - September 29, 2009

MOTION: Director Krumwiede moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the addition of the addendum changes as shown. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

MOTION: Director Roberson moved, “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 #252382 for \$81. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

IV. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. BID #585 – Lease of Land @ Kimberly & Wisconsin/Public Hearing

The administration recommended the Bid #585 for lease of land at Kimberly and Wisconsin to Daron Oberbroeckling.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board approve Bid #585 for lease of 88 acres of district-owned land at Kimberly and Wisconsin for farming purposes from Daron Oberbroeckling for an initial two-year lease agreement (2009 and 2010) with the option of two additional years (2011 and 2012). The per acre rate for year one will be \$281.00. Year two per acre rate will be negotiated between the District and Mr. Oberbroeckling, as well as the additional two-year option per acre rate. Director De Fauw seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Bid #585 for lease of 88 acres of district-owned land for farming purposes at Kimberly & Wisconsin. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was declared closed.

Director Clewell had questions dealings with how bidders learned about the terms for negotiated rates for subsequent years. Mrs. Tangen responded the wording in the notices and bid materials would make this clear regarding the renewal process and rate negotiation. Director Johanson asked what the reasoning was behind the two-year options. Mrs. Tangen said this was the property we are in negotiations with the Armory where they may want to use the land in the future. We didn't want to go longer than two-years at a time. President Zamora explained to the students the District owns a number of parcels of farm land and since we don't use it, we lease it to farmers who want to grow crops. They take care of the land and harvest and we receive rent money.

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

B. BID #586 – Lease of Land @ 46th Street & Eastern Avenue/Public Hearing

The administration recommended the Bid #586 for lease of land at 46th Street and Eastern Avenue to Magnolia Crest Farms.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board approve Bid #586 for lease of 18 acres of district-owned land at 46th Street and Eastern Avenue for farming purposes from Magnolia Crest Farms (Norm Lau Jr.) for an initial two-year lease agreement (2009 and 2010) with the option of two additional years (2011 and 2012). The per acre rate for year one will be \$253.10. Year two per acre rate will be negotiated between the District and Mr. Lau, as well as the additional two-year option per acre rate. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Bid #586 for lease of 18 acres of district-owned land for farming purposes at 46th Street & Eastern Avenue. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was declared closed.

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

C. Board Policy Adoption, Revisions, and Reviews

The Board Policy Committee recommended approval of policies that have been previously discussed and will include corrected revisions in language. Director Johanson presented the motion for subgroups of policies. He also explained the policies were previously reviewed, modifications were made and sent to Lane and Waterman for review and revisions needed.

ADOPTION OF NEW MANDATORY POLICIES

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board adopt the two new mandatory policies listed:

- 503.05 Student Library Circulation Records
- 604.02 School Library

Director De Fauw seconded the motion.

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

REVISION (with addition of wording for grants)

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board accept the revisions made to the wording in the following policy as presented.

- 602.22 Programs for At-Risk Students

Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Vice President Roberson wanted to compliment the committee for adding the three additional items to this policy. He felt it gave the District specifics for working with at-risk students to help with student achievement. President Zamora also expressed appreciation for the work of the Policy Committee on this policy.

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

REVISIONS (Replace current policy with mandatory wording)

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board replace the current policies with the mandatory wording as revised for the following policies.

- 604.03 Use of Information Resources
- ~~604.07 Instructional Materials Selection~~ (removed by amendment)
- 604.10 Objection to Instructional Materials
- 605.13 Technology and Instructional Materials

Director Krumwiede seconded the original motion.

Director Clewell questioned the wording in #604.03, paragraph 4, where we needed to select the person who could assist with the process. The copy showed [principal, teacher or teacher-librarian—choose as many as apply or add others]. Director Johanson said the policy committee didn't define this. Director De Fauw asked for a recommended name. Director Clewell suggested we use "teacher-librarian" which followed other policies.

AMENDMENT: Director Johanson moved to amend the wording in policy #604.03 to use "teacher-librarian" as part of the revision. Director Clewell seconded the amendment to the wording revision.

The vote on the amendment to change the wording in #604.03 as revised was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Johanson, Clewell, Krumwiede, Tupper, Roberson, De Fauw, and Zamora. The amendment was carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION: Director Tupper had questions on #605.13 and the second paragraph about development of a plan for the use of technology and evaluating it annually. He said the administration provided a plan for selection and implementation of technology last spring. He felt this was actually a wish list and not a plan. He asked where the district was on an implementation plan for use of technology and how this could be measured for an evaluation.

Superintendent Almanza talked about technology and how steps have been taken to implement updates such as the fiber optic network and a replacement cycle for computers. We have a process for adoption of materials and reviewing software to make sure it is compatible. He was not sure how the evaluation was done, but there was an evaluation of the curriculum and various evaluation components going on in departments.

Juli Staszewski talked about evaluation methods in place for technology but it is difficult to evaluate whether technology is improving student achievement. She talked about digital photography classes that use technology and tools to create visual artwork, but how the technology used is evaluated is difficult. Director Tupper had trouble with the statement that the superintendent would report annually to the Board. Mr. Almanza said they can give a report each year on technology, but not sure if this would really be an evaluation or what tools they would use to measure. Director Krumwiede said when the policy was first adopted each school was to have a technology plan and some kind of evaluation. Mr. Almanza talked about the Technology Steering Committee and the reviews they look at dealing with improvements to instruction through technology and how the curriculum used new tools. Vice President Roberson thought the administration could report on technology on an annual basis.

Vice President had concerns about #604.10 and who was really given permission to develop regulations for reconsideration of materials. He felt this was the Board's responsibility. President Zamora felt there was some contradiction between #604.07 and #604.10.

Director Tupper brought up concerns with #604.07, third paragraph, "The Superintendent may develop another means for the section of textbooks." He didn't understand how the superintendent would be given this authority and

felt this policy needed additional review before being approved. There was discussion about having authority to develop administrative regulations and whether there needed to be standards created for the selection. Then Director De Fauw mentioned the note saying this was a mandatory policy although it stated we could edit the policy and regulations to reflect our philosophy, goals and practices.

AMENDMENT: Director Johanson moved to amend the original motion to remove #604.07 Instructional Materials Section from the recommendation. Director Krumwiede seconded the amendment.

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

VOTE ON THE AMENDED ORIGINAL MOTION:

- 604.03 Use of Information Resources (revised wording)
- ~~604.07 Instructional Materials Selection (removed by amendment)~~
- 604.10 Objection to Instructional Materials
- 605.13 Technology and Instructional Materials

The vote on the amended motion to replace the current policies with the mandatory wording as revised in policies, with the revised wording for #604.03 -- Use of Information Resources, and the removal of #604.07 -- Instructional Materials Section, was called and recorded as follows, Ayes: Johanson, Krumwiede, Clewell, Tupper, Roberson, De Fauw, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

REVISIONS (wording corrected per legal counsel)

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board accept the following policies as revised.

- 103.16 Advertising and Use of Commercial Support and Services
- 401.01 Employment Equity & Non-Discrimination
- 401.42 Harassment: Personnel
- 504.01 Discipline Policy
- 504.07 Harassment: Students
- 504.10 Anti-bullying/Harassment
- 605.10 Multicultural & Gender Fair Approaches to the Educational Program

Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Johanson thanked board members for their input during the earlier discussion period and recognizing some problems with the "protected classes" language which went beyond our current law requirements. We sent the policies to Lane and Waterman for review and the revisions have been presented.

Director Clewell brought up additional concerns he had with wording in #103.16 and advertising in our schools. He opposed using advertising and signs at our

school buildings and at the stadium. Director De Fauw understood his concerns which were brought up several years ago. However, at this time the revisions were dealing with other revisions in language and not the logo or advertising. We have vending machines and other advertising in the district but that would be a discussion for another time. Director Roberson questioned #103.16 and who had the authority to approve distribution of materials. He thought only the main office handled this and not individual principals or building staff. Mrs. Tangen explained the process and how schools were aware of the procedures for distributing internal and external materials and event information. Schools are able to make their own decisions regarding school related activities they are sponsoring and those items don't come to the administration for approval. Outside organizations have to get approval at the administration building. Director De Fauw asked the superintendent if there was anything problematic he saw in the policies. Mr. Almanza said this is consistent with our practices and it only came up because of the language changes for the policy.

President Zamora expressed her concerns that she felt the language was too broad for protected categories and could cause us problems. The definition of social economic status was not clear and you can't predict "potential" family status. Director Johanson brought up the urgency in moving the policy revisions forward if possible. President Zamora felt it would be worse to approve the policies then to pay a penalty if necessary. The superintendent mentioned that the wording was apparently part of the code and we were following the advice of legal counsel in the revisions. Vice President Roberson felt it was important to protect people from harassment and we needed to be respectful of the needs of people.

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

President Zamora noted we may need to bring these back for further consideration to make sure all of them are consistent since there were differences in the language in several of the policies.

REVISIONS (Minor updates for current policies in review cycle)

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board approve revisions in the following policies:

- 602.06 Curriculum Development
- 602.07 Curriculum Implementation
- 602.08 Curriculum Evaluation

Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Goal and Evaluation Workshop Planning

The Board talked about details to plan for a Board Goal and Evaluation Workshop on Monday, October 20, 2008. President Zamora asked where the meeting should be held, how long it should be, and if a facilitator was needed. Director Krumwiede asked whether a discussion about the vision would be one of the topics. President Zamora said there were several topics that could be considered – self-evaluation, visioning, board goals, and others as seemed appropriate. Director Clewell would like to have the board members be a focus group for the Vision Committee. Director Tupper asked to have part of the meeting spent on developing a calendar for the year on reports and action items which needed to be addressed.

The Board also talked about asking Richard Wahlstrand to facilitate the workshop again. The location at John Deere Davenport Works had been used before and Vice President Roberson was asked if he could find out if that would be available for the Board to use again for the workshop. The Board Secretary was asked to contact Mr. Wahlstrand to see about his availability to facilitate the workshop. President Zamora asked the Board to bring a list of topics they would like to have discussed during this year and areas of interest they want reviewed by the administration.

The outline should include: 1) Planning for the year; 2) Evaluation of our goals and the process we use; 3) Status of the vision and participation; 4) Superintendent evaluation process and update. It would take between about four hours to review all these areas, so the workshop should begin by 6:00 PM on October 20. Director Johanson asked about discussion of NCLB to see if we were on target for 2014. However, the Board felt this was a topic which needed to be discussed during a Committee of the Whole or a Regular Board Meeting and not at the workshop. Superintendent Almanza mentioned the Board Secretary was working on a data base of items the Board had discussed over the last three to four years which might help board members as they looked at topics they would like to have scheduled for the year ahead. President Zamora also said board members should look over our goals and come with some ideas about what we should keep or new goals to be added to the list.

B. UEN Priorities for 2009

Director Johanson said he attended the IASB assembly last year as a delegate and Larry Roberson will be the alternate this year. The IASB priorities could be considered as we look at the UEN list. President Zamora will be unable to attend the UEN meetings this year and Director Clewell said he would be willing to fill in for her on behalf of the Board at the November sessions in Des Moines. He would be there for the IASB convention and the UEN meetings run at the same time. Board members received copies of UEN priorities for the last few years and had time to study the listed recommended previously. They went through the items and discussed key priorities they would like to have the Urban Education Network work on during the 2009 legislative session. The list will be similar to last year and should include funding, early childhood, and professional

development. The point on the statewide option sales tax can be removed since that was already approved. We may want to include a note about collective bargaining, advocacy for local control, and a mandatory age of 18 for students to stay in school. There was a request from Director De Fauw to have one item added to the list for restoration or continuation of categorical funding.

Student board members were asked about their opinion dealing with some of these priorities. President Zamora asked about their thoughts on requiring students to stay in school until 18 years of age. The students responded they felt it would be a good idea to require students to stay in school longer. There were a lot of students who dropped out just because the age now is only 16 to stay in school. There really isn't anything kids can do at 16 with a job and they aren't adults yet. There is a lot we have to learn and the schools should make up stay in class and learn. The students agreed they would not be able to get a good job at 16 and they needed to remain in school. They were concerned that when students drop out of school, they get involved with gangs and end up selling drugs or getting in trouble. At 18 you can make better decisions and have more experience than at 16. The superintendent agreed and said at 16 kids are not ready to make life-long decisions, but bringing kids back to school who have been independent requires a change in the school setting. There are adjustments for older students and there has to be more flexibility for alternative school offerings. If we force students to stay in school but they don't want to learn, there are problems created for teachers and other students.

Director Tupper thought there should be some incentives for students to stay in school and make good grades, such as make this a requirement to have a driver's license. Vice President Roberson appreciated the input from students and thought we need to make changes in how we educate our young people. He wondered why the students thought their classmates dropped out of school and was it the way we were teaching or something different. The students responded it was outside of the school and community influence that students left school. They drop out because of other kids they hang around with and are influenced by gangs or peer pressure from their friends. The students who drop out need to be more involved with other activities available at school but they don't participate in outside events or clubs. Maybe the extra curricular activities need to be part of the school day so they can make friends and be successful.

Some students said kids drop out because they are mad about something and feel it is useless to learn. They leave because we only make them stay until they are 16 and they feel grown up because they left. Gangs and family problems were big issues for students who drop out. They say "What is the point of coming to school and learning when my life or family won't change what they do?" After school activities would really benefit these students because it might give them some alternatives and provide them with better experiences than what they get at home or in the neighborhood. A lot of students feel they are "invisible" at school because they don't excel and they have part-time jobs to support their families. They get along okay even though they don't make much money. But they don't realize they don't earn enough to make it on their own. Outside influences was also mentioned as the biggest influence on students. There are AP classes on-line but students don't have computers or money to pay for the better classes. Some of the courses are just too hard for students because they weren't interested earlier and don't have the background to go on with the coursework.

President Zamora asked the student board members to tell their friends and associates at their high schools that the Board and administration were very concerned about the drop out rates and wanted to help students stay in school. Director Tupper said the administration was making some progress on reducing the drop out rate and we are trying to address this. There are problems at home for kids that the schools can't fix. We are challenged to find ways to keep students in school and kids come to school with a lot of baggage and responsibilities. We have to move them along and transition them from childhood to adulthood. Maybe this should be something that UEN needs to address in their priorities and we should talk with the other UEN districts to see what they are doing about graduation rates. We want quality education for our students and to prepare them to be successful citizens. Director De Fauw agreed that we needed to work more closely with UEN districts on common problems.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS

No additional administrative reports at this time.

VII. BOARD REPORTS

Director Clewell mentioned he attended a meeting at EICC where he talked with food service personnel. There was a good dialog at the meeting with other districts and food service people were concerned about children rushing through lunch with only 25 minutes in and out. He commented about academic achievement being more than just grades; it requires families, businesses, and the community working together with our students. There should be more conversation about allowing students to relax longer at lunch, using nicer silverware, having conversations and building relationships. Students also mentioned the plastic ware they used for eating and it being a very rushed timed.

Director Krumwiede updated the Board on some of the recent vision meetings held with the NAACP, United Neighbors, higher education, DEA, parent and military groups. President Zamora said the Board was looking forward to hearing back about the statistics and notes from the vision meeting groups. Director Clewell hoped the board might consider this as a topic for the October 20 workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board adjourn. Director Roberson seconded the motion. Board members agreed by consensus. President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary

