

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
OCTOBER 6, 2008**

The Board of the Davenport Community School District met for the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, September 8, 2008, pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the library/media center at Jefferson/Edison Elementary School, 1027 Marquette Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Zamora called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson, and Larry Roberson. Directors Richard Clewell and Ken Krumwiede arrived at 5:50 due to a vision meeting earlier. Director Tupper arrived at 6:15 PM due to an earlier meeting. Director De Fauw left the meeting at 6:55 PM to attend another school event. Others present were Superintendent Julio Almanza and several administrators from the District, as well as staff, parents, and students.

JEFFERSON/EDISON REPORT

President Zamora welcomed and thanked parents, staff, and others from the community for coming to the committee meeting at Jefferson/Edison. Board members also expressed their appreciation to people from Jefferson School for hosting the meeting. They were glad to see so many families coming to the meeting and appreciated the warm welcome at this school. Mr. Almanza explained it was time to look at renewing the contract for Jefferson/Edison and the administration would be bringing forth a recommendation at some time. Part of the process was getting feedback from the Board and families involved. We have started the discussions on this and a parent survey was sent out for feedback. We will need to look at negotiating a contract and get back to the Board before the end of December.

Bob McGarry showed a PowerPoint presentation about Jefferson/Edison highlighting their progress and accomplishments over several years. The report provided information on the demographic overview, data, programs, survey results, and final comments. The report showed 93.6 percent of students are on free/reduced lunch for this school. The trend lines are showing improvements in math, reading, and science. The school has a mix of ethnic diversities and is using the Iowa Professional Development model to set goals for student learning. Mr. McGarry shared stories about conferences, training, parent involvement, and the dedicated staff who work with the students. He explained the structure for the school and also shared the positive results of the Harris Interactive surveys which were given to students, parents, teachers, and others. Their overall recommendation was to continue the partnership with Edison as it provides additional resources, a national educational perspective, professional development, and increases the emphasis on programming for the Hispanic population, which is growing. They are committed to educating all students regardless of ethnicity, academic level, or socio-economic status.

HIGH SCHOOL EQUITY IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Juli Staszewski presented the administrators who were reporting on the core curriculum for high schools. This included Kathy Learn, Betty Griffin, Laura Isele, Anita Martin, Ellen Reilly, and Mike Garnica. The presentation covered several topics: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Plan; Senior Year Plus; Iowa Core Curriculum; Advanced Placement courses; Concurrent Enrollment courses; Postsecondary Enrollment Options; and Internet-based courses. The Board learned about the state-wide effort to improve teaching and engage students in a rigorous and relevant curriculum. They are engaging communities, support agencies, and leadership in addressing an effective curriculum. The core curriculum sets high expectations, attends to learning needs, breaks through the achievement plateau, and addresses global and local challenges. The curriculum provides the concepts and skills for students to reach standards and benchmarks. The critical content areas are literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. According to Senate File 2216 starting July 1, 2008, each eighth-grade student shall develop a core curriculum plan to complete the core curriculum by the time they graduate from high school. The Board has to annually report to the students and parents the progress being made and there are other state components pertinent to the plan that must be followed.

Board members also saw the sample high school course guide for Central, North, and West. They looked at concurrent enrollment courses in Career and Technical Education (28E Agreement with Eastern Iowa Community College); and heard about Project Lead the Way college credit. There was a discussion about course equity among the high schools. Courses are open to all students and are based on enrollment. If there is no qualified teacher at a school, but the course is offered at another building, the student can be bussed to the other school to take the class. Examples of classes were listed: ROTC, vocational welding, Pro-Start; auto tech, occupational childcare, specialty programs such as Project Lead the Way, college accounting, outdoor education, AP Spanish, and AP US History. During the presentation board members asked a number of questions and had clarification on specific areas of concern. There was concern about equity of courses and board members felt they needed to have more conversation about the access to classes at all buildings. This might tie in with vision discussions at a later time and expectations of people in our community. Dr. O'Melia indicated they were aware of concerns and teachers may need to travel in the future. The administration may need to make arrangements for travel with teachers rather than to transport students. They need to have guidelines on class size and establish the final impact on the number of courses to be run in high schools. There was talk about AP classes for Kimberly Center students and also discussion about costs involved. Director Tupper and President Zamora wanted more progress being made for college credits for our students. If this was a matter of resources, then the Board should take an aggressive approach to funding. The superintendent was working with the colleges on this matter and elements needed to make it work.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Tangen said there was no financial report at this time and the Board doesn't get this until the end of the first quarter. She talked about the Edison program and they are meeting with people to start contract negotiation talks. Some general questions from the Board were answered about funding and costs.

#### OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Mr. Scott Martin gave a facilities update on projects which were being done from the first ten years of the Local Option Sales Tax revenue. We still have about ten months to go on those projects and then we need to have a ten-year plan for budgeting using the new money from SILO revenues. In the 9-10 years we have completed the construction at Kimberly Center, physical education renovation and expansion at North, and Sudlow window replacements. The Board heard about proposed remodeling projects at Eisenhower (exterior doors and windows); Fillmore (increased classroom size); Harrison (air conditioning); Jackson (windows and IMC); Walcott (music addition, multipurpose room, and new gym); Smart (window replacements); and Williams (PE addition). They are ready to go with the Eisenhower and Jackson projects and money is in the reserve to fund those projects. West High may need a boiler replacement but that was not a budgeted item so the reserve may have to be used. There was discussion about air conditioning at Eisenhower, Harrison, and Jackson and energy efficiency with new systems. It will cost less to air condition because of the efficient systems being installed. The Board will also need to consider what type of calendar to use for the schools. Board questions were addressed about air quality, costs, designs, and equipment during the presentation by Scott Martin and Donna Cooper. They talked about engineering designs, cost savings, long-range work and consistencies.

#### WILLIAMS INITIAL PLANS

Mr. Martin presented initial plans designed by SGM Architects and Interior Designers for the gym and music room additions at Williams Intermediate. Floor plans were shown with two schemes offered for the analysis of the gym/music room addition. Total project costs were estimated to cover site work, new addition, remodeling the fitness center; contingency costs, design fees, furniture and equipment, plus owner costs for allowances. Scheme A was estimated at \$2,482,476 and Scheme B was estimated at \$1,832,598. The Board had an opportunity to look over the design plans for the intermediate school and would receive more information on the project proposals in the future with a recommendation.

### FAMILY SUPPORT LIAISON

Eileen Reilly introduced the family support liaison people who were monitoring students and providing services at assigned schools. Lakeisha Nathan worked with North, KCE/W, Wood, Truman, Harrison, Buchanan, and Fillmore. Jamie Jorgensen worked with West, Wilson, Williams, Adams, Walcott, Jackson, Hayes, Smart, Blue Grass, Buffalo, and Monroe. Darryl Cross worked with Central, JB Young, Sudlow, Garfield, Washington, Madison, Eisenhower, McKinley, Jefferson, and Lincoln. Anastasia Nikolopoulos was the high school/community college liaison responsible for ensuring students who are considering dropping out or who are in a position to not graduate on time learn about options to receive their diploma or GED. She provides services to youth not currently enrolled in Davenport schools but live in Davenport.

Board members heard about the number of students in a case load for each liaison and looked at the check and connect model of sustained intervention for promoting students engagement with school and learning. There was information about research, monitoring and mentoring, family outreach, and transportation. Stories were shared about successful interventions and options for students. There has been training provided for these new positions and Dr. O'Melia works closely supervising the work. This is a positive intervention and we offer ways to support families. They work collaboratively and find ways to meet the needs of the students they work with and their families. Vice President Roberson was very pleased with having these new people working with our students and talking to people in our community. This will make a big difference, keep kids in schools, and make a change for their future. Other board members also appreciated the work the liaisons were doing and encouraged them in their efforts. Director Clewell mentioned in the vision discussion groups comments were made about forming better relationships between students and parents, and helping parents understanding expectations for their children. These staff members will be helping make this possible. Director Tupper had questions about how they identify students, what criteria was used, and follow up. The liaison workers shared the process they were using and their work schedules. Ms. Reilly explained they were working on identification criteria and collecting data for truancy, credit, and on-time graduation. Director Tupper wondered about having enough case workers in the field for all the students in need. Dr. O'Melia talked about getting better data as they work through the process and how this was a start in addressing graduation rates by supporting families and looking at attendance. Mr. Almanza said these people were a welcomed resource and will help students stay in school. President Zamora asked for the Legislative Advocacy Committee to consider talking with the legislators about students getting their GED and not considering them as drop outs.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD PRELIMINARY REPORT

Mrs. Ethel Reynolds talked about the work done at Children Village sites with children from birth through toddler age. Kathy Schulte, Betty Long, Marsha Tangen, and Scott Martin were present to provide preliminary information about early childhood efforts. Mrs. Long gave a historical perspective and Mrs. Schulte shared funding source summaries which included Title 1, special education, tuition, Head Start, DHS Wrap, Shared Vision, State 4-Year Old, and Scott County Kids as resources. There are specific allocations of funds for each site and charts were provided to help understand the funding streams. The Board heard about the work of the grant coordinator, waiting lists, and the lease ending August 31, 2009 for the Children's Village West site. We need to make notification by January 4 of our intent of a five-year option on this property. We need to look at options such as 1) 5 year stay; 2) 1-2 year stay and look at other locations; 3) buy and renovate; or 4) build new facility.

The administration has concerns about the site because of traffic and the rear of the building has a playground by a drag strip which can't be gated because of other businesses. People don't observe the stop signs near the Children Village West site, so there are safety concerns. There is no room to expand and there are 280 students in a small space. Mrs. Reynolds talked about not using general fund dollars for the preschool except for Title 1 for special education and leasing is covered under Title 1. President Zamora felt the preschool needed windows and a better playground for the children. For the amount of money we spend each month, we should be able to get something better. Director Krumwiede talked about the option of a stand-alone building versus having preschools in existing buildings. He hoped there would be opportunities for the families to have input into the decision of where the preschools are housed. There was talk about transportation and busing provided for some schools such as Buchanan and

Fillmore. Riverbend also provides transportation for about \$20/week and bus routes or car pools are available for families. Special education students receive bus transportation services. Director Krumwiede wondered if the administration was hearing anything from parents about location choices. Mrs. Schulte talked about how families were accommodated if they move or make a switch in schools. Mr. Almanza stated transportation remains an issue for students who at greatest risk when there are no sites close to their neighborhoods. Director Clewell thought the Board needed to talk about some philosophical ideas about moving into existing schools or building new facilities. He wondered about the number of students using a sliding scale for payment of fees and if there was any curriculum disparity. Director Tupper asked how much it would cost to build another facility for 500 children who are now on a waiting list. Mrs. Tangen estimated between \$5 to \$6.7 million should be budgeted but they would also like to know how much it would cost to run in current buildings. Vice President Roberson asked the administration to look at buildings carefully, remember the Village Sites are different types, let learning be a priority – not the money, and answer the question about whether students perform better because they went to preschool.

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Zamora adjourned the meeting at 8:10 PM

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Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary