

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

November 2, 2009

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met for the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, November 2, 2009, pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Zamora called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President: Patt Zamora, Directors: Richard Clewell, Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Superintendent Julio Almanza and other administrators were present.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

AEA Driver's Education Services: Marsha Tangen reported that we received a contract for continuing the AEA Driver's Education Services with the fees staying the same as last year. This is an annual renewal contract.

2009 Special Education Deficit: Ms. Tangen reported that we should not have a deficit this year in the Special Education funds. The balance that we will report will be approximately \$680,000. Our actual balance will be \$335,000 after subtracting out \$345,000 which is the 1.5% reduction that the state passed on to us at the end of the 2008-2009 school year. One major thing that has changed is the para professional to student ratio resulting in a savings.

SBRC Application (ESL, Open Enrollment, Day Care Fund): Ms. Tangen reported that our excess costs for ESL is \$1.3 million, minus money from the state for a request of \$990,000. Last year the request was \$863,000. We have 41 students that were not counted in our open enrollment which will result in a total of \$1.3 million between the ESL and Open Enrollment requests. Director Johanson asked if the 10% state cuts would affect these requests. Ms. Tangen reported that it should not affect the amounts requested. The Day Care Fund has a deficit of \$104,000. This is a combination of a payable for construction and the fund deficit over the years. The money will be transferred from the general fund to cover the deficit, but approval is required from the board for that transfer.

Construction Inflation vs. Borrowing Bonds: Ms. Tangen reported if we borrow money for construction projects we must pay them back within 10 years. At 10 years we would about break even by borrowing versus construction inflation at an estimated 8%. It would be a financial advantage to us to go 5 ½-7 years. When borrowing bonds, the projects must be completed in 2 years. More specifics will be coming to the board.

Budget: Ms. Tangen discussed the 3 areas of service: core, district standard, and enhanced. She is asking for the board's input on the listings of these services. The board asked for more clarification on the definition of these categories. These are general fund expenditures only. More detailed preliminary budget information will be given to the board. The certified enrollment is still in the process of being finalized and an exact number is unavailable. This number will affect the budget. Preliminary head count shows there may be some areas of declining enrollment due to smaller incoming classes, not drop-outs. There is a new state regulation concerning our students in Scott Community College who test for their GED. They will not be counted which will affect the total enrollment numbers by approximately 80 students. Certified enrollment is based upon what is in the student system and it is a weighted count, not an actual head count.

Travel costs were presented to the board as requested. We are within the general fund budget requirements for travel within the stated standards. Any exceptions would be covered by specific grant funding. Staff development is important and travel will be necessary within the stated guidelines.

Inner-fund loan information was given to the board. If we are low on funds we can borrow from our own funds to make up any short falls at the end of the year. One fund pays the other back with interest included. The board may be asked for approval of this option at a later date.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Policy Reviews

801.01 (Committee of the Whole): Director Clewell asked why the definition of the number of members on committees was different. Director Johanson explained that representation of at least two board members on the standing committees would provide adequate balance. Director Roberson asked what authority there is to combine policies. Director Johanson said that the board has that authority.

802.01 (Compensation for Expenses): Director Johanson explained that the term “shall” implies required compensation. “In limited circumstances” gives more of an option for special circumstances where it is appropriate. It was agreed that at the end of the current policy add “and within the district standards of employee travel policies”.

802.02 (Travel by Board Members): No recommended changes

802.05 (Board of Directors’ Self-Evaluation): No recommended changes

803.03 (Administrative Procedures): Director Krumwiede asked if we should add a time frame to develop associated regulations. This will be looked at again by the committee before final board approval.

803.04 (Membership in State and National Organizations): No recommended changes

OTHER INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Roberson noted the positive article in the paper concerning several of our students who attended the Quad-Cities Chapter of Links’ 13th Biennial Beautillion.

The meeting was adjourned by President Zamora at 7:10PM.

Lynnette Carver, Board Secretary/Treasurer