

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 8, 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, December 8, 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. Prior to the Regular Meeting, there was an Exempt Negotiation Strategy Meeting held in closed session as allowed by law from 6:35 to 7:00. President Patt Zamora called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

The following members were present for the regular meeting: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell, Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, and Tim Tupper. Absent: Vice President Larry Roberson. Student board members attending were Austin Laugen and Rebecca Briesmoore from Central High. Executive Director Ethel Reynolds took the place of the superintendent for this meeting.

### EXEMPT SESSION

#### 6:35 PM EXEMPT SESSION: Negotiation Strategy

Some members of the Board attended the Exempt Negotiation session from 6:30 to 6:55 PM which was held to conduct a strategy meeting of a public employer for employees covered by a bargaining agreement, as provided in Chapter 20.17(3), or not covered by a bargaining agreement, as provided in Section 21.9, Code of Iowa. This meeting was in the Executive Conference Room.

#### 7:10 PM REGULAR BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 8, 2008

### BOARD GOAL, OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES 2008--2009

Director Richard Clewell read the Board Goal: "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 Board has engaged the community in the vision process and last Monday we meet to work on the vision statement. This is a work in progress and reflects the commitment to work with families and the community as part of our goal.

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### I. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Wednesday, December 10, Board Policy Committee, Adm. Service Center, Conference Room B
- B. Wednesday, December 17, 4:00 PM, District Initial Proposal presented to the DEA, Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center
- C. Winter Break: December 22 -- January 2 (No School); Classes resume on Monday, January 5, 2009
- D. No Committee of the Whole Meeting January 5 (moved to another date)
- E. Wednesday, January 7, 3:45 PM, Legislative Advocacy Committee, Adm. Service Center, Conference Room A

- F. Monday, January 12, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Jim Hester Board Room at the Adm. Service Center
- G. Wednesday, January 14, 3:45 PM, Board Policy Committee, Adm. Service Center, Conference Room B
- H. Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King Holiday – No School
- I. Open Forum (A group from Central High prepared a PowerPoint slide show and each speaker was given two minutes to share ideas with the Board on the topic of building a Central High performing arts auditorium.)
  - 1. Kristine Oswald, 1734 Bridge Avenue, Davenport, talked about committee members and the goal of having a state-of-the-art auditorium performing arts facility for Central High supporting the needs of the school and community.
  - 2. Janelle Weinstein, 2636 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Davenport, gave background information and profiled Central's history. Currently over 600 students are enrolled in the fine arts programs at Central High. The current auditorium was built in 1905 and updated in the sixties with 620 seats. The stage doesn't accommodate music programs, is not handicap accessible, has structural posts which obscure the stage view, and there are major custodial and electrical problems which could cause a fire hazard. Pictures of the auditorium were shown as part of the presentation. The usage total is shown as 276 for events in the auditorium in 2008-2009.
  - 3. John Korn, 207 Ridgewood Avenue, Davenport, talked about being proud to be involved with Central and explained how the PPEL funding could make the larger auditorium a first priority for the school. He shared a letter from Tim Wernentin, Principal, about the need for a new facility and the concerns they had. The letter spoke about costs associated with renting equipment for performances leading to lost dollars that could be better used for students.
  - 4. Janet Gillhouse, 732 Bridge Avenue, Davenport, shared information about costs to rent other facilities for performances and how Music Boosters paid over \$12,000 in 2007-2008 for rent. North and West High Schools are able to utilize their auditoriums for fundraisers and bring money into their buildings while Central has to pay out money. We have used a variety of facilities for our performances in the community and this is expensive. There also are conflicts in renting space and difficulties with traveling for families. Families are frustrated with the inadequacies at Central High. We would like to acquire more land around the Central Campus and do fundraising to help build a new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Performing Arts Facility for our feeder schools.
  - 5. Ellen Korn, 207 Ridgewood Avenue, Davenport, talked about the future of the Blue Devils at Central and thanked the Board in advance for listening to the ideas of people from this school who want to have improvements for students in the fine arts area.
  - 6. Peg Iglehart, 2223 East 34<sup>th</sup> Ct., Davenport, spoke about the next steps to take including a meeting in the spring with district officials, the Board, and community leaders to get input into this plan. During the summer of 2009 they want to write a financial plan of fundraising and support. By the fall of 2009 they want to present the plan to the Board for action to acquire land and build a new facility. Then the final step would be the opening of the new Central Performing Arts facility. They will be contacting board members soon asking for feedback and suggestions. They thanked the board members for listening to their presentation.

## 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 November 24 and the Special Call Board Vision Workshop December 1, 2008 were presented for approval.

#### B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

##### APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Perez, Corinne	Degree: B.A. – Step 1
Title I Reading	Effective: December 1, 2008
Monroe Elementary	Salary: \$27,300.00 prorated to \$16,380.00 for 111/185 days

Tilton, Ashley	Degree: B.A. – Step 2
Title I Reading	Effective: December 1, 2008
Monroe Elementary	Salary: \$28,665.00 prorated to \$17,199.00 for 111/185 days

##### APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Cross, Darryl	7%
Boys' 8 <sup>th</sup> Basketball – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team	\$1,866.00
Williams Intermediate	

Slothower, Douglas	8%
Boys' 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball	\$2,132.00
North High	

##### APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Adams, Michael	Effective: December 1, 2008
Custodian	Salary: \$11.89/hr
Walcott	Hours: 4.0 hrs/day

Bartleson, Mallory	Effective: November 21, 2008
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.44/hr
Madison Elementary	Hours: 3.0 hrs/day

Bell, Virginia	Effective: November 25, 2008
Food Service Worker	Salary: \$8.21/hr
Central High	Hours: 3.25 hrs/day

Benham, Elizabeth	Effective: November 17, 2008
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.44/hr
Central High	Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Denkmann, John	Effective: December 1, 2008
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.44/hr

ASC – District Floater	Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Eby, Nancy Food Service Cashier Central High	Effective: December 4, 2008 Salary: \$8.42/hr Hours: 3.25 hrs/day
Johnson, Shane Custodian Jefferson Elementary	Effective: December 1, 2008 Salary: <del>\$12.07/hr</del> <u>CORRECTED \$11.89/hr.</u> Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Lestor, Martha Custodian Sudlow Intermediate	Effective: December 1, 2008 Salary: <del>\$12.07/hr</del> <u>CORRECTED \$11.89/hr.</u> Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Meeker, Margaret Para Educator ASC – District Floater	Effective: December 8, 2008 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Ramirez, Tessa Para Educator Wood Intermediate	Effective: November 24, 2008 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Vaughn, Michael Custodian Lincoln Academy	Effective: December 9, 2008 Salary: \$11.89/hr Hours: 5.0 hrs/day

RETIREMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE

Crane, Laurie Food Service Supervisor Operations Center	Effective: December 31, 2008 Years of Service: 27 yrs 4 mos
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RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Hill, Linda Food Service Cook-in-Charge Truman Elementary	Effective: December 19, 2008 Years of Service: 30 yrs 4 mos
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RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Rasmussen, Colby Para Educator Children’s Village West	Effective: December 2, 2008 Years of Service: 3 mos
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RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Baldry, Steve Assistant 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football West High	8% \$2,132.00
Broughton, Tonya Girls’ 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team Smart Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00
Keeney, Felicia	12%

Assistant Varsity Volleyball West High	\$3,198.00
Keeney, Verne Varsity Volleyball West High	25% \$6,663.00
Kurtz, Matthew 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Football West High	9% \$2,399.00
Pearson, Robert 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Wrestling North High	8% \$2,132.00

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Andrews, Jodi Para Educator Madison Elementary	Unpaid Leave of Absence Effective: November 7, 2008 – June 1, 2009
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**MOTION:** Director Krumwiede moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the corrections in Personnel. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

Director Krumwiede wanted to point out Laurie Crane was retiring from her position as Food Service Director. Laurie has given many years of service to the district and has done an outstanding job.

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

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

### III. APPROVAL OF BILLS (Corrected one voided check.)

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

**MOTION:** Director De Fauw moved approval of 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." Director Clewell seconded the motion.

**Correction:** After the meeting it was brought to our attention there would be one voided check made out to Richard Clewell #255267 due to a wrong amount.

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

## OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

### IV. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

#### A. ADOPTION OF PENMANSHIP PROGRAM

The administration recommended the handwriting curriculum be adopted.

**MOTION:** Director Clewell moved the Board approve the adoption of the “Handwriting Without Tears” penmanship program for learners Pre-K – Grade 3 at the approximate cost of \$61,500, as previously presented. Director De Fauw seconded the motion.

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

#### B. EDISONLEARNING CONTRACT RENEWAL

The administration recommended approving the EdisonLearning Contract.

**MOTION:** Director Krumwiede moved the Board approve the renewal agreement between Davenport School District and EdisonLearning, Inc. for a period of five years (2009-2014) as outlined in the contract. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

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

#### C. BID #587 – PIZZA (secondary schools/ elementary pizza parties) /PUBLIC HEARING

The administration recommended the pizza bid be approved.

**MOTION:** Director Tupper moved he Board accept the administration’s recommendation for Papa John’s Pizza Bid #587 for the 14” pizza @ \$5.29 each for a total of \$26,450 and accept Papa John’s Pizza bid for the 6” pizza @ \$1.39 each, for a total of \$9,730. Director De Fauw seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Bid #587 for pizza for secondary schools and occasional lunchtime Pizza Parties for elementary schools. No one came forward to speak. The public hearing was declared closed.

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

D. HARKIN GRANT (Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program) – Fire/Life Safety Grant

The Administration recommended approving the Harkin Grant.

**MOTION:** Director Tupper moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation to authorize the District to apply for a Fire/Life Safety Grant that could provide up to \$150,000 in equipment upgrades for our buildings' fire systems. The Harkin Grant budget and project period is October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2011. No local match is required. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

NOTE: Previous grants have provided us with the funds needed to equip our school buildings with fire protection devices/ systems. Most recently we completed projects at Harrison, Hayes, J. B. Young, West High, Walcott and Fillmore with Harkin Grant dollars.

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

E. IOWA DNR AIR MONITORING DEVICES AT HAYES (Postponed)

The administration presented a recommendation for placing the Iowa DNR Air Monitoring Devices at Hayes Elementary School.

**MOTION:** Director Clewell moved the Board approve the recommendation by the administration for placing the Iowa DRN Air Monitoring Devices at Hayes Elementary School. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Johanson asked about specifics relative to "limitations to described property" and do we have authorization to limit the time and access to the property? Mr. Martin explained they have access but have to follow safety procedures. They will check the equipment weekly and take readings. Director Johanson asked about Section 5 of the contract and holding the District harmless. Mr. Martin said he needed to research this more to have an answer. Director Johanson asked if the company would find a problem with air quality, would we be responsible for responding to the problem. Mr. Martin thought we would be but it depended on what they find. We need to know about the air quality in the environment around the schools for the safety of our children. We would go through a process to find out what is causing the problem and do something to correct the situation.

Director Tupper asked if we had similar devices in other buildings. The response was we have two trailers adjacent to Jefferson and one rooftop model at Adams which is an air intake system they we review. Director Tupper said he didn't have a problem with the rooftop model but didn't like the trailers on school property. Mr. Martin explained they have different functions and the company felt it was necessary to have trailers at Hayes. He wasn't familiar with the choice about the rooftop models at Adams. Director Tupper wondered if there could be rooftop models used at Hayes instead. Mr. Martin said he could research this more.

Director Johanson asked whether the company followed our district protocol for being on our property with the rooftop models and would they always be safe and not damage the roofs of our property. Mr. Martin said we would be involved with the installation and any damage would be compensated by DRN. They would use our

safety standards for being on our rooftops. Director Johanson asked about the urgency of this project or could the action be delayed until some of these questions could be answered. Mr. Martin said he could get the Board more information. President Zamora said we had something that came up several years ago about having strangers on our property and not being able to control what they do. She would like to see us have indemnity and we should not be taking any responsibility for the air quality. If there is a problem, then DRN should fix the problem.

### **MOTION TO CONTINUE (postpone) UNTIL JANUARY 12, 2009**

Director Tupper moved the Board continue (postpone) taking action on this until the next regularly scheduled board meeting (January 12, 2009). Director Johanson seconded the motion.

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

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **V. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. CHILDREN'S VILLAGE WEST UPDATE**

Chief Financial Officer, Marsha Tangen, told board member they continue to talk with the landlord about the Children's Village West property. We hope to have more discussion next week. We will be talking about a one-year lease with a one-year renewal in the next few days. We will update the Board on the progress as we know more about the lease agreement.

#### **B. AUDIT REPORT FOR 2007-2008**

Accountant Angela Burch from McGladrey & Pullen presented information on the audit to the Board. She handed out materials and outlined areas in the audit which the Board should read. The Board had the final report and a letter documenting the audit work for 2007-2008. She talked about governmental accounting principals, internal controls, single audits, and opinions offered. The Board learned about GASB 45 (Post employment benefits), GASB 48 (Additional disclosures), and GASB 50 (Pension plans). Ms. Burch shared her expertise about financial statements, depreciation of capital assets, local option sales tax, and adjustments made. We have adequate internal controls and are in compliance with the law. She highlighted data shown on graphs and explained information listed on various pages in the certified audit report.

After the presentation board members had time for some questions and to get clarification about the audit. There were a number of comments about insurance premiums and having retirees on our accounts. Ms. Burch talked about changes in standards and how costs are recognized in reporting and audit work. The Board heard about total liabilities, amortization over 30 years, and current obligations to retirees. President Zamora asked whether this would have a negative affect for the district. Ms. Burch said there wasn't an affect at the fund level. She also talked about putting money in an irrevocable trust, collecting interest, and our bank rating. Director Johanson expressed concerns from a leadership position that what the Board does now with accounts could make a problem 30 years down the way. He was worried about pension plans and wanted to make sure we were doing things correctly. Mrs.

Tangen said she would provide more information to the Board about the funds and explain how we account for this through our management funds. We take individuals up to age 65 and set aside money for premiums. There was more discussion about trusts and ability to withdraw money if needed. Ms. Burch said she didn't know of any school districts who choose to take the path of having an irrevocable trust.

Director Tupper asked about change in liability over time and if people are removed at age 65, he didn't see this as a growing concern because the number of retirees is stable. Mrs. Tangen talked about numbers going up if the rates grow too fast. The audit would come back to the Board for approval at the January 12 board meeting.

### C. FACILITY SURVEY REPORT

Scott Martin explained at the October committee of the whole, board members asked for some minimal standards for buildings. The administration has visited with elementary and high school principals and looked at some essential functions. The Board received a packet of information and lists of what principals wanted for their buildings. We want to take this back and prioritize projects for buildings. They can see what it is they have and areas that are not adequate. In 2006-07 Mr. Good was working with buildings and asked for priorities. We also want our community to have input into what should go into their buildings. We will be meeting with community groups January 13 at North, January 15 at West, and January 27 at Central and ask people to visit with us. We reviewed the first ten years and we know what has been completed up to this point.

Director Tupper said he wanted some standards for buildings or essential functions listed. We just saw a presentation from parents on an auditorium for Central but do their wishes meet with standard criteria for what is needed in an auditorium at this point in time. He wanted the administration to explain to the principals what was needed and not just have a wish list from them. What makes a building insufficient to meet the needs of the students and what upgrades do we need to bring them into compliance with current standards?

Mr. Scott was told the administration needed to create some kind of measurement characteristics, then compare buildings and show us the variances. For example, Central has an auditorium, but what is it missing compared to West and North. What is actually needed for a high school auditorium to be functional, i.e. space needed, stage, sound equipment, lighting, seating, etc. Do we need 4, 6 or 8 lanes in a pool to meet the needs of our high school students? What are the standards being used in other districts our size for their facilities? Director Tupper also questions that air conditioning was listed for elementary schools but not for high schools. Mr. Martin admitted this was an oversight.

Director Tupper again said he wanted some common denominators for the Board to use in making their facility decisions. Mr. Martin talked about school size, using a formula for square footage and designing changes. Director Tupper said we need to distinguish the needs in two groups—what we have to do and what we would like to do. Mr. Martin said they were looking at projects over the next ten years which would have value for 50 years down the way. Director De Fauw shared the same concerns and said this was a good list of things we might need, but where are the minimum standards for space and requirements? Does the orchestra area need a rehearsal space and what is in the best interest of our students? It has to be more than just square footage in the design but what things make the room conducive to studying for students?

Director De Fauw also suggested the use of the Booster Clubs in getting information out to parents about meetings. They have server lists for contacting parents which should be used. Director Johanson talked about having specific standards for proper lighting, hallways, and other specifications for schools. We must have experts from the construction and architecture companies we have used that have this type of information. Standards exist and we need to see what they are for our schools. Maybe the administration or a committee could come up with these standards such as sound absorption in music rooms, thresholds and limitations in classrooms. President Zamora agreed over the years we have had major construction work and our architects must have general standards we can have for our use. Director Clewell noted that although standards would be helpful, schools are subjective and we need to have objectivity in our designs based on needs. Mr. Martin said they apply many measurements in looking at wants versus needs. Director Krumwiede talked about standards need to be based on the number of sections in the school and a one-section building would have different standards than a two section building. Not everything will be equal and the needs will vary based on the number of students in a building. Mr. Martin agreed and said they did have information based on populations of 400 vs. 750 students in a building. The computer labs, gyms, and other needs were different dependent on population.

**D. BOARD POLICY REVISIONS (Carried over from November 24)**

Director Ralph Johanson led the discussion regarding revisions or reviews of policies which were being brought forward by the Policy Committee. The policies were reviewed as follows:

602.19 Service Fees – okay as written.

603.04 Outside Resource People – Director Tupper asked if we have regulations written regarding this policy and if we don't have regulations, does that limit the people we can use in our buildings? Director Johanson explained the committee hopes the administration will develop regulations to follow. Director Clewell noted this policy was in the Instruction section but he wondered whether a better placement would be in the community section. The committee will consider this in the future.

603.05 Religion Based Excuse from School Program or Activity. Director Clewell asked for student board members to talk about this policy and if it is used by students. Austin said he has seen it used for school when someone didn't want to go to an event. Rebecca said she went to a Catholic school before so this wasn't a problem for her.

The committee asked for input on two policies before additional work was done to make revisions. The first policy #603.01 Class Size—Elementary was one where some direction was needed to revise because it could have budget implications. It hasn't been edited since 2002. Director Clewell commented 20 children in Kindergarten were too many. Although he knows it is expensive to decrease class size, when we use a cap for two additional students it causes problems. We need to rectify what was written in 2002 as standards. President Zamora shared that previously we used ranges such as 16 to 18 for Kindergarten; 20 to 21 for first grade; 21 to 22 for third grade. It is a great expense when we reduce class size and she didn't see anything in the policy talking about caps. The requirement was supposed to be "no greater than" the number listed. She would like stringent requirements on the numbers but it takes a lot of work and study to show this makes a difference. We insisted on lower class size but financial concerns made us change back in 2002.

Mrs. Reynolds said changing the class size would take more conversation and maybe could be discussed at the Committee of the Whole with a financial report. We could provide the Board with some financial impact data for changes in class size. Director Krumwiede said he has concerns about the policy with the numbers and capping. It also

involves the make up of the class and the addition of special education students. Students with IEP's are weighted and instead of a class having 18 students, a teacher might only have 16 because of the weighting. We need to think of this when we rewrite this policy and be very specific in what we want. Director Tupper talked about the language in the policy and wondered about whether we were adhering to the law from the State of Iowa? He had a number of concerns with this policy and reports show we have a huge decline in special education teachers from 258 in 2005 to only 169 in 2008. He hears from classroom teachers, this is a problem especially when children with needs, but without IEP's, are added to classrooms.

Director Johanson asked if the Board felt strongly about the numbers in the policy. Do we want smaller class sizes listed and more specifics on definitions in the policy? President Zamora wanted numbers in the policy and needs to be specific for special education. Director Johanson wanted to have the Board provide input into this before asking the Policy Committee to set up the numbers in the policy. Director De Fauw said she understood that board members had strong opinions about this policy and the committee wanted some direction from the group. Most people wanted the numbers listed in the policy and some information about weighting for special education. Director Clewell said he believed in smaller class sizes, but has been told unless the numbers are down to 13 or so, the numbers are not important for achievement. He thought the Board should back off from the specific and let the administration make this type of decision. The Board should be looking at the bigger picture but letting the administration handle areas where they have expertise. They need to tell us what will improve student achievement in class size and then the Board has to make it happen. However, since we are not adopting a policy governance philosophy, then he supported having specific class sizes listed.

The final policy for discussed was #603.03 Homework. Since the committee has discussed this to some extent, they wanted thoughts from the full board on homework practices. Director Krumwiede felt we needed more work and input from the administration on the inconsistencies across the district with homework. The student board members were asked about the times listed for homework in this policy. Austin said the time frame for homework depended on the class and some courses take 15 to 20 minutes while others might take 3 hours of work. Students benefit from doing homework but he didn't know where you draw the time with time allotments. Rebecca agreed and said she studied more hours per week than were listed. If you don't do homework, you will fail the class. If homework was optional, students wouldn't do it. Director Krumwiede said he didn't think we had enough information on time for homework and many elementary buildings don't even give homework on some nights. It is so inconsistent across the district and how it is used for grades.

Director De Fauw agreed and felt the numbers had been pulled out of the air for this policy a long time ago. She thought the policy should be a philosophical statement and we should eliminate or delete the second page with all the details. Austin commented that if students didn't have homework, they would probably fail classes and doing homework becomes like a habit for learning. Director De Fauw talked about homework being considered as "practice" and maybe it shouldn't be graded. Austin said honestly he didn't think anyone would do homework if it wasn't graded. Rebecca agreed that the work needed to be graded so students tried to do a good job on the work.

Director Clewell felt the teachers know better than board members how much time needs to be spent on homework to be effective. It is unenforceable for the Board to list time per class or subject and how can this be monitored? The Board has a higher level of work to do than dictate time for homework assignments at buildings. Director Tupper agreed. President Zamora said we have had bright students come back to us and talk about our courses not being rigorous enough, but we can't dictate time for homework. Director Johanson summarized that board members wanted the exact guidelines removed from the policy and have a more philosophical statement in support of homework. Director Clewell wanted the policy eliminated completely. Director Tupper said he wanted the

work to be challenging and meaningful for students but questioned how we can write this into a policy that can be enforced was the problem. We need a policy for homework but not include the exact minute allocation in the wording. Director De Fauw agreed we should take out the minutes allotted for homework. She also wondered if we wanted anything in the policy about not having homework on a specific night such as Wednesday. It was noted we have a policy about "excuse from practice for religious reasons" and that policy replaced the former "Wednesday Night" policy. Director De Fauw said the committee had talked about homework and the importance of adding to the instruction for students.

The policies will be looked over and brought back to the Board for action at a future time.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

### VI. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS

There were no additional administrative reports by Mrs. Reynolds at this time.

### VII. BOARD REPORTS

- A. President Zamora talked about candidates for District #6b (IASB Board Member) which was a 3-year term ending January 2012. Director Clewell was one of the candidates listed. She was sent a ballot and asked to cast the vote for the district with a weighting. She would like to cast the vote for Director Richard Clewell. Other board members agreed and strongly supported having him represent us at IASB. Director Johanson said this was a very important role because most of the representation was from smaller school boards across Iowa.
- B. President Zamora reminded board members of the IASB Communications Survey 2008 which was sent via e-mail. If board members didn't fill out the survey on line, they could get a paper copy from the board secretary. They can fill it out and return to Linda as soon as possible so she can send it in before January.
- C. President Zamora recognized Stan Simpson (the media person) who records our board meetings every month. She appreciated his attendance at almost all meetings.
- D. Director Krumwiede thanked the Q. C. Times for the insert in the paper on our sesquicentennial (150 year) history. It was a well written article in the paper.

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Director Clewell moved the Board adjourn. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion. By consensus the Board agreed to adjourn.

President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary