

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DAVENPORT SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION SERVICE CENTER
1606 BRADY STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
April 2, 2012

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, April 2, 2012 pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, Achievement Service Center, 1606 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Johanson called the meeting to order at 5:37PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: Directors: Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Rich Clewell, Bill Sherwood, Nikki De Fauw and Patt Zamora. Larry Roberson was absent. Superintendent Art Tate and other administrators were present.

Disposition of Kimberly Center - Dr. Tate reviewed options that have been discussed regarding the Kimberly Center. He stated that it would be difficult to move the Kimberly Center to Lincoln if it is decided that Lincoln will be repurposed and that it could not be completed by next year. His recommendation, if it is decided that Lincoln is repurposed, is that the Kimberly Center not go into Lincoln School. He stated that this neighborhood deserves a facility and functions that would be a neighborhood enhancer. It needs to be something that supports the neighborhood children and families and has an after school component. He indicated there has been interest expressed already from organizations that would include these components. Once proposals are reviewed and the board decides on the concept and philosophy for use of that building, it would be possible to put something in within a couple of months. Head start has made an appeal for using up to 5 or 6 rooms or the whole first floor Lincoln. The YMCA is looking at some after school programs with us for intermediate students and other programs for the neighborhood. Weed and Seed is looking at the possibility of having an office. Dr. Tate reminded the board that these were extremely informal discussions because he hasn't been in power to have formal discussions.

Secondly, Dr. Tate said that Sheri Womack, Principal of Kimberly Center, had some thoughts about what the Kimberly Center should look like and she shared her thoughts with board. She explained that one of the assets of the current location of Kimberly Center is not within close proximity to any of the other schools. She believes the students do better when they are out by themselves. She believes this is also the case for the students at the Kimberly Center West side. She stated we need a head start program wherever we are and parking would also be an issue at Lincoln. She stated it may be less costly to build a safe place in order to address the safety issues.

Dr. Tate recommended a committee be established to formally look at the options for the Kimberly Center. Director Zamora stated that it sounded as if we would still be responsible for Lincoln under the alternatives he offered and asked how this would save money. Dr. Tate responded the savings are in personnel and the custodian, maintenance and utility were left in

for the next year. She stated that Roosevelt is struggling and she doesn't see this as a good option. Director Zamora asked why Kimberly students couldn't go to the high schools for vocational programs. Dr. Tate said this is a possibility. Director Sherwood said alternative education programs need to be looked at district wide. He stated our history doesn't support the idea that Lincoln will be a flourishing center. The proximity of Central High School to Lincoln can bring issues but it also brings opportunity to utilize the vocational classes at Central. He suggested that the Lincoln school be held until the planning for Kimberly Center is completed and the planning for alternative education is done in depth. Director Krumwiede asked Director Sherwood if he was proposing not using Lincoln for a year. Director Sherwood said whatever time the planning would take and that something has to change at Kimberly Center. Director Krumwiede asked Dr. Tate if planning for the Kimberly Center and utilizing Lincoln could be done simultaneously. He stated he would not want to speak for others but he said he can't imagine that someone would want to go into a new site for one year and then go back out, but he cannot say.

Budget – President Johanson stated Director Roberson was on vacation and will not be able to call in. He asked Ms. Tangen to explain the motions on the budget that will be on the agenda next week when the budget is voted on. Ms. Tangen said the first motion is for the board to approve the budget amendment and the second motion is for the 2012-13 Budget and the board needs to adopt the budget prior to April 15 so it can be certified with the county.

President Johanson discussed developing a prioritization using the budget matrix to provide guidance to administration as they look to accomplish what is included in the motion for next week. He explained that he used the word consensus at the last meeting to mean the majority of opinion. He reviewed the budget matrix to provide an opportunity for more discussion about those items the board is not in agreement upon. He pointed out that each board has supported lines A, B, 8 & 9.

Line item #1 (Repurposing Lincoln) – Director Zamora asked about the new figures for this line item. Ms. Tangen stated that we can either reduce the savings from early retirement or the savings from Lincoln. It was agreed that the savings from Lincoln would now be \$986,000 instead of \$1,361,000.

Line item #2 (Childcare Transportation) – Director Sherwood said he will not support this cut until the second year. He suggested that only those who ride this year ride next year. Mr. Martin said this would be very difficult to police this but also mentioned some issues with paid conditional busing. Director Krumwiede shared his concerns about making cuts this year because parents need much more communication before making such a huge change and more time was needed to get the word out to parents. Director Zamora stated if we can't get the word out in two months then we aren't doing something right and commented that we shouldn't have to pay for this if it is not required by law and pointed out that we only get \$20,000 for about \$200,000 worth of costs. Director Clewell said the board had discussed whether these are core, standard, or enhanced services. Initially, he believed they were enhanced, however, over time people have come to expect this service which makes it more of a standard service. He also thinks this needs to be reviewed since we are paying more than we should. He doesn't want to see a drop in student achievement because it was decided not to bus students. Director De Fauw said she appreciates the concerns for student achievement and the possible implications for attendance but students are utilizing city

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busing for free with a student ID. The community expects us to be good stewards of the resources we have available and she has heard from many people who have said to stay away from classrooms as much as possible when making the cuts. This would allow us to save \$200,000 and not make some of the other cuts. She wants to be clear that she doesn't think anyone on the board has supported the extended the walk zones expect for President Johanson. Director Clewell would be more comfortable with this in year two. Director Zamora reminded everyone that we need to make permanent cuts of 3.5 million.

Director Krumwiede asked Mr. Martin to explain what Childcare Transportation is exactly. Mr. Martin said one aspect is that it allows students from the YMCA to go to schools outside of their area. It is his understanding that child care transportation has been a long standing tradition for the district but that it is not part of any board policy and explained some of the particulars of this program. Director Krumwiede pointed out that stopping transportation could have an impact on other schools such as increasing class size and students going to other schools. Director Zamora commented that these cuts makes the most sense since we are not required to provide this service. Director Sherwood also emphasized the importance of other community wide systems that rely on this transportation which he thinks supports the idea of waiting a year.

Line item #3 (Transportation efficiency savings) - Director Sherwood clarified that he supports this item.

Line item #4 (Eliminate paid conditional busing) – No further discussion.

Line item #5 (7% Reduction for all but school sites) – No further discussion.

Line item #6 (5% Reduction for school sites) – No further discussion.

Line item #7 (Revised model for education of Whittenmeyer students) - Dr. Tate commented that administration has been working on the relationship with Whittenmeyer before the budget discussions even began due to the changes in the billing system. They have already begun to look at each of the students at Wittenmeyer and ask if they could be educated in our schools and they are starting to bring some of the back. He stated we understand the volatility of some of these students and we are very careful when making these decisions, but on the other hand every student deserves to be educated in as normal an environment as possible. We can save money by doing some of the things ourselves that we are now paying them to do.

Director Sherwood reminded everyone that this is not just an academic issue and that we need to look at the whole child. Ms. Reynolds provided an example of how money can be saved by providing our own teachers for some of their programs. Dr. Tate commented that they met with legislators about the billing situation and they all agree something needs to be done. Director Clewell stated we can't lose sight of services that need to be provided in an effort to save money. Director De Fauw said she had a conversation with a constituent and this convinced her to support this item. If we have the resources and staff to provide these services then we should do this instead of supporting another institution to provide the same services.

Line item #10 (35% Title I Coordinator Position) - Director Krumwiede asked Dr. Tate to explain this item. Dr. Tate said the duties for this position will be passed on to current staff and 35% of this position is paid out of the general fund and 65% is title funds. He explained that if the person in the position currently stayed with the district it would go to part-time status paid with title funds. Director Clewell expressed concern that this staff person is currently full time and expecting retirement. There was some discussion about cuts made

last year and the implications of these cuts related to this item. Director Zamora clarified that she supports this item.

Line item #11 (Curriculum department personnel reductions) – No further discussion

Line item #12 (Reduce the non-categorical substitute budget by 20%) - Director Zamora stated she is not in favor of cutting this category. There was a clarification that the suggestion to reduce the substitute pay for retired teachers is a different item than line item #12. Director De Fauw commented about line item #12. President Johanson agreed this is not a line item but encouraged more discussion. Director Krumwiede stated he would rather have a retired teacher as a substitute and would not return to days when there were not sufficient substitutes. Director Zamora agreed with Director Krumwiede. Director De Fauw said she would much rather have the substitute and stated that as we look at #12 and reducing that budget she has heard conversation at the board table that this would result in combining classes or having someone “class sit” as opposed to instructional time. If we can reduce the hourly rate and still give retired teachers a bump this allows for a substitute in that classroom. Director Sherwood recommended a reduction in substitute pay for retirees but not to the level of regular substitutes and suggested capping the retired teachers pay to \$15 an hour which would create a savings of approximately \$150,000. President Johanson stated he would support considering a reduction in substitute pay for retired teachers. He created line item #20 Reducing the substitute pay for retired teachers.

Line item #13 (Additional 3% budget reduction for all but school sites) – No further discussion.

Line item #14 (Reductions to athletic budget) - No further discussion.

Line item #15 (Reductions to fine arts budget) - No further discussion.

Line item #16 (Add 1 student to each intermediate class) - No further discussion.

Line item #17 (Add 1 student to each 2,3,4 & 5th grade class size) - No further discussion.

Line item #18 (Extend walk zones for transportation) - President Johanson stated this is \$132,000 to provide an what he believes in an enhanced service and he believes we will have to bite the bullet at some time on these items. Director Clewell stated this is a long term service that has been provided in the district. President Johanson said he would rather take a savings of \$132,000 and return to a legal definition as opposed to taking a cut in the classroom. Director Sherwood said he supports line item #7 and Director Krumwiede said he now supports line item #2.

Director Zamora stated that the total for items A, B, 1,3,7,8,9 is \$5.1 million dollars.

President Johanson stated these items represent a large majority of agreement and the only big ticket item that is still questionable is line item #1. President Johanson asked Director De Fauw where she would be on total dollars since she is undecided on line item #1. Director De Fauw stated that unanimity on all items is not required for the vote but did suggest considering if the premium holiday buys us anything and if so what. She came up with some calculations in that if we take line A,3,7,8,9, and add the savings from a reduction in substitute pay this equals 2.25 million and if the holiday is added to this it equals 4.3 million and this is without doing anything with Lincoln. Director Zamora commented that even if budget cuts were not necessary something needs to be done about Lincoln and JB Young because of the low building capacity and this is not a responsible use of our money. Director De Fauw reminded everyone what Director Roberson said about the need for the board to be bold and why aren't we looking at alternatives that might include a math and science academy or something creative that would attract students to Lincoln as opposed to closing it. Director Krumwiede stated how both buildings are underutilized and by moving Lincoln into JB Young we are better utilizing one facility but also agrees with Director Roberson that we need to be bold. He commented we need to get on board with what is happening with

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science and technology at the state level and here is an opportunity to do that. We need to look at other models and do some brainstorming about what needs to happen at Lincoln. Director Sherwood emphasized the need for better planning to prepare us for next year's budget situation and the planning process should start this summer. Dr. Tate commented that he believes making JB Young a K-8 school is a bold move. We are going to have one or two Leader In Me schools which are also bold moves. The Pathway to Distinction Committee will be meeting soon and will get moving in this direction.

Director Krumwiede said if we do not repurpose Lincoln this year he predicts a drop in students and staff. Director Clewell said his strategic goal is reaching the 8 million unspent balance and hopes to get the information from Ms. Tangen on what type of reductions are required in the next 5 years to achieve this goal. He believes 3.1 million is a good place to start in terms of permanent cuts. We need to think about the whole Kimberly Center program and do long term planning. He is excited about the K-8 concept and believes this is very forward thinking.

President Johanson stated that with the changes that have been made to the budget matrix and the suggestion that line items A,B,1,3,7,8,9 be included that this equals \$5,179,398 million. He commented that six of those seven line items are universally supported by every board member and there is only 1 item that does not share that kind of unanimity. He suggested there is consensus and that the board accept the figure of \$5,179,398 million in reductions for the following year and that the motion next week reflect this number.

The meeting was adjourned by President Johanson at 7:10 .m.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary