

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
May 7, 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, May 7, 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 6:15 PM.

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

Use of Adler Theatre

Dr. Tate explained that the district has been under a memorandum of understanding with the city to use the Adler Theatre for 16 events. The city paid for the entire cost to use the auditorium which was approximately \$50,000. Surveys were completed from six events and results indicated a very high satisfaction level from both the audience and the performer's perspective. Dr. Tate explained that the city is not able to pay for the entire cost next year, but can provide \$25,000 toward the total cost. The district would need to enter into an agreement with them for the balance. Dr. Tate explained this would be an authorized use of PPEL funds. He will be presenting some additional information at the next board meeting. Dr. Tate introduced Mr. Bawden, Fine Arts Curriculum Specialist, who discussed theatre usage and the positive feedback received from the surveys that were completed. He explained the facility was used on 35 dates for rehearsals and concerts which included the All City Band Festival. This event included 700 4th and 5th graders with over 2,000 people in attendance including family and friends. The former venue for this event had acoustical and logistical problems in addition to issues with audience comfort. Mr. Bawden stated he is very pleased with this venue but does plan to make some adjustments next year. The few concerns that did arise were addressed by the theatre management and the city very promptly. He highlighted positive and negative feedback from the report provided by Michael Reese, Chair of the Central Music Department who could not attend the meeting. Mr. Bawden recommended continued use of the Adler Theatre for school functions in the future. Director Krumwiede asked what kinds of adjustments he plans to make. Mr. Bawden explained these were not Adler concerns but were related to the congestion created when trying to get so many students out of the theatre and able to find their parents, but there is now a plan in place to address this issue. Director Zamora asked how many years we could we rent the Adler for \$25,000 instead of spending 2-3 million for a new auditorium. Mr. Bawden stated he could not address this issue. Director Sherwood asked about having enough rehearsal time and if this was a problem. Mr. Bawden stated that Mr. Reese said his expectations exceeded his concerns regarding this and that sufficient rehearsal time was available. Director Clewell remarked this is a great collaboration but also mentioned how this does bring up issues of equity and indicated the board will need to have discussions regarding this in the future.

SAMS Report

Bonnie Schaeffer, Mary Thissen, Cammi Swanson, Heidi Gilliland and Eric Ewoldt presented the SAMS initiative to the board. The SAMS team highlighted the ways in which a SAM schedules and protects the principal's time so they can spend more time in the classroom being an instructional leader in the building. A big piece of how they accomplish this task is by tracking the activity of the principals using time/task data to reflect on their practice. The SAM and the principal work together to create daily and monthly goals for time spent in the classroom in an effort to meet the overall goal of spending 50-60% of a their time in the classroom. They presented various types of data including the comparison of time spent in the classroom before and after having a SAM and discussed observations and walk-throughs. Director Clewell asked for clarification on the difference between the two and Ms. Thissen stated that a walk through is 5-10 minutes and an observation is 20-30 minutes. The team presented some testimonials on how a SAM had helped a principal, teacher, family liaison and students. Principal, Tonya Wilkins, discussed how she is able to spend more time in the classroom to better fulfill her role as an instructional leader which provides more opportunities to encourage teachers and interact with students. Family Liaison, Jamie Panning, shared how her SAM spends time helping with discipline, planning events, working with family volunteers, and helping students get up to grade level in various subjects. Mr. Ewoldt highlighted how being a SAM also provides a great leadership opportunity and learning experience.

Director Zamora asked what SAMS stand for. Mr. Ewoldt responded School Administration Manager. Director Zamora asked about the team's background and they responded they all are former teachers. Director Krumwiede asked about their specific duties and if they were similar at each school. They responded every building is very different. Director Krumwiede stated this program is a wonderful training ground for becoming a principal. Director Sherwood asked about the difference between their positions and that of an associate principal. It was clarified that SAMS are not credited as administrators and they do not evaluate teachers. Director Clewell stated this opportunity is much like a journeyman position and thinks they will see real results that will have a positive impact on the bottom line which is student achievement. Director Roberson asked if evaluation tools had been established for measuring the impact on student achievement. Ms. Thissen stated that they do have behavior data that indicates a decrease in the frequency of students being sent out of classrooms. The team stated they believe this initiative will have a positive impact on student achievement. Director Sherwood asked how they work with teachers who need additional assistance. Ms. Thissen explained that the SAM and the principal schedule additional time for feedback with teachers that need additional help. Director De Fauw asked about the plans to implement program in every school. Dr. Tate they will have to evaluate the priority for this in each building. The team thanked the board for the opportunity to present.

8th Grade Math and Iowa Core

Juli Staszewski, Kim Gasaway, Cindy Lewis, and Alissa Hansel provided an update to the board on the implementation plan for the Iowa Core. Ms. Staszewski stated the Iowa Core is in the areas of reading, math, science, and social studies and the standards are about what students need to know not how they are taught. The Iowa Core has increased the rigor and expectations of what students need to know and the evidence of this is being seen with the ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) and the ITEDS (Iowa Tests of Educational Development). The focus they are working on is ensuring that students are college and career ready. The standards begin in kindergarten and start to build up and spiral until they get to the college and career ready standards. They have gone through the process of prioritizing standards then they unwrap/unpack those standards to identify what each standard is asking students to learn. This summer they will start the process of the rigorous curriculum design to infuse more rigorous standards

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which all ties into the data team process. When the data teams meet they focus on the standards and they take the unwrapped standard and create assessments to evaluate students and then target instruction to ensure they are meeting the standard. Ms. Staszewski highlighted information from the handout on what the graduation requirements have been in the past and will continue to be for the classes of 2013, 2014, and 2015. The new requirements will not be effective until the class of 2016 and beyond and she explained the specific requirements for each grade level. She explained how with the increased rigor of the Iowa Core the math classes will have to be ramped up. As a result, this year in 8th grade they are encouraging parents to register their children in 8th grade honors math. Ms. Staszewski explained other documents that show how students follow through at the high school level, examples of all the electives, some of the requirements for language arts and math. Ms. Staszewski introduced the staff and asked for questions.

Director De Fauw asked if they could differentiate between the 8th grade algebra I and the 8th grade honors math. Ms. Hansel explained that the current algebra class is not aligned with the Iowa Core so students taking the 8th honors class will be on the honors track, but if they choose to take algebra they would be behind in the roll out of the common core. Director De Fauw asked why the algebra I curriculum is not being revised and why it is being divided into two separate tracks. Ms. Staszewski responded this is why they are trying to keep the students at the 8th grade level with a very rigorous curriculum that will prepare them for the algebra I honors class, and explained the particulars of the requirements. Director Sherwood asked questions about the standards being aligned with elementary classes and how this will affect the elementary levels and not turn students off to the math and how all this is being monitored. Ms. Staszewski explained that the standards for algebra starts at the elementary level but stated she realizes they need to do a better job in helping students be successful in math and need to have better opportunities for interventions. She also stated they monitor with ITBS, ITEDS and scholastic math inventory 3 times a year. Director Roberson asked what is being done to prepare students by increasing the rigor earlier so students can be successful. Ms. Staszewski stated the Iowa Core is required in high school and that is where they are focusing the most. The biggest changes are in math and they are working elementary teachers to start working on this and stated that the principals are very in tune with how they need to address this issue. Director Krumwiede asked about textbook adoptions and it's relation to the new standards. Ms. Staszewski stated they are holding off on new textbook adoptions and saving up for next year. Director Clewell asked a question relating to foreign language and how children will be assessed. Ms. Staszewski stated the district has a very good program with respect to world languages and explained that they are infusing the standards in language arts in all the categories but knows they have work to do. Director Clewell asked how students will be assessed in common core if they are not required to take foreign language. Ms. Staszewski explained that the common core doesn't require this and that the 21st century skills are infused into the common core. Director Clewell commented how important it is to impress upon students that we live in a global society and how they will need these skills and asked if we are doing enough to make sure students understand the need to take these types of classes. Director Sherwood commented about on-line classes and tutors being available and asked about some of the classes being eliminated and the importance of students learning geography. Ms. Staszewski explained the specific courses that are required and how it is spiraled throughout the curriculum. Director Roberson emphasized the importance of having increased rigor for all students. President Johanson asked about the ITEDS and it becoming harder and how this affects No Child Left Behind. Ms. Staszewski stated that the preliminary data indicates that some schools have lower scores but this has to do with the norming process. He asked if the principals and teachers have a universal understanding of the terms Iowa Core and Common Core and the word rigor. Ms. Staszewski responded she believes they do because of the data team process that is in place.

Competency Based Literacy Instruction at JB Young

Marianne Corbin, Principal at JB Young, and staff members Rachel Anderson, Casey Fleming, Jenny Strang, and Sarena Yeager presented a brief overview of the competency based literacy instruction at JB Young. Ms. Anderson stated that starting three years ago they have allowed students to advance when they proved ready in the reading courses and described the methods they are currently using. All the teachers are trained in reading and have a reading endorsement and know how to teach the skills that students need. They make sure that staff work together to transition students and described screenings that are implemented and how they place students. They use SRI five times a year but it is only required three times a year. She pointed out that all classes are mixed grade level and highlighted some SRI data. Director Clewell asked how much time the SRI requires. Ms. Anderson responded that it should take longer than 20 minutes but no more than 45 minutes. Director Krumwiede asked some questions about performance standards. She stated that they have a reading data team that meets twice a month and every quarter they review the data. She also explained that teaching the ability to make inferences is one of the most utilized reading strategies in the SRI program and explained how their team decided they would focus on this technique which has resulted in huge increases in test scores. Director Clewell thanked them for their presentation and commented how impressed he was with the program and this is why he asked them to provide this presentation to the board. Director Clewell asked if this approach would work in other areas as well. Ms. Corbin stated the data team process is in place but the vision for the JB K-8 is that all courses would be like this. Director Sherwood asked how summer learning loss will be addressed. Ms. Corbin stated the assessments they have in place will help address this. Director Sherwood asked if they take advantage of programs such as Stepping Stones and asked about having a 12 month plan. Dr. Tate said this is something to consider and emphasized this is a good point. Director Krumwiede thanked the presenters and commented what strong team they are and how he is looking forward to observing all of this in the future.

Director Zamora proposed postponing the next two agenda items. President Johanson asked Director Clewell and Dr. Tate if they were in agreement with this suggestion and they both said they preferred to wait until the board had sufficient time to discuss both Board Goals and the Five Year Maintenance Plan. President Johanson asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting and there was none. The meeting was adjourned by President Johanson at 7:55 p.m.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary