

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Achievement Service Center

Jim Hester Board Room

1606 Brady Street

Davenport, IA 52803

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2017

5:30PM

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017 for their Committee of the Whole Meeting. The meeting was held at the Achievement Service Center, 1606 Brady St., Davenport, Iowa, in said District in the Jim Hester Board Room. President Johanson called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30PM. Present: Directors: Johanson, Snyder, Hayes, Gosa, and DeSalvo. Director Mayfield was absent.

1.01 Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates

Mr. Jim Lambert, program director for iJAG (Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates) and the specialists from Central, West and North provided an overview of the program. This is a statewide program offered to some Iowa students to develop leadership skills, learn about career opportunities and also learn about the legislative process. Another important part of the program is a community service component and project based learning. The specialists provided examples of how they are implementing programs at Central, North and West high schools. Board members asked a variety of questions about grading, barriers that students encounter and assistance the students receive after completing the program. Dr. Tate complimented all the specialists on their fine work.

1.02 Solar Project

Mr. Mike Maloney, Jon Muller, consultant from ISFIS and several key account managers from MidAmerican provided an update on the proposed solar project and answered questions from the board. Principals of the proposed schools to get the solar panels have had several opportunities to provide feedback and ask questions. Two public forums have been scheduled to get feedback from the community. They continue to work on the financial model and have received budget estimates for putting panels on the roofs. Mr. Maloney stated the estimated annual savings is \$250,000. Mr. Muller has been reviewing the power purchase agreement and is familiar with legislative matters concerning solar energy. Director DeSalvo asked about the district's investment and whether there were other districts considering this large of a project. Muller and Maloney provided more details and explained there are other school districts that are interested in solar energy but none of them are as large as this proposed project. DeSalvo asked if responses to her questions were ready and Maloney said he was still working on those. There was discussion about the size and scope of the project and Mr. Mueller provided more details about the cost, advantages and possible disadvantages of the project. Dr. Tate asked for the worst case scenario and Mr. Muller said that the district would not save as much money as anticipated.

1.03 Curriculum Update

Ms. Juli Staszewski and thirteen curriculum specialists provided an update on the CIA (Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment) mission and activities. The mission of CIA is to provide high quality curriculum representing best practices, industry standards, and the highest opportunities for success of our learners. They highlighted the primary components included in each category which includes high quality curriculum, best practices and high opportunity and industry standards. Board members a variety of questions about biggest challenges, the future of digital textbooks and steps being taken to move in the direction of more technology.

Ms. Staszewski said the biggest challenge is lack of funding. Ms. Cori Guy responded to the questions concerning technology and digital textbooks and mentioned that most current curriculum includes a digital component.

1.04 Special Education Identification Process

Ms. Patti Pace-Tracy, Susan Downs and Amy Clayton provided an overview of the process used to identify special education students. They reviewed eligibility standards and the eight domain areas. A student must have a disability which is defined as a physical or mental condition that adversely affects educational performance in one or more of the seven domain areas of academic, behavior, physical, health, sensory, adaptive behavior, or communication.

They are required to follow very specific evaluation standards which are fair to students of all backgrounds. They provided information on those standards and shared information about the variation and range of disabilities they work with and emphasized the importance of teaching life skills to students to encourage independence. Board members asked questions regarding parent's acceptance of the their child's disability, the costs and budget of the special education department and Ms. Pace-Tracy provided more details about the funding streams for the program.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer