

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM
1606 BRADY STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
5:30 PM

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Monday, January 5, 2015 for their Committee of the Whole Meeting. The meeting was held at the Achievement Service Center, 1606 Brady St., Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Johanson called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: Directors: Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Rich Clewell, Maria Dickmann, Nikki DeFauw, Jamie Snyder and Bill Sherwood Superintendent Art Tate was also present.

1.01 Visitor Management System

Sarah Harris and Rachael Mullins presented an overview of the Raptor System, the new visitor management system they are requesting the board approve at on January 12th. The board approved the visitor policy last year but there are still inconsistencies because each school handles the process a little different. This new system would streamline that process and create a centralized tracking system for volunteers. They provided an overview of the Raptor System and explained how it is specifically designed for K-12 school districts. They explained the Raptor System serves more school systems than any other system, is extremely user friendly, and allows schools, districts and volunteer coordinators to easily manage, communicate with and track volunteers. Bettendorf and Waterloo are just a few of the districts that currently use this system. Next steps include formal approval by the board on January 12th, staff training, and fine tuning internal processes for family members without photo ID, visiting staff access, and how to handle public events. Full implementation is expected by the start of the next school year.

Erin Cummings, Raptor Regional Sales Manager, was also available via phone to answer questions. Board members asked questions concerning procedures for volunteers who forget to sign out, procedures for visitors who show up on sex offender lists, on-going costs and parents or volunteers without photo ID. The approximate cost for Raptor is \$90,000 and would come out of PPEL funds not the general fund and would also require an annual fee of \$7500-\$8000. They explained that Bettendorf and Waterloo encourage district who start using this system to discussed how the other districts who are using the system encourage other school district to “over educate” their communities. They provided more specific information about how the system is also very flexible regarding visitors attending large events in a specific location at the schools.

1.02 School Climate Committee Report

Bill Schneden, Ellen Reilly and Sarah Harris provided an update to the board on activities and progress of the School Climate Committee. Mr. Schneden reviewed responses from a Learning Supports Survey given in 2014, presented the definition of school climate according to the National School Climate Center, and explained how extensive research outlines 12 dimensions that most comprehensively color and shape our perception of school climate. These 12 dimensions are divided into the four major categories of safety, teaching and learning, interpersonal relationships and institutional environment. Utilizing the 12 dimensions, the committee created a School Climate District Plan and Dimension Matrix. Mr. Schneden, Ms. Reilly and Ms. Harris highlighted the overall district plan which outlines the dimensions of school climate, district strengths and challenges in each category, current initiatives and projects to achieve intended goals.

Director DeFauw complimented the committee on their work. She also pointed out the need to include the problem/issue of the sexual harassment of young women in the high schools and requested this be added to their matrix. DeFauw emphasized this is real problem that she has been made aware of on many different occasions. Ms. Reilly agreed this is important to include and mentioned that the iS3 grant at Central is helping to address this issue and also indicated they have been working with the University of Northern Iowa on a program that specifically addresses sexual harassment. Director Sherwood agreed with DeFauw and also mentioned the importance of having an adult be an affirmative voice and that this requires training. Director Dickmann also agreed this is serious issue that needs to be addressed and would also like to see it added to the matrix. Director Clewell said he would like to see administration move forward with the committee's recommendations and the board can provide resources and monitor progress. There was a discussion about how this is a board priority and President Johanson reinforced that he doesn't think the committee's work is finished and Dr. Tate said this can be discussed by the agenda committee as well.

1.03 Board Governance

This discussion item was postponed due to the weather.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary