

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER**  
**JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM**  
**1606 BRADY STREET**  
**DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014**  
**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, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 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 Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**1. Panel Presentation: Block vs. Traditional Schedule**

Panel Members:

North High School: Ron Knapper, Laura McCreery and Cathy Bosco

Central High School: Melody Oswald, Adam Pagett and Todd Hawley

West High School: Michelle Pearce, Lori Blocker and Lorie Moyer

President Johanson and Director DeFauw reminded the public that tonight is strictly discussion and that no decision would be made. DeFauw reiterated that the board has to make some tough decision regarding budget cuts in the near future and that if board members are not prepared to make a decision concerning this topic then it is not beneficial to enter into bitter dialogue concerning it.

Dr. Tate noted there have been numerous discussions and public forums regarding block vs. traditional schedule over the last four years. This evening is an opportunity to hear from the professionals in the field regarding a possible change in the schedule. The CFO will present the budget shortfall for next year's budget at the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 board meeting and at the October 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting Tate will bring back the entire list of possible budget reductions for continued discussion by the board. Tate emphasized that if the high school schedule is changed the decision must be made by the end of November. Dr. Tate turned the presentation over to Rob Scott who introduced the panel members. Mr. Scott said there was over 100 years of teaching experience on this panel. Mr. Scott reviewed some of the major points provided to the board and reviewed by the committee in consideration of making a change from a block to traditional schedule. Some of these included that in the first year of the block schedule at North behavior referrals went down but he also mentioned there could have been other variables that contributed to this. One day of being absent from the block schedule equals two days of absence on a traditional schedule. Students on a 504 plan work with just four teachers on the block schedule but that would increase to seven on the traditional. On the traditional schedule there is more time for mastery of the materials, but members also pointed out that block components can be incorporated into a traditional schedule. On the old traditional schedule teachers taught 5 out of 7 periods, but the new model they are proposing are that teachers teach 6 out of 7 periods which would increase the teaching load, but result in savings. Mr. Scott said that the only way to save money on the modified block is teaching 3.5 out of 4

blocks. Board members inquired about how teachers would feel about an increased workload. Panel members said it would be tough and the teachers wouldn't have as much time to help students who were falling behind. They discussed the additional funds that would be needed for summer school and concerns about the juniors, in particular, not being able to complete requirements if a change is made next year. Director Sherwood said he is a big fan of the block but also realizes the board has to cut the budget. Director DeFauw asked for more clarification regarding the AB classes and said there are opportunities in the traditional schedule. DeFauw asked panel members to discuss more about the AB schedule as it relates to recovering from failed classes and there was discussion about this topic. DeFauw said that it has been her own experience with her kids as well as feedback from parents that it has been a challenge to take advantage of the many different extracurricular activities and opportunities for enrichment on the block schedule.

Director Krumwiede asked about the UEN schools and Mr. Scott responded that four of the eight UEN districts are on traditional and the other four are on the block or modified block schedule. Krumwiede mentioned how the board was told they would save money going to a block schedule and how student achievement would improve, but now they are being told the traditional schedule will save money. There was continued discussion about how difficult it would be at this point to statistically show an increase in student achievement solely due to the block schedule because so many other initiatives have been implemented since that change was made. Panel members noted the pros and cons of each schedule and Clewell agreed that good research points in both directions so the decision ultimately comes down to values. He said he is concerned about an "assembly line" approach to education but there are no easy answers.

Director DeFauw thanked the panel for the input and also noted there will be gains and losses no what direction the board decided to take. Director Sherwood said he thinks students can be successful in both schedules and his main concern is adding to the teacher load in the block schedule. The board had additional questions about how the change would affect the creative arts academy students, ROTC, dual enrollment and other programs. Snyder said he agreed that there are advantages and disadvantages of both schedules. Krumwiede thanked panel for their time and mentioned again the importance of cutting the budget while also keeping the best interests of students in the forefront. President Johanson reminded the board that this decision has to be made next month, so with this particular item they do not have the luxury of time so any additional questions the board needs answered should be sent to Dr. Tate as soon as possible. Ms. Tangen explained again that changing to a traditional schedule would save the district \$1,151,000 dollars. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43PM.

---

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary