

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER  
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM  
1606 BRADY STREET  
DAVENPORT, IOWA**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
OCTOBER 7, 2013**

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, October 7, 2013 pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, Achievement Service Center, 1606 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa, in said District. Vice- President Ken Krumwiede called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. President Ralph Johanson was absent.

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

**1. Davenport Reads Joint Resolution**

Dr. Tate summarized the Davenport Reads program which is a joint project sponsored by the City of Davenport, Davenport Community Schools and Eastern Iowa Community Colleges to ensure that all the people of Davenport of all ages will build their knowledge and expand opportunities through reading. Tate commented how passionately the mayor is about this joint program and that the Joint Resolution will be presented for approval at the next board meeting. Rachael Steiner reported on upcoming events such as a campaign launch, development of kick-off campaign materials, and a web blog site to track “the Pledge” participants, and a partner toolkit to assist non-profit agency partners to promote the campaign. They will also be working with the library to encourage people to register for a library card. Director Clewell and Sherwood commented on how pleased they are with this project. Director DeFauw asked if the project is budget neutral and Dr. Tate responded it was.

**2. 2013-14 Budget Recommendations**

Dr. Tate clarified that even though the agenda states budget “recommendations” the items being discussed this evening are not recommendations but only considerations and cautioned the media not to use the word phrase budget recommendations. He explained that Marsha Tangen stated the district requires 4 million in reductions at this time. Marsha explained she arrived at the figure by using the year end information that is currently being audited. The fund balance for the district is very healthy. Our spending authority has improved some but not much, and not enough to change any long term projections. They had projected the district would need 3.5 to 4 million a year for several years in reductions and this is still the case. Tate reviewed the items on the budget consideration list: 1) Lengthening walk zones-1/2 mile for elementary. This has been discussed in the past and this is the maximum amount allowed by law. It would be a tough decision to make, but emphasized the need to identify large items. Clewell asked about the history of why the district exceeded the state’s requirement. Tate stated he doesn’t know the history but this could be researched. 2) Establish parochial walk zones- currently are none; 3) Review block schedule at the high school which would result in significant savings. Tate recognized this is a sensitive topic and recommended having public discussion in order to gather public feedback. Director DeFauw agreed

with reviewing the block schedule in order to generate sustainable cost savings. She also suggested exploring the modified block similar to Bettendorf and North Scott where they toggle. Director Dickmann agreed this idea is worth exploring. 4) Wittenmyer relocation. Dr. Tate explained we have until December 1<sup>st</sup> to come back to the board with a recommendation as to whether we should continue to send students to Wittenmyer. 5) Take another insurance holiday. Tate reminded the board that Larry Siegel will be presenting finance information on the budget and unspent balance at the November 4<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting and Tim Kearns of RJ Lee & Associates will present on the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tate stated these presentations will help the board decide whether it would be prudent to take this option. Director Sherwood asked if the district has made the money back from previous insurance holidays and Ms. Tangen stated we had not. 6) Cut sub funds – go to building allocation. This would involve allocating funds to the buildings for hiring substitute teachers and the buildings would manage it. 7) Administration. Tate stated he would like to come to the board with suggestions on how to reduce administrative costs. 8) Reduction in department budgets. He then reviewed the suggested timeline for budget review and discussions.

Director Sherwood recommended serious evaluation of K-8 and believes sustainable budget cuts could require a restructure of the district and believes pursuing more K-8's is a way to achieve this. He also believes that K-8's are a better model overall. DeFauw stated the suggested timeline is reasonable and would like to keep all suggestions on the table. She inquired about the cost savings with not renewing the Jefferson Edison contract. In terms of administration, if there is a logical way to restructure she would be open, but she doesn't want to see us cut for the sake of cutting. Her least favorite option is #6. She doesn't think this should be a building responsibility but will remain open to the suggestion. Tate explained that the Jefferson Edison report is due to him on October 31<sup>st</sup> and he will be reporting to the report on this in November. DeFauw also suggested putting reducing retiree sub rate back on the table for reduction consideration as discussed last year. Director Dickmann suggested exploring cost savings relevant to contracts for educational materials and possible reductions in administration. Director Snyder requested more information on the Wittenmyer relocation in order to for him to make informed decisions concerning this option. Dr. Tate will be providing more detailed information on this topic. Director Clewell stated there could be efficiencies found with the AEA and also collaborating with North Scott regarding transportation. He also expressed concern about going to the block schedule as this type of schedule minimizes the chances for a establishing a good student/teacher relationship. Director Sherwood spoke in favor of the modified block. He stated that concerning Wittenmyer relocation we cannot sacrifice quality and in order for him to agree to this suggestion we would have to replicate the current environment. He emphasized the importance of the press getting the story out that the national average for funding for schools per pupil in Iowa is \$1,000 under the national average. Director Krumwiede suggested opportunities for the board to discuss the budget prior to the in-depth discussions scheduled for January. Dr. Tate suggested this take place at a November or December board meeting. Krumwiede also suggested looking at other government agencies to share costs. There was a brief discussion about the timeline for public discussions. Director Clewell announced that the annual Legislative Ice Cream Social is scheduled for this Wednesday at 6:30 and Director DeFauw reminded everyone of the Band Spectacular tomorrow night. The meeting was adjourned by Vice-President Krumwiede at 6:10 p.m.

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Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary