

## **DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**October 3, 2011**

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 3, 2011, pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Johanson called the meeting to order at 5:33PM.

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

#### **Health Issues Report**

Dr. Tate introduced Carol Harris, District Nurse, who presented the Board with an overview of the Davenport Community Schools Health Services. Carol thanked Director Krumwiede for allowing her the opportunity to make this presentation to the Board. Carol introduced several of the district nurses who were in attendance. Carol stated that the main priority of the district nurses is academic success for the students. Research shows there is a direct correlation between health and the ability to learn. The school nurse addresses the physical, emotional, mental and social health of students, families and staff members as well as volunteers and visitors.

Carol reported there are 25 registered nurses in the district. All district nurses are registered nurses governed by the Nurse Practice Act and the School Nurse Standards of Practice. Each nurse is required to complete 36 hours of continuing education every 3 years for licensure. Carol stated the majority of students that nurses see on a daily basis have some kind of mental health issue attached to their visit to the health office. This could be due to the home situation, student being tired or a history of abuse. Carol stated we do not have the community providers and there is not enough staff in the district to handle these issues. The only solution for the mental health issues is to send the student to the emergency room or refer them to Vera French. Carol reported in some cases it takes more than 30 days for a student to be assessed.

Carol reported at this time in the district we have 1,529 students diagnosed with ADHD, 2,049 with asthma, 42 with diabetes, 388 with food allergies and 121 with seizures. Carol stated that there could be students with a rare condition that nurses may not be aware of. Nurses must educate themselves, staff and parents on how these conditions impact learning and the school day.

Nurses fall under the FERPA law which means the nurse has the right to share information with anyone who needs to know. Carol reported that many times the nurse will delegate another staff member to care for a student who has a health issue. This is due to the shortage of nurses in the schools. Carol stated statistically the district runs neck and neck with the national averages of the most common health issues among students.

Carol said obesity is on the rise but at this time there is no district data collected on this issue. Director Clewell asked if the nurses make calls to parents to discuss a child's obesity. Carol said there is no mechanism in place at this time in the district to contact parents about obesity.

Carol reported on daily medications that are given to students that cover a number of conditions. This does not include the number of cardiac cases that need accommodations. Carol again reiterated these are the medications that the nurses know about. Carol reviewed the process nurses follow once a health issue has been identified. Carol explained again that nurses can delegate the care of a student to a non-licensed person. Director Krumweide asked who the nurses are delegating to. Carol said once a nurse knows what care a student needs, they consult with administration to find key staff willing to learn how to care for this student. The nurse will train the staff member to make sure they are capable of completing the task. Follow up training is provided every three months. The ultimate responsibility of the non-licensed person falls under the license of the nurse.

Carol said currently the nurses are delegating diabetic care, seizure care, inhalers and nebulizer treatment and Epi-pen administration. Director Zamora asked how many health para professionals there are in the district. Carol stated there is one health para at every school that does not have a full time nurse. Carol stated many times nurses must arrange and connect parents with a physician, help with insurance and transportation to and from appointments.

Carol talked about child abuse reporting and stated that many times staff will consult with nurses about how to handle a particular situation. Director Sherwood asked if it would help to have staff consult with counselors and not the nurses. Carol stated she did not think this would help because many times it is a physical sign they would like nurses to look at. Carol stated they will look at the physical sign but will remind the staff member they are the ones who need to make the report being they noticed the problem first. Carol stated nurses often times are the first line of health care for students and families. Carol reported this presentation doesn't begin to touch on wellness and the implications that advocating for wellness in our district could mean for student achievement.

Director Sherwood asked Carol what she would like the state of Iowa to do to support the nurses and students. Carol stated the district is in need of more mental health services not only in the community, but in the buildings. Director Roberson thanked the nurses for all that they do. Carol stated the district has a wonderful relationship with community partners. Director Krumweide also thanked the nurses. Director Krumweide stated he and Director Clewell attended the kick-off at McKinley School. He stated flu shots were free; however, only 30% of the population took advantage of this service. Director Krumweide stated it is overwhelming to hear all that nurses do in our buildings. He stated the information presented was very helpful and more conversation should take place with our legislators concerning mental health.

Director Clewell stated the Legislative Advocacy Committee talked about joining forces with the community to advocate for mental health services. Director Clewell asked when staff is educated on health issues in their building. Carol stated it varies based on the availability of staff; however they try to provide the training as soon as they find out information. Director Clewell stated it seems there are more parents choosing not to vaccinate their children and asked about our policy on student vaccinations. He stated he thought all students had to have the required vaccinations. Carol stated there are medical and religious exemptions for students. Carol stated the district has a low percentage of

students with exemptions. Carol stated we have more students on a provisional certificate. This means that a student can enter school by law as long as they have one of every required vaccination. They have sixty day blocks of time to get caught up on the needed vaccinations. Director Clewell asked Carol to characterize the danger to other students from students who are not properly vaccinated. Carol stated we are in more danger with students who are not properly vaccinated because it is not required by law, such as the pertussis vaccine. Carol said this could be eliminated by requiring a physical at Kindergarten and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Many of these issues can be identified at that time.

Director Johanson asked Carol to describe how we monitor students who may have a concussion based on the information she provided earlier. Carol explained the process. Director Johanson asked about the comparison of the district to the nation. He felt the numbers were very high according to his perception. Carol stated these numbers continue to increase based on health issues being identified earlier.

Director Clewell asked if the difficulty of collecting student obesity data is a time management matter. Carol stated that she feels the district has not yet developed a strategy to collect this data.

Director Krumwiede asked Ethel Reynolds how nurses are allocated to our buildings. Ethel explained it is based on student enrollment and student needs. Ethel explained that sometimes students are moved to other buildings that may have a full time nurse.

### **District Committee Report**

Dr. Tate presented the Board with a list of District Stakeholder Committees. He stated currently there are 29 committees with three new committees starting this year; The Resource Allocation Committee, the Dropout Task Force and the Facilities Planning Committee.

### **Resource Allocation Committee**

Marsha Tangen stated the purpose will be to review funding in preparation for the 2013 budget and to make recommendations to the Superintendent. The long term goal will be to work on a 5-year plan for the budget. The group will encompass 20-25 members made up of central office staff, administrators for each building level; employees representing bargaining and non-bargaining groups, a board member and student board member; business partners; representative from the minority community, fine arts and athletics; parents from each of the high schools and a member from the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee. Meetings are set to begin October 11, 2011 in the Board Room. Director Johanson asked the Board to think about volunteering to serve on this committee.

The meeting was adjourned by President Johanson at 6:41PM

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Joy Johnson, Recording Secretary