

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER  
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM  
1606 BRADY STREET  
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 for a 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. Present: Director's Johanson, Clewell, Hayes, Dickmann, Gosa, DeSalvo and Snyder. Dr. Tate and other administrators were present.

**1.01 ST Math**

Alissa Hansel, Curriculum and Instruction Specialist PreK-12 Mathematics, Sarah Gott, Principal of Hayes Elementary; Brian Muller, Company Representative, and a large group of students from Hayes Elementary provided a presentation to the board on ST Math. ST Math is instructional software built on visual learning that complements the core curricula and fact fluency. It engages students in developing a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics by manipulating visual models to solve problems in a self-paced master-based environment. The curriculum is 100% funded by John Deere, AEA, and Scale Up (U of I) grants. According to the handout and information provided to the board, ST Math is aligned with the Iowa Core and represents the highest quality and most effective blended learning math solution in K-12 education. Hayes is one of six Title buildings implementing ST Math. At the end of the school year it will be determined if the software is improving student achievement. The students demonstrated how they learned 13 picture passwords and involved board members in the process of learning the program. Students commented on how much they learn using the program and how it makes learning math more fun.

**1.02 Diversity Plan**

Dr. Tate and Dawn Anderson-Rascher presented proposed changes to the District Diversity Plan that would simplify the criteria for classifying the Category A and B students. They purposed using Student Academic Performance as the criteria using the Reading Comprehension results of the Iowa state test for grades 3-12 and the FAST Reading Assessments for grades k-2. Approvals for Category A and B applications to leave the District would be granted in the same number as the applications to enter the District. For each open enrollment application received into the district, a corresponding application for open enrollment out of the district would be approved. A lottery process would be used if the number of applications seeking to leave the District exceeds the number of applications to enter the District. Director Dickmann said she likes the proposed changes. Director Clewell noted the original purpose of the diversity plan and asked the board if they still have a vested interest in schools being racially balanced. He knows race can't be the sole criteria, but he would like feedback from the board on using race as one of the criteria. Director Snyder recalled that the district attorney did not recommend using race at all

and Johanson also noted the same. Clewell asked Dr. Tate and he said he does not see an advantage in adding this as another criteria. Tate said if the board wants it the plan to be effective for next school year it should be done by the middle of January since we would need approval from the Department of Education and that will take some time. Director Snyder mentioned that the district loses money for every student who leaves the district and expressed support for the proposed changes but would like to see data on open enrolling out of the district according to grade level and building. DeSalvo and Gosa asked if they collected data to find out why people want to leave the district and Ms. Anderson-Rascher explained that the district is not permitted to ask why, but they do try to conduct informal exit interviews when possible. Johanson agreed these changes would simplify the process. There is a sense of urgency when considering the amount of money represented by the students who leave the district. Snyder commented that many parents don't want to send their kids to the district but they make that decision before even seeing a classroom or knowing what the district has to offer. Clewell and Hayes commented that this is true, but parents know what is best for their own child and that parental choice is important. DeSalvo supports the changes but is also interested in the seeing the data requested by Snyder.

### **1.03 Options for JB Young**

Dr. Tate emphasized these three options are not plans nor is he recommending any one particular option. These options are only "what if" scenarios to explore in order to begin the process and discussion on what JB Young will look like in the future. All three options include the ASC moving into the JB Young building and creating of a Community Center.

Dr. Tate presented *Option A*: Close JB at end of 2015-16 school year and provide options to students and families. New boundaries are drawn to assign students to Madison, Jefferson Sudlow, Smart, and Williams schools. Current elementary and intermediate students will have a choice of schools provided there is space in school of choice. Efforts will be made to redirect bus routes for these students provided there is no extra cost to the district for transportation. Attempts will be made to provide an afterschool activities bus from Sudlow, Smart, and Williams to the JB Young building. Approximate savings for this option is \$1,900,000. The board did not have any questions about this option.

Dr. Tate presented *Option B*: Close JB Young at the end of the school year and provide significant supports and choices for current students. It is the same as Option A in that new boundaries would be drawn to assign students to the 5 receiving schools and would also look at afterschool buses bringing students to the JB Young area. This option would also includes each of the 5 receiving schools having a Success Coach assigned for one year to specifically assist JB Young students with the transition to a new school. An additional general education Para-educator would be assigned for one year to each receiving school and the walk zones would be shortened so that more students would receive transportation. Also, this option would provide after school tutorials at the ASC to assist students and families. The additional support would be a one-year added cost of approximately \$420,000. Board members asked for more details on the credentials for success coaches and Snyder requested an estimate on what it will cost for additional transportation support for shortening the walk zones. Tate said the policy related to walk zones would have to change and that changes in walk zones would only apply to JB students.

Dr. Tate presented *Option C*: Close JB Young K-8 School at the end of the school year. Provide a program called the Davenport Intermediate College Preparatory Academy for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the JB Young building. The Academy would serve 150-300 students and be a school-wide Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Current JB Young students and current 5<sup>th</sup> graders in the attendance area would have 1<sup>st</sup> choice to enroll. Cost of the Academy with school-wide AVID would result in net savings of about \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 compared to the cost of operating JB Young K-8 School. Savings depends on the number of students choosing the Academy. This option provides the least help in finding \$5 million in savings, but the college prep and AVID aspects might be inviting for grants or donation assistance. Johanson asked Tate about the process for making a decision on whatever plan is adopted. Tate said he sees additional board discussion in November and December and the timing for Option C would more critical than the others so the decision would have to be made sometime in January.

Johanson asked Tate if he saw the board voting on this decision or just providing direction. Tate said the board voted to close the school so he thinks the board needs to make some pretty deliberate decisions on what it is going to look like afterwards. Snyder asked for more details regarding the AVID program whether it serves at-risk students that are struggling and expressed some concerns about the plan. Tate explained that a school-wide AVID plan is for every student in the school and the whole point of AVID in Intermediate schools is to give students the confidence and the background to take AP courses in high school which also better prepares the student for college. Director Hayes likes Option C because it converts JB back to what it was originally-a middle school and that it would be a specialty school. Tate reminded the board that AVID would only be a program and not a school.

Dickmann said the goal of closing JB Young was to address the problems of too much capacity and not enough budget but now we are presented with an option to create a magnet program to draw 150-300 students back to the building and she doesn't think this option is responsible. Clewell believes that Option C reflects the thoughts and concerns of community. The plan is very respectful and this is an option he is very interested in. DeSalvo said she is leaning toward Option B and likes the idea of coaches helping the students transition to their new schools. She agrees with Snyder and Dickmann in that she is concerned that Option C would create the perception that we are sending 300 students out and then bringing 300 students back in. Gosa asked if the ASC would still move into the building with Option C and Dr. Tate explained it would work because Option C involves a special program not an entire school. Gosa said he is interesting in learning more about Option C and the AVID program. Hayes said she sees Option C as a solution rather than a surprise and that 100 students are already involved in AVID at JB Young. Johanson expressed interest in Option C but also noted it is the most expensive option. Tate said he felt a responsibility to explore a different option that addressed the concerns expressed by the community at the last board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

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Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer