

## **DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

DAVENPORT SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION SERVICE CENTER

1606 BRADY STREET

DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**November 7, 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, November 7, 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. Vice President Krumwiede called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. He explained that President Johanson would be a little late.

On roll call the following board members were present: Directors: Ken Krumwiede, Rich Clewell, Patt Zamora, Bill Sherwood and Larry Roberson and Nikki De Fauw. President Ralph Johanson arrived at 5:40 pm. Superintendent Art Tate and other administrators were present.

#### **Wilson Climate Control Report**

Dr. Tate introduced Scott Martin and asked him to give his report. Scott reported on the Wilson Climate Control project. He stated this project is the third air conditioning project and is scheduled to be presented to the board at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for the release of plans. The public hearings have been completed on the Sudlow and JB Young Climate Control projects and the bids were received for Sudlow this week. The JB Young bids should be received within the next month. He explained that the Wilson Climate Control Project is an estimated 2.9 million dollar project which is a geo-thermal project similar to what was done at Bluegrass and Walcott. Director Krumwiede asked for questions. Director Clewell asked how things were going at JB Young with respect to drilling. Scott replied that they received the go ahead from DNR to proceed and they are evaluating the flow and heat exchangers for this and will have a report from them in next two weeks.

#### **Student Ridership on City Buses**

Dr. Tate introduced Scott Martin for a report on student ridership on city buses. Scott reported that student ridership is high with 27,000 student trips reported for the month of September. This is an increase of 2,000 from the month of August. He highlighted that about 20% of ridership on the city buses is from our students. Feedback from students is that that it makes it easier for them to get to school and it is much more convenient. Director Zamora asked if kids were behaving. Scott stated that there were some concerns about the process for getting on the buses at some stops but that he addressed this with the students. He met with students at these particular stops and explained to them how they had to show their tickets and how to get on bus one at a time and in an orderly fashion. Director Zamora asked about their behavior once they get on the bus and Scott stated that the complaints were minimal. Director Sherwood added that the Mayor's office had received only one complaint and how this is very impressive. Director De Fauw asked if we knew which routes were most utilized. Scott reported that Wood, North, and Central schools are the most heavily utilized routes. Director De Fauw asked if they have noticed a decrease in absenteeism as the result of this

initiative. Dr. Tate responded that they are looking at the numbers but he wants to make sure they are accurate in order to state there is a correlation with respect to this new initiative. As soon as he feels the numbers are accurate he will be reporting back to the board on this topic.

Director Zamora stated that this also gets students in the habit of riding the bus which is good.

Director Clewell asked if Scott had any idea how many bus trips are educational vs. fun types of trips. Scott responded that they do not know this yet but he could conduct a survey to gather some of this data.

Director Sherwood asked about the long term status of this project. Scott explained that this is a one year pilot project where the city and the district split the cost of \$26,000. The project will be evaluated at the end of the school year and this would give us a better idea of what future costs would be for both the city and the district. Director Sherwood asked if he has seen any decline in our transit system's ridership and Scott replied it was too early to tell. Director Krumwiede asked if there were any other questions for Scott and there was not.

### **Curriculum Efforts (DIBELS, LETRS, Data Teams, RTI & PBIS)**

President Johanson asked Dr. Tate to introduce the next topic. Dr. Tate started by saying that the last couple of years the leadership of the district along with the board have made some wise decisions about where the district should go regarding programs and curriculum. Dr. Tate pointed out that he was happy to see that this district has researched and focused on what program and curriculum efforts would be most effective. He stated that the presenters would be providing a history of where we have been, where we are going and what the expectations are for the future. Dr. Tate emphasized how these curriculum efforts will be successful and that we are in for the long haul concerning them. Juli Staszewski presented a power point that outlined the history of the curriculum efforts and strategies used 2005 through 2011. Some of the strategies highlighted and discussed were literacy strategies from 2005-2009 including read aloud, QAR (Questions, Answer, Relationship), and Writing to Learn. Juli explained how differentiated instruction and the components called the "five non-negotiables" include the following: supportive learning environment, respectful tasks, flexible groups, ongoing assessment, and quality curriculum. Juli emphasized that they spent a great deal of time 2008-09 looking at supportive learning environment and then integrated KUD's-(what we want our students to know, understand, and do.) They added assessment for learning and quality curriculum with the Iowa core the next year. Patti Pace-Tracy reported on the collaborative teaching approach started in the 2006-07 school year which was initiated in intermediate and high schools which require teachers be highly qualified in subjects that they teach and special education teachers co-teach with one or more core teachers. She explained the details of the strategic instruction model and how Betty Long led the professional development initiative on this model. Juli said this brings us to where we are now with the data teams' process. She handed out an example of the data team meeting notes for the board to see how this process actually works in the classroom. Juli highlighted the six steps of the data team process. She explained the most recent component of RTI (Response to Intervention) which is a three tiered process. Tier I is core instruction, Tier II is supplemental instruction and Tier III is intensive intervention. Juli mentioned how beneficial the last professional development day was with Douglas Fisher, author of the book Enhancing RTI. PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) is a new program being piloted in eight buildings. Dawn Anderson Rascher stated the infinite campus is tracking the data on this project. The next program highlighted was DIBELS NEXT which is a screening and progress monitoring tool for K-6 reading and is only being used in

K-2 currently in our district. DIBELS identifies students who may be at risk for reading difficulties and helps teachers identify areas to target instructional support. LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling), is a deep professional development program that provides the necessary knowledge base to teach students intense reading interventions and fosters insight into why specific assessment and instruction practices are effective. Forty teachers have been trained so far. Juli concluded by stating how they will be presenting some additional topics at the next board meeting.

Director Roberson asked if earlier data has been collected regarding the K-2 reading programs in order to address potential reading problems at an earlier age. Juli responded that the pre-schools have changed to state assessment so they are getting data from the preschools. Director Sherwood asked about the implementation timetable for PBIS. Juli stated it is on the horizon and but they don't know how long it will take data teams and RTI to become firmly embedded in the schools but as that process moves along PBIS will be incorporated. She stated that they do have three buildings that have started the process. Director Sherwood asked what freedom the buildings have in selecting the interventions used. Juli responded that it depends on individual student needs and assessing strategies that will be effective for each individual child. Director Sherwood asked what they are doing to avoid assigning labels to children based on tiers. Juli said the message to teachers is that they are in their classrooms providing additional support. Dawn addressed Director Sherwood's concern by stating that there is fluidity of movement between the tiers and she believes it is conveyed in a way that avoids this type of labeling.

Director Krumwiede thanked the group for their efforts on these initiatives and pointed out that he had asked in previous meetings the question of how the data teams and the new strategies being implemented have changed the practices of teachers and principals and asked if they are collecting this type of data. Dawn stated it is not strongly organized at this point but that success is being observed. Dr. Tate stated that the principals have created a timeline which will help them know where they are going. He also pointed out that so much is new but we will be relentless but also patient.

Director Krumwiede he stated that he had opportunity to observe in the workshop both the elementary and secondary teachers. He stated the teachers had questions about how to keep the 80% group busy during core instruction especially at the primary level. He stated that the teacher should be working with those groups not para educators. He said he heard the question "Are we going to get support in how to help the core group of kids stay on task while the classroom teacher works with other two groups?" Juli stated that we do need to spend more time training teachers on how to get their students involved in productive group work that will keep them engaged so the teacher can work with the other two groups. She pointed out that many teachers, but not all teachers, have the skills required to accomplish this in the classroom so additional training will be necessary. Director Krumwiede stated that it is his understanding from reading the book that this is not just about the lower level core students but that it is about all the students. Juli responded that we always want make sure every student is working to their highest potential and that reaching the goal of 80% of students successful in the core will be a challenge but it is now on the radar screen and everyone is aware that these goals needs to be accomplished.

Director Zamora stated that for those of us in education for a long period of time have seen hundreds

of programs come and go and asked what makes this approach different. Juli noted she thinks the success stems from the teachers having the control. Teachers decide what they collect and chart and can evaluate how strategies are working. The collaboration efforts also give teachers the opportunity to talk with peers about successes as well as improvements that they need to make in order to help students be successful. Dr. Tate stated that we have come to the conclusion that if students are not “getting it” then the adults are the ones that need to look at changing. The teachers and principals are asking what they need to do differently and this is a new mindset and stated that people are responding to it.

Director Clewell asked about the new standardized assessment for the voluntary preschool program. Juli stated that they received notification yesterday and will be training for it in the near future. Director Clewell then asked about the CSIP and if there will be any changes. Juli stated the CSIP will contain all the reports so everything must be in one plan. She emphasized that we are staying firm on what we are doing now. Director Clewell asked how many programs have we dismissed in past five years. Juli mentioned the literacy program that was dropped and replaced by the Treasures reading program. She also mentioned an assessment they no longer use because it was not creating any kind of success rate. Another program dropped was called Fast Forward which was heavily utilized but didn't think it was working as well as they would have liked and summarized by stating that she believes we respond to data very well and then adjust accordingly.

Director Sherwood asked how they are working with the state core. Juli said they are prioritizing and have aligned the curriculum with core curriculum. Director Sherwood asked if a curriculum audit has ever been conducted. Juli stated they have not and that this would be very expensive.

President Johanson thanked all the presenters.

### **Drop Out Prevention and Resource Allocation Committees**

Dr. Tate stated he provided membership list for the Drop Out Prevention Task Force and their first meeting is this week. He explained this is an action group divided into 6 sub-committees. Dr. Tate stated how important it is for this committee to move quickly to identify issues and the actions needed to improve the graduation rate. The Resource Allocation Committee list and the last three agendas were also included in the board packet. They have looked at the general finance picture and had directors come to the meetings. The next meeting is tomorrow night and when they will establish priorities for this year as well as the long term and he will have something ready for the board in a couple of months.

President Johanson stated that the Resource Allocation Committee is being headed by Marsha Tangen and she has asked for a board member to serve on this committee. He asked the board to think about volunteering and an appointment could be made Monday night at the next board meeting. Dr. Tate has also asked for a board member to serve on the Drop-out Prevention Task Force. Director Zamora commented she would like to see more parents as well as new parents serve on the RAC Committee and that high school kids should be on the Drop out Prevention Taskforce. Dr. Tate stated that all four high schools have one student each on the Drop out Prevention Taskforce. Dr. Tate stated that the Technology Steering Committee would also like a board representative. Gary Sloat is leading that committee. President Johanson asked Dr. Tate to provide more information on that committee. President Johanson asked for other comments. Director

Roberson volunteered to serve on the Drop Out Prevention Task Force and asked that he be considered for this appointment. Director Zamora volunteered to serve on the Resource Allocation Committee and Director Sherwood also volunteered to serve on the Drop Out Prevention Task Force. President Johanson stated a selection will be made Monday and thanked everyone for volunteering.

Director Krumwiede asked for clarification on how the roles of board members are different serving on these committee than it is serving on the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee (LSIAC). President Johanson responded that LSIAC is required by law and reports directly to the board. There seems to be some sensitivity to board members participating both as committee members and as a board member. The other committees are district committees and the district has requested board representation on the other committees and he sees them being completely different than LSIAC. President Johanson asked Dr. Tate if he and any other thoughts on this and he did not.

### **Boundaries & Facilities Discussion by the Board**

Dr. Tate passed around a funding equity fact sheet that was created by CFO, Marsha Tangen. He explained that this piece will help everyone have the same information concerning the equity issues and thanked Marsha for creating it. Dr. Tate explained that he asked Scott Martin to start off the discussion by giving everyone an update on where we have been and where we are now regarding boundaries and facilities. Dr. Tate explained that one of his objectives is to refresh the facilities usage vision by providing the board with a long range plan for facilities to support the district's current and anticipated needs. He said he would like the board's guidance, thoughts, and facts regarding this so he can get moving to accomplish this goal. Dr. Tate then asked Scott to start his presentation.

Scott said we did a GIS project over the last couple years where we went into all the elementary schools and talked with focus groups at each school. These focus groups consisted of parents and administrators. They asked about the impacts they were seeing as far as capacity. Some schools are at capacity and some are at less of a capacity. Scott reported that the feedback from the focus groups was brought back to the board at that time. He stated that Hickory Hills is the only area with free choice and it was decided to leave that as it is. As far as long range facilities plan these should all be added into the discussion. Scott reported that he will be using a new software tool that allows him to move boundary lines so he can actually see the students move with the line. He explained that all students will be downloaded into the software and it will show where the student lives, what district they live in, their ethnicity and other relevant data. This will be a very helpful tool in future discussions about boundaries and facilities. He stated how we know there is a need on the north and east side and within the 53<sup>rd</sup> street corridor.

Scott continued to explain that we are in year three of the local option which was started in 2008-09. We went to the community and the board and decided where we were going to spend money for the next ten years. Through these discussions it was decided that providing air conditioning in the schools was the primary objective and we have gone forward with that decision. Scott reported that before the start of the next school year we will have nine schools air conditioned and will have only two schools left-Central and Garfield. Scott asked the board not to forget Truman and Wood because those systems are original to the building and are approaching 30 or more years old.

Scott stated they have been working on secure entrances at the schools and have completed five and have six left which includes Central. He stated they are working on the remainder of the schools mentioning the challenges at Sudlow and Smart which have main offices on second floor. They are currently looking at a less expensive way to address that need. He stated they are working on driveways as far as pick-ups and drop-offs at Wilson, Adams, Buchanan, Fillmore and Monroe. Scott stated that Wilson is a real difficult situation because of amount of cars that drop off there. He conducted a traffic count one day and had 150 cars for 450 students. They are working on developing a process to separate students who are walking and riding the bus from those who are being picked up by the cars. He will report back to the board on this in the near future.

Scott reported they have finished CVW, the Williams Gym and the Walcott ribbon cutting will be coming up December 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are working on the Fillmore classroom size. They have some of the smallest classrooms in the district. Project Lead the Way is another project they are working on and he will be bringing to the board the remainder to be approved and completed next summer. West family and consumer science and the nurse's office are very small for 2,000 students. They have found a way to relocate her and her needs and they will be bringing this request to the board for their consideration as we finish air conditioning at West. Scott stated he thinks this is a perfect way to bundle the two projects together. Scott asked for questions.

Director Zamora asked if a citizen's committee has been formed yet to help us look at boundaries. Dr. Tate responded that this committee had not been created yet and asked the board if they would like for him to move in that direction. Director Zamora stated that we need citizens involved in order to get their input. Director Zamora asked Scott if they could we do something on Elsie Avenue behind Wilson to address congestion problems. Scott pointed out that is exactly what they are doing and this approach will save money by only having to pay for one entrance and one exit. Director Zamora noted that parents and students have brought the West High Auditorium to her attention stating this is not an adequate facility. The sound system and curtains there are over 60 years old. She asked where we have the Central auditorium and pool in our logistics and then asked if we are looking at the implications of growth due to the construction of the west side diversion tunnel. Scott responded that he would be happy to visit the West High auditorium and agreed everything would be original in this case. He provided an estimate of \$250,000 to \$500,000 for a new curtain, sound system, light board and lights and would probably need to investigate the rigging. Concerning the Central auditorium and pool he stated that a study was completed on this project and the cost of 2 million was brought to the board but no decision was made so they are waiting on direction from the board. The pool cannot be renovated and needs to be replaced and this project is place marked to start in year four, five and six. The auditorium is included as a three year project at a certain amount of funding. Scott explained that if we only planned for renovation and decided to go new then we would not have the money built into the system. This way we would know how much money would be left at the end of years four, five, and six. We are waiting on board direction on the auditorium and pool and this would require a substantial planning process.

Dr. Tate explained that he would like more feedback from the board at this point.

Director De Fauw expressed concern about having this discussion within the context of specific projects and stated there are larger more overriding questions that need to be answered and addressed before we even begin looking at specific projects. She stated that if we look at where funds have been apportioned in the last three or five year cycle she is confident that there are other buildings that have not been touched in the last seven to eight years. She pointed out that regarding

local option sales tax in terms of equity we need to make sure that all of our buildings have equal access to building improvements and that we need to step back and look at building priorities as a whole and other overriding issues that are not project specific.

Director Roberson added that we have to have discussions about buildings and how we have some buildings with declining enrollment and other buildings are overcrowded. We need find out what our needs really are and that it should always be about student achievement. Director Roberson stated we need to know where we are with buildings in terms of population and in terms of why we have declining enrollment and refocus so the declining enrollment stops. We only have so much more money at our disposal. We need to assess where we are now and then move forward.

Director Sherwood thanked Dr. O'Melia for fixing the phone system at Kimberly Center and stated that if we have any other schools with phone systems that bad they should be replaced. He was also at the musical at Central and the stage looked very overcrowded and quite possibly a fire hazard. Also the sound system is very bad and asked if something could be done about that. As far as the larger issues, Director Sherwood asked about Scott's memo concerning clarification for re-purposing schools. Dr. Tate responded it meant not using it for normal education purpose and the district could lease, sell, or other type options but that the end result would be that it would no longer be a school. Director Sherwood stated that if we kept kids in the schools we could try to bring balance and compete with the open enrollment. He would like to have a vision of where we are going and the purpose of these buildings before moving forward.

President Johanson asked if there were other thoughts. Director Krumweide stated that he didn't know if we would wait for a citizens group to be created, but several years ago we asked the community if they wanted neighborhood schools or specialized schools. The feedback at that time was that the community members wanted neighborhood schools. He stated we need to ask our citizens if they still want neighborhood schools or what they want and then look at capacity and also how our facilities are currently being used. He stated if the software program is able to show us the capacity of each of these buildings and how many students presently attend that this is a good place to start. Director Krumwiede also asked that the transfer policies we have in this District be reviewed and explained because transfer policies have quite an impact on how some of our facilities are being used and the number of transfers. We need to look at the different types of transfers and policies that we have and how that impacts each of our buildings. We need to know about capacity and if we have schools overcrowded we need to take a look at that if we have schools low in enrollment and we need to take a look at that also. Director Krumwiede stated he agreed with Director Roberson that he we should not have any discussions about new buildings at this point. We need all this information before we talk about new buildings or closing buildings.

Director Roberson asked for clarification about the new software and would Scott be able tell what kids lived in a neighborhood that were not attending our schools. Scott responded that we would only be able to see those students who are in our infinite database and the software could only identify the students in the Davenport Community School District.

President Johanson asked if Dr. Tate would be leading us through the rest of the questions. Dr. Tate stated he did not intend to lead the board through the questions but only had them available in case someone had questions about them. He summarized the board is saying he should come back with comprehensive information so we have vision of what could be and then they would be ready to give him more guidance. He clarified that we should look at building capacity, the density and

boundaries, and also the transfer policies and how these are affecting attendance and that this information will give us a better idea where we stand. Dr. Tate stated that we do not want to rush it. This is not something we need to do two months from now and that we want to be methodical, but also said we need to get moving on it.

Director Zamora stated that they previously waited a very long time on the county's GIS system and when they did give it to the board it was very ineffective. Scott responded that they were missing some pieces at that time but that this software is very accurate down to the parcel. He said we do have all the pieces now that will allow us to make some good decisions.

Director Sherwood asked if Scott can get projections from the city on future population growth and Dr. Tate agreed that this information is important.

President Johanson emphasized that this is a big task to do all the work we are talking about and it will take a while. There are a number of reasons why we are doing this, but one of them is that school district policies require that we review boundaries. He asked Director Roberson if he would like to address the sense of urgency concerning addressing boundaries.

Director Roberson stated that at some point we need to formulate a game plan. When he looks at student achievement and population and see where this is heading we have nothing in place to address this and how it will impact the schools. He reaffirmed what was previously about how it would be great if our kids could go where they wanted to go and how this would mean all of our schools were great schools. It is about having the ability to move forward and where we want to go and not keep asking for additional information. Some schools are in decline so what do we do about those schools? It comes down to the school board making a decision about how we move forward. Do we create something special at the schools with declining enrollment such as turning them into a math and science academy in order to increase enrollment? We need to move forward at some point.

President Johanson if we have asked some of the right questions so we can get the information we need. Director Roberson stated yes we have but we need to make sure we are doing what we said we would do first before we start with round two. We need to look at what we already have before moving on and he emphasized how important it is to factor in student achievement when we have these discussions and how all of these questions impact learning. For example, how do these questions of adequate space affect student achievement? We should be looking at technology and how we incorporate these ideas to improve student achievement. He added that Dr. Tate is doing the right thing in marketing our schools and that overall we need to move forward.

President Johanson asked for additional questions or comments and asked Dr. Tate if he was satisfied with what information was needed to bring back to the board. Dr. Tate responded that he was clear on what was being requested would be providing that information so the discussion can move forward.

The meeting was adjourned by President Johanson at 7:05 p.m

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Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary