

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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, December 2, 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. President Johanson called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

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

1. Elementary Recess and Lunch Periods

Dr. Tate invited the elementary school principals in attendance to answer any questions the board may have on this topic. Director Clewell indicated it seems that the time for lunch and recess periods has been reduced in order to provide more time for core programs. He asked for feedback from the principals. Corri Guy said she believes their primary responsibility is to teach students to read and believes students have adequate time for recess and lunch. She said it is about being creative and then described some of their recess activities and said the teachers encourage and incorporate movement throughout the school day. Student can also earn an extra recess. TJ Schneckloth said he believes the biggest obstacle they encounter is students learning language and that many of his students need twice as much instruction in phonemic awareness. There was a discussion about students being behind and why there is failure and Director Sherwood noted the importance of developing cognitive and social skills. Kent Ryan talked about collaboration between students how students are happy when they are succeeding in school. Director Snyder also mentioned the importance of the school's climate and culture. There was a discussion about the procedures for recess. President Johanson mentioned the calls they receive from parents and just wanted to make sure we weren't too far off track. Director DeFauw asked about the 90 minute reading block and Cindy Lewis provided more detail explaining there is a lot of student movement within that block and that teachers shift instruction so students do get a break. There were questions about silent lunches and teachers did indicate that there are times when students are quiet for 5 or 10 minutes. Several principals discussed the various student activities and "brain breaks" they provide for students. Director Dickmann emphasized the importance of brain breaks. Director Krumwiede complimented the principals on their collaboration and there was a discussion about past and present practices regarding recess and lunch. One principal mentioned how the different schools and facilities impact schedules but they also try as much as possible to do indoor recess when the weather is too cold to go outside. Director Snyder said he hopes each of them feel they have the freedom they need and the principals indicated they do not feel they have too many restrictions. Christie Pitts did say she would like to incorporate more physical activity for her students. Director Dickmann asked if they feel pressure about providing instruction at the expense of time for recess or lunch and Tonya Wilkins responded they do feel pressure, however, the principals know it is

about finding a balance and if students are successful they will be happy. Director Clewell thanked the principals for their input. President Johanson asked about making kids finish their lunch and how the culture of the building is influence so much by the principals. He reiterated how he receives calls from parents and asked about discipline being connected to recess because he doesn't believe this right. Cindy Lewis said she cautions teachers to not connect discipline to recess and doesn't believe this is a common practice. Dr. Tate noted how proud he is of all the principals and how much he appreciates their efforts.

2. Audit

Ms. Tangen acknowledged the dedication of all the staff in preparing the audit. A representative from McGladrey reported on the 2012-13 audit completed for the District. She summarized auditor communications and financial performance, reviewed the revenue, expenditures by function, and general fund balance. Director Snyder asked about the other category and she explained this was the AEA flow through fund. She reported the district met all compliance requirements. Director Clewell asked for her perspective on investments and she explained the restrictions imposed on schools regarding investments. McGladrey has been conducting audits for the district for at least six years.

3. Affordable Health Care

Tim Kearns from RJ Lee and Associates provided an overview of the Affordable Health Care Act and how it will affect the district. He reviewed provisions currently in effect, employer obligations, and that the employer encouragement provision has been delayed until 2015. He reviewed two types of employer penalties and the Cadillac tax. There was a discussion about the requirement for employees working 30 hours per week and Deb Miller discussed how this would affect mainly coaches and guest teachers. Board members asked questions about the grandfather status, payment for clinical trials, and if this would require more staff. Mr. Kearns said he hopes that improved mechanization in payroll systems may help not having to hire more staff. DeFauw suggested looking at the hours for coaches on an annual basis, and there was also a discussion on what the district's definition of part-time is and how the district will be affected financially by the new law overall. President Johanson asked Mr. Kearns to provide an estimate as to how much it was going to cost the district per year for the change in the law. Mr. Kearns responded it would cost less than a million a year. Ms. Tangen mentioned that a portion of the cost was incorporated into negotiation settlements and will also be included in this year's negotiations. Mr. Kearns also mentioned some savings to the district for various changes in administration fees.

Director DeFauw noted the district has a robust self-insurance reserve but said this fund has been used in order not drastically cut the budget. She asked Mr. Kearns if he recommended raising the minimum threshold in the insurance fund. There was a discussion about the minimum standard for insurance funds and Mr. Kearns said he believes the minimum is far lower than what he would recommend and advised it never get below a six month reserve. He said the district has been in difficult times in past regarding the insurance funds and this can change in a very short period of time. He referred to a period where the district saw aggregate claims three years in a row and didn't have the funds to cover the costs and he wouldn't want to see that happen again. He said the amount in the insurance fund is one of the district's best assets, but didn't recommend going above what is in the fund currently. President Johanson asked if the total number of people insured will increase. Marsha said it will increase due to the number of substitute teachers, subparas, temp at will employees and coaches that exceed the 30 hours per week. He asked if the district should adjust policies prior to this happening.

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Ms. Tangen said this has been discussed and said they have discussed creating a different plan for this of employees. Johanson asked Mr. Kearns if he is saying keep the insurance reserve where it is and more about the increase in costs. Mr. Kearns said the district probably won't have to increase premium rates until after 2015 and recommended being careful about the insurance fund. President Johanson adjourned the meeting at 8:20PM.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary