

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2012**

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 3, 2012 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 5:30 PM.

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

1. AmeriCorps/YouthCorps

Sarah Harris, Community Schools Partnership Manager, presented an overview of the program and described their community partnerships, the presentation they gave to the City of Davenport and how the program works to strengthen the district through academic enrichment, student/teacher support and modeling the ethic of service. There is one student from each high school serving in this capacity. Director Krumwiede asked about increasing the number of students and Sarah said they are currently exploring the possibility. Director Sherwood asked if some of the spots are paid and Sarah stated some do receive stipends according to their hours. Sherwood mentioned Public Allies and running the program through the community action organizations and suggested creating a link with this effort as a way of improving recruitment of minorities.

2. RAC (Resource Allocation Committee) Budget Recommendation

Dr. Tate provided a brief history of previous discussions concerning the resource allocation committee's recommendations to the board. He noted this will be a discussion item at Monday's regular meeting and the dates for the public forums will be determined soon and probably come out in January. Marsha Tangen started her presentation with the assumptions included in the RAC recommendations such as the district would not lose students and there would be no major changes to the funding formula. She explained the RAC's goal was to identify \$3.25 million in reductions each year for the next five years and she then reviewed those recommendations for each year. The RAC is recommending an early retirement incentive next year, another insurance holiday, transportation efficiencies and an across the board reduction of 5%. They will have formal recommendations ready for the board meeting on Monday. She indicated the across the board reductions do affect department and site budgets. The RAC committee also recommended studies begin on the high school schedule and extra-curricular activities during the 2013-14 school year. The RAC committee also believes the following issues need to be addressed but did not assign a fiscal year for the review.: grade structure, closing schools, and K-8 buildings. Dr. Tate explained outsourcing studies were the result of previous board discussions and they will have an objective study done to determine if services can be provided for comparable prices. Director

Krumwiede noted the large number of employees retiring last year and asked about the number that may retire with this incentive. Marsha explained they reviewed past trends and according to this data they are estimating approximately 30 employees will retire with the new incentive and this represents \$600,000. The retirement incentive would be open to all groups.

Director Krumwiede also asked why they waiting to start the outsourcing studies and Marsha explained it takes a long time for staff to gather information and explained other reasons why they are waiting. Dr. Tate said it is good to give as long as possible since it is an emotional issue and feels this is the most respectful approach. Tate mentioned that the RAC also asked if it could be started this year, but explained if they do that they need to find the best way to approach it. Director Zamora clarified that the RAC didn't talk about eliminating extra-curricular activities, only finding ways to be more efficient with them. Zamora reminded everyone how important it is to keep our word on the timeline and promise for offering another early retirement incentive. Director Roberson commented he would like to see more of a dollar value associated with the energy review. Marsha said they will be meeting with someone soon to conduct an efficiency study and will have more data available after this. Roberson said he hopes we can get started on the K-8 buildings to provide adequate time for discussions and for people to become aware of the change. Director Sherwood asked why they selected 35 years for the early retirement and Marsha explained the reasons for making the change and discussed calculations concerning salaries. Sherwood also stressed the importance of the K-8 buildings and how positive they can be and how it can save money and this could reduce intermediate schools. Sherwood also emphasized the urgency in taking serious steps regarding budget cuts that are sustainable and K-8's allow this to happen.

Director De Fauw encouraged the board to look at all models, not just K-8 and to consider the cost efficiencies and what is in the best educational interests of the students for each model. If the board is looking at 3 million in sustainable reductions from year to year then this proposal falls short because the insurance holiday is not sustainable over the long term. De Fauw stated this will probably require re-visiting some "sacred cows" and mentioned that if modifying the high school schedule is what it takes then maybe this idea needs to be revisited. Director Clewell asked about the tipping point in terms of the age of teachers and also suggested someone from the outside come in to look at efficiencies. Director Zamora suggested looking at 9th grade schools in this process of reorganizing. Director Roberson remarked that outsourcing can be done on a gradual basis where people are replaced when they retire or bid on other jobs. Director Krumwiede commented that he hopes the board doesn't get locked into only looking at grade level structures but also focuses on the value of innovative programming. Director Sherwood agreed and commented on the benefit of magnet schools and other specialized programs that can be used to attract students. President Johanson asked some questions about the increase in costs to insurance due to the new health care act. Marsha mentioned there could be a scenario in the future where the district could spend 5 years catching up with rate increases if there is an insurance holiday every year until 2017. Director Sherwood noted he does not like the idea of a 5% across the board cuts. He said our employees are working as hard as they can but could always work smarter. He also stated that he is concerned about the impact of outsourcing on employees and the community and he would be very surprised if he agrees with doing this. Director Zamora said the insurance holiday is a good idea for a while when there is more than 20 million dollars sitting in the fund. Director Sherwood also agreed it is a good idea to use the insurance holidays and Director Krumwiede emphasized how important it is to consider combining resources with other districts and/or government entities in order to reduce costs.

3. Audit

Representatives from McGladrey LLP reported on the 2011-12 audit they completed for the District. They summarized auditor communications and financial performance. Director Sherwood requested the number of days in undesignated general fund balance for the past 10

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years. Sherwood also asked what steps or assurances the board has that they will not encounter a situation like what has happened across the river. The auditors explained the district has many checks and balances in place and a variety of internal control processes that protect the district against this type of fraud. President Johanson also asked about the assurances the board has regarding issue of fraud. They explained that the auditors in their firm have a set of standards they are required to follow. Sherwood asked if they have a recoverable bond. Marsha stated the district does have insurance.

4. Boundaries

Dr. Tate provided a brief overview of what has taken place up to this point with the discussion on boundaries. He stated this is a work in progress and noted they are trying to balance the usage of each of the schools based on where the population is currently with the goal of each building being at approximately 80% usage. He reminded everyone this is a working draft and will not be on the website or available to the public. At the next meeting on 12/10 they will ask the board to approve a draft and reiterated that this draft is not an approval of the boundaries. He explained that this evening they will be showing what streets the boundaries are on or go up against and the next time the board meets they will have this written out which will be available to the public. Scott Martin reviewed the information school by school using the maps that had been provided to the board on the proposed boundaries and stated that the more detailed information on individual students will be provided next week. Director DeFauw asked about the families who were originally attending Adams Elementary who were redistricted to Harrison after Grant and Johanson were closed. She mentioned how these families were given assurances that they would not be moved in the future or redistricted back to Adams. De Fauw stated she appreciated the goals but she doesn't think it is tenable to move those families back to Adams because a commitment was made these families. She wants the board to think about what other options may be available. There was continued discussion about this topic and Director Zamora stated she did not remember the board making a promise like this and this was approximately 10 years ago so most of the students should be out of high school by now. Director Krumwiede said the board needs to be careful about making promises and our policies say that boundaries should be reviewed every so many years so buildings can be balanced. Director Sherwood stated he agrees with Krumwiede and feels those families have been served by that promise. Sherwood said he hopes they are also looking at busing costs. Dr. Tate said they have done some of this but this is not the driving force. Dr. Tate noted that the proposed map would look very different if they abide by the promise mentioned by De Fauw and that there are 92 students in that area. Scott continued to review the proposed boundary maps for each of the schools and board members asked questions and discussed various issues with the proposed boundaries for the elementary schools.

Director Krumwiede suggested that in order to relieve Eisenhower they could bus some students to McKinley in order to help balance Eisenhower. Director Sherwood agreed this would be good idea and there was discussion about this possibility. Scott reviewed the proposed boundaries for the intermediate schools based on the elementary feeders. Director DeFauw noted her appreciation that the burden is shared and it doesn't fall on just one school. Several board members expressed how important it is to promote the district and focus on the positive aspects of the district and individual schools. Director Clewell asked if the population projections are available. Dr. Tate said they will keep asking Mr. Flynn. There was a discussion about high school boundaries. Director Clewell mentioned previous public input the board has received concerning high school boundaries and how the public said very clearly they wanted choice where their students go to high school and doesn't see the need to change open enrollment at the high school level since there is not overcrowding. Director DeFauw disagreed noting some of the reasons that high school open enrollment undermines effectiveness of other schools to compete athletically. She also discussed the negative comments heard several years ago when this discussion was taking place. Director Roberson stated it is in the best interest of the district to

reflect home boundaries. Director Sherwood said there is more diversified interests in high school and is in favor of choice for the high schools. Director Krumwiede suggested thinking beyond boundaries and focusing on ideas of specialized schools within schools which would attract more students. Director De Fauw noted that the problem is how people do not even visit their home schools before making a decision to open enroll out of that school which is based on misperceptions. Director Zamora emphasized the need to concentrate on the efforts of the District of Distinction Committee.

President Johanson asked Dr. Tate if he had enough information to prepare the draft and Tate stated he did and they will look at making some of the changes suggested such as taking some students from Eisenhower and putting them in McKinley. There was a discussion about Adams and Director De Fauw noted again that Adams was the only attendance center affected with the closing of the schools in the past. There was continued discussion about this issue and history connected with this situation and several board members expressed how it is important to balance all the schools. Director Roberson asked about efforts at North if open enrollment at the high schools continues and what efforts will be taken at North to make this school more competitive. Director De Fauw stated she is nothing short of satisfied with North and her children had great experiences at that school. Director Clewell said this is free market issue and he believes North needs to do for North. Roberson reiterated that the district has neglected North and Sherwood agreed. Director Roberson stated he has no problem with choice but if we implement home boundaries it needs to be for all grade levels including the high schools. Director De Fauw recommended doing draft proposals independently for the next meeting.

5. Strategic Facility Plan

President Johanson asked how the Olympic size pool fits into the strategic plan. Dr. Tate said the Olympic pool is not on the list, but the Central pool and auditorium are on the list. If the board wants an Olympic pool then some things on the current list will have to come off. Director Sherwood asked Director Zamora about the efforts concerning the Olympic pool. Zamora stated they are gathering the data and Sherwood commented he would not want to delay the pool or auditorium at Central. Director Clewell asked if the proposed pool at Central is 8 lanes. Mr. Martin said it is a 6 lane pool and Clewell noted that essential function is 8 lanes 25 yards and reviewed the thinking behind the idea of an Olympic pool and there not being a foot print at Central for both a pool and an auditorium. Scott discussed preliminary plans for the site to accommodate both projects. Director De Fauw suggested community collaborations in order to get an 8 lane pool and Director Roberson agreed with this suggestion.

President Johanson asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting and there was none. The meeting was adjourned by President Johanson at 8:25 p.m.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary