

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Achievement Service Center

Jim Hester Board Room

1606 Brady Street

Davenport, IA 52803

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 2016

5:30PM

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Monday, December 5th, 2016 for their Committee of the Whole Meeting. The meeting was held at the Achievement Service Center, 1606 Brady St., Davenport, Iowa, in said District in the Jim Hester Board Room. President Johanson called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. Present: Directors: Johanson, Clewell, Snyder, Hayes, Mayfield and DeSalvo. Gosa was absent. Dr. Tate was also present.

1.01 Solar Project

Dr. Tate discussed the Letter of Intent from the solar company and explained this is not a final contract but the company would like to know if the district is seriously considering the project in order for them to invest \$59,000 to perform the structural analysis. Mr. Maloney provided aerial photos of 30 proposed sites. Board members presented a series of questions for Maloney and several representatives from MidAmerican Energy who were in attendance. There was a brief discussion about net metering and green power and the possibility of adding a term to the contract that would guarantee savings. There was some discussion about a scaled down version of the project. The three representatives from MidAmerican indicated they wanted to make sure the board had the best information available in order to make the best decision for the district. President Johanson requested board members weigh in on their willingness to move forward on the project and sign a letter of intent at the next regular meeting on Monday. Johanson focused on how this project requires no capital investment be made by the district and would save quite a bit of money. He also asked board members if they think it would be appropriate for the board to get involved in the contract negotiations and to provide him feedback on this issue as well before the end of this discussion. There was mention that Iowa City School District decided not to pursue a solar project and Dr. Tate said he would find out more about this.

Mr. Maloney indicated that attorney Dick Davidson would be attending the next regular meeting to answer legal questions and Jon Muller from Iowa School Finance Information Services would also try to be available for questions. Director Hayes indicated she agreed with moving forward and would sign a Letter of Intent as long as it was non-binding but said she is not ready to get involved with contract negotiations. Director Snyder emphasized his main concerns have always related to how this project would affect educational and recreational opportunities at each of the schools and these can't be answered until after the structural analysis is completed so he agrees with moving forward. Director Clewell said he supports signing a letter of intent and sees no reason why the board can't get involved in contract negotiations. Director Mayfield stated he

has concerns about impacts to the schools and the neighborhoods, but he can support a tentative contract. Director DeSalvo said she still has concerns and feels like she is being pushed into signing a letter of intent and doesn't see why it is a necessary as part of the board's research. She would support if she was confident in the savings being proposed. It was clarified that the solar company would have to invest \$59,000 to complete the structural analysis and they would want some reassurance that the district has a genuine interest in the project before they make that kinds of investment and this is why they ask for a letter of intent. Mayfield stated there are still unanswered questions and Johanson requested that all board members submit their questions in writing and send to the board secretary before the next meeting so Mr. Maloney can provide the answers. Johanson supports moving forward and signing the letter of intent and indicated that a projected savings of \$300,000 per year is a very good reason for him to support the project. DeSalvo said she had problems interpreting the comments from the principals and asked if they could be put in a different format because it was hard to know what questions they were answering in the format that was presented. Maloney said he would review the information.

1.02 Special Education Identification Process – This topic was postponed.

1.03 Mental Health Report

TJ Schneckloth, Ellen Reilly and Farrah Roberts provided a report to the board on "Now Is the Time-Project Aware: Mental Health Grant." The primary goals of the grant are to Increase awareness about early indications of serious mental health concerns; provide training to providers, staff and community groups to improve services and supports to students; enhance access to mental health supports; and develop effective social-emotional services and interventions for all DCSD students. The grant is in year three of a five year term and total grant funds per year is \$508,063. They explained how a student becomes eligible for services and how they have paid for mental health services for 268 students to date. This grant aligns with many other initiatives in the district such as MTSS/PBIS, Boystown, Olweus, drop out and suicide prevention. Board members had a variety of questions and recognized the hard work they are doing and thanked them for their presentation.

1.04 JB Young Opportunity Center

Dr. Tate explained that after solicitation and review of proposals for the JB Young Opportunity Center they are recommending the space be offered to 11 organizations who submitted and completed proposals. Tate selected John Border and Mike Maloney to review all the proposals and determine space needs. A rubric was utilized to review the proposals according to a variety of requirements and Mr. Border and Maloney met with each organization one on one to affirm their commitment. They discussed timing of the project and when organizations would like to start moving in. Maloney also mentioned the possibility of creating a tenants association. All the organizations accepted are not for profit organizations. There was a discussion about secured entrances, and how each tenant would be segregated in a way that operations would be separate and this will include utilities. Once the Achievement Service Center Operations are moved there will be a receptionist on the first and second floors and they hope to have an additional staff person to work at the building. Mayfield said having the Opportunity Center is a good idea but he also expressed his disappointed that he was denied the opportunity to serve on the committee

since he has lived in the central city for over 30 years and also has a business in the community. He also expressed concern over a youth program that already serves the area and the feeder schools and how this group has been denied the use of the gym at JB Young and Sudlow gyms. He said this group should not be displaced for an outside organization. Dr. Tate said he would speak with Jon Flynn about his concerns and get back to the board. Regarding the process for selecting committee members he clarified that it was his committee and he selected the members and came to a decision that having a board member on the committee would not be appropriate. Johanson encouraged Mayfield to submit a board request at the next Regular Meeting on any remaining concerns or questions he has concerning the process used or any other concerns regarding this topic. There was a brief discussion about terms of the leases, security issues, and Dr. Tate indicated he would be moving forward approval of tenants is not required by the board.

1.05 School Budget Review Committee (SBRC)

President Johanson announced that the meeting with the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) is scheduled for next Tuesday 12/13 in Des Moines at 11:50AM. Dr. Tate, Ms. Tangen, Director Hayes and himself will be attending. He reminded the board they voted unanimously to support Dr. Tate taking money from the reserves and wanted to be absolutely sure that he can say this to the SRBC next week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer