

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM
1606 BRADY STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 2015
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Monday, February 23rd, 2015 for their Regular Meeting. The meeting was held at the Achievement Service Center, 1606 Brady St., Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Johanson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 On roll call the following board members were present: Directors: Ralph Johanson, Rich Clewell, Nikki DeFauw, Jamie Snyder, Ken Krumwiede, Maria Dickmann and Linda Hayes. Dr. Tate and other administrators were present.

1.02 Director Krumwiede read the board priorities and Director Hayes read the mission and vision statements.

2. STUDENT BOARD REPORTS

Students from North High School talked about the success of the girls' basketball team and reported on a dance marathon that raised \$1500. Mitchell from West shared that he and Olivia Grubbs were speech and debate team qualifiers and Central students reported on the Great River Show Choir Competition and that Luke Eure was academic all state for swimming. Luke also reported that he attended the Get On the Bus trip to Des Moines on Monday.

3. SHOWCASE

3.01 Blue Grass Elementary

Principal, Diane Simmons introduced the Showcase which focused on how Bluegrass integrates the arts in the classroom by using a website called Artsonia (www.artsonia.com). She introduced their full time art teacher, Mrs. Graham and she explained the educational benefits of the website which has published over 38,000 pieces of artwork created by their students and the recognition and awards they have received. The website allows family members who do not live in the area to view the student's artwork. One student actually sold the rights to their artwork to a publisher who put their artwork in a book used for art curriculum. Mrs. Graham then introduced some of the student's artwork with their parents also participating. Board members commented on what a great program this is and thanked them for the presentation.

4. PRESENTATION

4.01 Mediacom Presentation

Richard Schwab, Senior Area Director at Mediacom, presented a first place trophy and \$1,000 scholarships to Davenport Central TAG students who won the Mediacom Thinkers Throwdown this past December. The winners were Graham Atkinson, Luke Eure, Pablo Haake, Josh Mostaert, and Emma Van Vooren.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

5.01 Upcoming Events and Meetings

1. March 2nd, Committee of the Whole, 5:30PM, ASC, Jim Hester Board Room
2. March 3rd, Legislative Advocacy Committee, 3:00PM, ASC, Executive Board Room
3. March 4th, Policy Committee, 4:00PM, ASC, Executive Board Room
4. March 9th, Regular Meeting 6:00PM, ASC, Jim Hester Board Room
5. March 16th through March 20th- Spring Break Board
6. March 23rd, Regular Meeting, 6:00PM, Jim Hester Board Room
7. March 30th, Taste of ProStart, 5:30PM, River Center, Davenport

5.02 Open Forum for Community Input

Annette McCarthy, 1312 W. 43rd St. – Spoke about the impact of non-vaccinated adults in the school setting.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.01 Reading of the Minutes of the Last Regular and Intervening Meetings

Motion by Director Krumwiede seconded by Director Hayes the board approved the consent agenda as presented.

Discussion: Director DeFauw noted this is the time of year for early retirements and commented she has mixed emotions seeing names of some of the teachers including Stephen Andrusyk and Jennifer Betker, who helped shape the lives of her own children and how much they will be missed.

Vote: All Ayes motion carried.

7.02 Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Retirements, Leaves, Etc.

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

McCloud, Ian	14%
Girls' Tennis West High	\$4,189.00
Willows, Travis	12%
Assistant Boys' Soccer Central High	\$3,590.00

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Crumbley, Loniesha Para Educator Smart Intermediate	Effective: February 11, 2015 Salary: \$10.99/hr Hours: 7.0 hrs/day
Dodd, Angela Food Service Cashier I North High	Effective: February 11, 2015 Salary: \$10.10/hr Hours: 3.25 hrs/day
Griffith, Mashanna Food Service Cashier I North High	Effective: February 17, 2015 Salary: \$10.10/hr Hours: 3.75 hrs/day
Hoffmann, Amanda OST Program Coach Lincoln—OSC Dept	Effective: February 23, 2015 Salary: \$17.43/hr Hours: 8.0 hrs/day
Luebken, Cody Para Educator DLC-Keystone Academy	Effective: February 23, 2015 Salary: \$15.00/hr Hours: 7.0 hrs/day
Murrell, Sarah Food Service Cashier I Garfield Elementary	Effective: February 17, 2015 Salary: \$10.10/hr Hours: 4.75 hrs/day
Sterling, Rochelle Custodian Buchanan Elementary	Effective: March 2, 2015 Salary: \$13.73/hr Hours: 4.25 hrs/day

EARLY RETIREMENTS: ADMINISTRATIVE

Name	Building	Position	Years of Service
Oates, Bradley	ASC	Director of Athletics	33yrs 11 mos

RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Name	Building	Position	Years of Service
Amhof, Dianna	Truman Elementary	Nurse	8 yrs 1 mo
Bisbee, Nancy	McKinley/Blue Grass Elementary	Nurse	8 yrs 7 mos
Crossen, Teresa	McKinley Elementary	2nd Grade	14 yrs 10 mos
Dow, Walter	Walcott K-8	Grade 6 Math	17 yrs 11 mos
Foslien, Kathy	North High	Special Education	15 yrs 10 mos
Foster, Sandra	Buchanan Elementary	Grade 2	18 yrs 10 mos
Gray, Thomas	Central High	Social Studies	14 yrs 1 mo
Lewis, David	North High	Science	12 yrs 1 mo
Mitchell, Rhonda	Wilson Elementary	Grade 3	19 yrs 10 mos
Steffen, Barbara	Smart Intermediate	Physical Ed	17 yrs

EARLY RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Name	Building	Position	Years of Service
Andrusyk, Denise	Harrison Elementary	Math, Science, Social Studies	33 yrs 10 mos
Andrusyk, Stephen	Adams Elementary	Math, Science, Social Studies	33 yrs 10 mos
Betker, Jennifer	Adams Elementary	Physical Education	31 yrs 10 mos
Breinich, Elizabeth	Truman Elementary	SAM	33 yrs 11 mos
Dickens, Daniel	Truman Elementary	4 Year Old Preschool	25 yrs 4 mos
Dolan-Bishop, Ann	Monroe Elementary	ESL	30 yrs 10 mos
Dunn, Daniel	Eisenhower Elementary	Physical Education	29 yrs 10 mos
Engbretson Sharp, Luann	Truman Elementary	Grade 2	30 yrs 11 mos
Farley, Michael	Walcott K-8	Physical Education	31 yrs 11 mos
Feeney, Michelle	Adams Elementary	Special Education	38 yrs 10 mos
Frajman, Catherine	Truman Elementary	Grade 3	28 yrs 11 mos
Hartman, Chrissy	Eisenhower Elementary	Vocal Music	32 yrs 10 mos
Jensen, Marcia	West High	Media Specialist	31 yrs 10 mos
Kaisen, Mary	Eisenhower Elementary	Grade 1	39 yrs
Kalkwarf, Douglas	West High	Science	35 yrs 11 mos
Kreuger, Jamie	Sudlow Intermediate	Social Studies	43 yrs 8 mos
Lampe-Voelliger, Connie	Monroe Elementary	Special Education	35 yrs 10 mos
Marple, Laurel	Harrison Elementary	Kindergarten	38 yrs 10 mos
Medema, Steven	Williams Intermediate	Language Arts	25 yrs 10 mos
Money, Michael	Smart Intermediate	Social Studies	24 yrs 10 mos
Moriarity Gehn, Mary	Eisenhower Elementary	Special Education	29 yrs 11 mos
Olsen, Sandra	Truman Elementary	Kindergarten	24 yrs 11 mos
Schmitt, Kathleen	Eisenhower Elementary	Grade 3	25 yrs 10 mos
Van Hulle, Jeanne	Harrison Elementary	Grade 2	22 yrs 10 mos
Warren, Barbara	Eisenhower Elementary	Math & Science	27 yrs 8 mos
Waskowiak, K. Diane	Eisenhower Elementary	Grade 3	39 yrs 1 mo
Wilson, Sherry	ASC	Instructional Facilitator	38 yrs 3 mos

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Betker, Jennifer	6%
Intramurals	\$1,795.00
Adams Elementary	
Breinich, Elizabeth	15%
SAM	\$4,488.00
Truman Elementary	
Claeys, Steve	12%
Assistant Baseball	\$3,590.00
West High	
Dunn, Daniel	6%
Intramurals	\$1,795.00
Eisenhower Elementary	

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Farley, Michael Intramurals Walcott K-8	8% \$2,394.00
Hartman, Cryss Music (Vocal) Elementary Eisenhower Elementary	5% \$1,496.00
Moriarity-Gehn, Mary Teacher In Charge Eisenhower Elementary	15% \$4,488.00
Steffen, Barbara Intramurals Intermediate Boys/Girls Smart Intermediate	8% \$2,394.00
Waskowiak, Karen Diane Safety Patrol Eisenhower Elementary	5% \$1,496.00

RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Parks, Richard Custodian West High	Effective: April 3, 2015 Years of Service: 14 yrs
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EARLY RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Name	Position	Building	Years of Service
Brandon, Mary	Custodian	Central High	26 yrs 3 mos
Cather, Carol	Para Educator	Harrison Elementary	27 yrs
Dankert, Roxanne	Lead Custodian	Mid City High	35 yr 6 mos
Johnson, Barbara	Food Service Worker	Central High	33 yrs 10 mos
Keller, Joyce	Para Educator	Central High	26 yrs 8 mos
Mastin, Janet	Food Service Manager	Wood Intermediate	36 yrs 8 mos (includes yrs as Food Service & FNS Manager)
Meyer, Steven	Head Custodian	Mid City High	31 yrs 8 mos
Moyers, Gregg	Lead Custodian	Wilson Elementary	30 yrs
Pomlee, Burney	Campus Security	Central High	33 yrs 9 mos
Schachow, Sandra	Professional Secretary II	West High	39 yrs 7 mos
Smith, Jeraldine	Professional Secretary I	West High	29 yrs 7 mos
Snyder, Sonja	Professional Secretary I	Walcott K-8	25 yrs 4.5 mos
Soppe, Diane	Food Service Manager	Operations Center	28 yrs 9 mos (includes yrs as Food Service & FNS Manager)
Spaete, Darlis	Para Educator	Eisenhower Elementary	36 yrs 4 mos
Steffen, Linda	Professional Secretary II	ASC	32 yrs 4 mos
Wadsworth, Shirley	Lead Custodian	Adams Elementary	39 yrs 6 mos

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Amely, Wilson Para Educator North High	Effective: February 20, 2015 Years of Service: 6 mos
Avis, Rachel Para Educator Young K-8	Effective: February 20, 2015 Years of Service: 4 mos
Barnett, Orlando Para Educator Wood Intermediate	Effective: March 6, 2015 Years of Service: 4 yrs 1 mo
Bredfield, Susan Para Educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: January 4, 2015 Years of Service: 1 yr 4 mos
Bryant, Breonna Food Service Worker Sudlow Intermediate	Effective: February 20, 2015 Years of Service: 2 mos
Menke, Jacqueline Para Educator Smart Intermediate	Effective: February 5, 2015 Years of Service: 12 days
Ruby, Andre Para Educator Jackson Elementary	Effective: February 17, 2015 Years of Service: 6 mos
Wenthold, Jean Food Service Worker Jackson Elementary	Effective: February 2, 2015 Years of Service: 1 yr 2 mos

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIGNMENT CHANGE:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	FROM	TO
Anderson-Rascher	Dawn	Associate Director of Learning Information Services	Program Director of Assessment and Student Information

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SCHOOL	CALENDAR	STEP	OLD DEGREE	NEW DEGREE	NEW SALARY
Adams	Britta	Walcott K-8	REG	5	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$42,972.00
Becker	Emily	Buffalo Elementary	REG	14	M.A. +30	M.A. +60	\$64,371.00
Benner	Travis	Blue Grass Elementary	REG	23/13	B.A.	M.A.	\$58,257.00
Butler	Rolanda	Fillmore Elementary	REG	11	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$52,143.00
Child	Shannan	Washington Elementary	REG	7	M.A.	M.A.+15	\$50,614.00

Coyle	Laura	Wood Intermediate	REG	6	M.A.	M.A.+15	\$49,086.00
Fox	Kyle	West High	REG	9	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$52,143.00
Gravert	Melissa	Jefferson Elementary	REG	3	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$39,915.00
Hallberg	Stephanie	Adams Elementary	REG	20	M.A.	M.A.+15	\$64,371.00
Harkey	Allison	Young K-8	REG	2	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$39,915.00
Hayslett	Latosha	Washington Elementary	REG	3	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$39,915.00
Heiting	Eric	West High	REG	4	M.A.	M.A.+15	\$46,029.00
Hythecker	Denise	Truman Elementary	REG	6	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$47,557.00
Johnson	Danniele	Walcott K-8	REG	5	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$42,972.00
Jones	Chad	West High	REG	10	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$53,671.00
Keibler	Conrad	North High	REG	7	M.A. +15	M.A. +30	\$52,143.00
Mohr	Morgan	Washington Elementary	REG	11	M.A.+15	M.A.+30	\$58,257.00
Morgan	Megan	Monroe Elementary	REG	17/13	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$58,257.00
Reed	Nicole	Buchanan Elementary	REG	5	BA+15	M.A.	\$46,029.00
Rietz	Aaron	West High	REG	11/13	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$58,257.00
Robertson	Lisa	Harrison Elementary	REG	21	M.A.+15	M.A.+30	\$65,899.00
Sabel-Ruiz	Jodi	Monroe Elementary	REG	9	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$49,086.00
Shults-Hendricks	Heather	North High	REG	9	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$52,143.00
Steverson	Tiffany	Monroe Elementary	REG	8	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$50,614.00
Van Spreyboeck	Andrew	Jefferson Elementary	REG	17	M.A.	M.A. +30	\$61,140.00
Weideman	Mary	Madison Elementary	REG	2	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$38,386.00
Weishaar	Ellen	Smart Intermediate	REG	9	B.A.+15	M.S.	\$52,143.00
Weisrock	James	Sudlow Intermediate	REG	9	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$52,143.00
Wheeler	Jennifer	West High	REG	11	M.A.+15	M.A.+30	\$58,257.00
Zertuche	Abel	Jefferson Elementary	REG	10	B.S. +15	M.S.	\$53,671.00

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS

7.01 Motion by Director Clewell and seconded by Director Dickmann the board approved the following resolution for the payment of bills and salaries: “Resolved all claims presented to the Board having been duly certified as correct by the Secretary, reviewed by the administration and board members, and they are hereby audited and allowed as just claims and warrants drawn on the Treasury for several amounts. Further Resolved, the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented for the period of February 5th, 2015 through February 18th, 2015.

Discussion: Director Snyder asked for an explanation of check #325007 in the amount of \$91,284.04 indicated for parent transportation. Ms. Tangen said she would look into this and report back.

Vote: All Ayes motion carried.

8. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Tate reported on the bus trip to Des Moines and noted what a great group of students attended this year and how well they represented themselves to the Governor and legislators.

9.01 OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

9.01 –Approval of Plans and Specifications for Central High School Auditorium and Natatorium

Motion by Director Clewell and seconded by Director Krumwiede the board approved the plans and specifications for the Central High School Auditorium and Natatorium.

President Johanson conducted a public hearing on this project. No one came forward . The public hearing was declared closed.

Discussion: Director DeFauw asked about the new location for the auto mechanics shop. Mr. Maloney said they have negotiated a lease with Palmer and between now and when they close the sale of the building they plan to have it relocated prior to the beginning of the next school year. DeFauw requested that the architect for the projects be present when the board approves the plans and specifications for projects so they can walk the board through the plans. This is something that has been done in the past and she requested that procedure be reinstated. Mr. Maloney said he would be happy to do this. President Johanson asked if these current plans are the same as the previous plans and Maloney provided more details. Johanson asked if they will be staying within the budgeted amount. Maloney explained their projected costs remain at \$18.4 million and they do not expect to have any surprises on bid day. Clewell inquired about soil borings and Maloney explained the soil borings have been completed and they do not expect any problems or surprises. DeFauw asked for the amount of the lease and cost to purchase the building. Maloney said the lease is \$10 a month and the cost to purchase will be well within the \$400,000 budgeted for this item.

Vote: All Ayes. Motion carried.

9.02 - Approval of Plans and Specifications for Wilson Partial Roof Replacement

Motion by Director Snyder and seconded by Director Clewell the board approved the plans and specifications for the Wilson Partial Roof Replacement Project.

President Johanson conducted a public hearing on this project. No one came forward to speak. The public hearing was declared closed.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All ayes motion carried.

9.03 – Approval Plans and Specifications for North and West Track Resurfacing Projects

Motion by Director DeFauw and seconded by Director Clewell the board approved the plans and specifications for the North and West High School Track Resurfacing Project.

President Johanson conducted a public hearing. No one came forward to speak. The public hearing was declared closed.

Discussion: Director Dickmann asked about life expectancy and Maloney said it was approximately 10 years.

Vote: All Ayes motion carried.

9.04 – Approval Change in Board Calendar

Motion by Director Dickmann and seconded by Director Krumwiede the board approved the change in the board calendar.

Discussion: None.

Vote: All Ayes motion carried.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.01 Budget

Ms. Tangen reviewed the items that will be up for approval at the next regular board meeting on March 9th. She reviewed the 2014-15 Budget Amendment and discussed three reasons why the budget requires amending. She reviewed the four functional areas and indicated that the projected fund balance as of 6-30-15 is \$29,055,223 and the projected unspent balance is \$6,850,519. Next, she reviewed the 2015-16 Budget which establishes a property tax levy for homeowners within the Davenport Community School District and indicated this included the following: a proposed reduction in the property tax rate by \$.75 to \$15.08658; a reduction of 3.5 million in expenditures; a reduction in the management levy by 2.5 million; and a reduction in cash reserve levy of \$1,250,000. She explained the reasons for her recommendation of a reduction in the cash reserve levy stating that a property tax is levied so a district can have capital in reserve for unforeseen events and to fund unspent balance. Currently, the district has 23 million in funds without spending authority. In summary she is asking the board to approve the budget on March 9th 2015 and the district would certify the budget to the state no later than April 15, 2015.

Director DeFauw expressed concern about reducing the tax levy rate because more than likely once we lower the tax rate we will never get it back and given the current climate in Iowa what's to say there will not be draconian cuts sometime in the near future. Also, the Legislative Advocacy Committee has submitted a proposal to use cash reserves to make up the difference in what is allocated by the state for per pupil costs because Davenport receives less per student than many other districts in the state. Dickmann agreed with DeFauw and expressed the same concerns about reducing the tax levy rate. There was a discussion about the timeline for publishing the public hearing, and approval of the budget. Director Krumwiede also agreed with DeFauw and realizes it is difficult for the public to understand but he is very concerned about lowering the tax rate. Director Clewell said he feels comfortable accepting Ms. Tangen's recommendation. DeFauw stated she would be interested in knowing what the difference would be in the fund balance if the rate was not lowered and Ms. Tangen said she would calculate that

before the end of the meeting. There was an inquiry about going to the school budget review committee to ask for additional spending authority and Ms. Tangen said the district would have to prove unique and unusual circumstances.

Next, Dr. Tate reviewed the prioritized list of reductions and explained that with a 1.25% increase in Supplemental State Aid, the general fund reductions required for school year 2015-16 will be \$3,500,000. He reviewed the items on the list with a potential savings before the latest round of early retirements is \$3,281,000. Board members inquired about positions and Dr. Tate said he prefers to be able to look at the entire picture after all the retirements come in and after that they will have a much better idea. DeFauw said that given the scope of athletic programming and knowing that building athletic directors have other duties as assigned due to reductions, she believes passing down the responsibilities of a central athletic director to the building athletic directors would be very complicated. She is mentioning this in light of Brad Oates retirement. DeFauw also asked staff to address how the reduction in high school staff would impact curriculum and Mr. Rob Scott provided more details explaining that they have talked with all the principals and teachers and this would mean more travel, sharing staff and collaborating more between buildings in order to reduce the impact to the curriculum as much as possible. DeFauw noted that the block schedule provides more flexibility to travel than a traditional schedule and this is something to keep in mind as this is still a reduction recommendation in year two.

Ms. Tangen said if the levy rate remained the same it would generate approximately 3 million dollars. Director Krumwiede reminded the public how serious these budget cuts are and pleaded for the public to get involved. Director Clewell provided an overview of the bill being proposed by the Legislative Advocacy Committee. This bill is asking the legislature for additional spending authority for an additional \$175 more per student which is an additional 3.2 million a year.

10.02 Board Culture

President Johanson stated there have been a number of board requests on a variety of things related to the board protocol and how we conduct business and asked Director Dickmann to start the discussion. Director Dickmann read the following statement:

"I love being on this board, I have had so many opportunities to learn and have gotten the chance to know so many people who are working so hard to make our community a better place. I understand that I have caused this issue of "board culture" to come to a head by sometimes overstepping my bounds and challenging the "way things are done" but everything I have done or attempted has been with good intentions with the goal of doing what is best for the district and its students. I hope that I can be forgiven for being over-excited about a curriculum because I read about it in an education reform book, a neuroscience book, and a book about long term success as providing significant long term help to students who are traditionally the most disadvantaged. I hope that I can be forgiven for being uncomfortable with an issue going unresolved even after intervention from the administration and trying to be part of the solution when the regular channels have not succeeded. I hope that I can be forgiven for feeling a sense of urgency. I have pushed, sometimes unrealistically, to have the board or administration work faster. I have made no secret of the fact that a big part of the reason I ran for this board was to "make the change I want to see" and honestly I would like to see that change in time for my daughter and her peers to benefit from it. I may not have the same reverence for current processes as some other board members do but I see that as a feature not a bug of my service on the board. I will not blindly accept any information but I have been chastised for trying to do my own research if it crosses the line of me reaching out to ask a question. I want to have a feeling for how board decisions will play out for students and staff that can only be gleamed from talking to the people really experiencing the

ramifications of policy decisions. I will not renounce who am that made me want to run for this board yet I have been told multiple times that other activities that I participate in compromise the board in some way. In Davenport we are so fortunate to have a diverse community with diverse view points and it is each of our jobs to advocate what we think is best for students and our district. Currently what I find instead is that I am afraid to act because I can barely even ask how to find the best channels to suggest an idea. I fear we are being hugely ineffective as a board and a district because of bottlenecks and information silos.

For example, I wanted to reach out to board presidents from surrounding districts to get their thoughts on what board members should do when perusing an idea that requires a bit of research before it would be ready for a full board discussion but instead I was told I needed to put in a board request for that information. That information is not available for this discussion because it had to go through a request instead of allowing me, as an individual, to seek out information that I could then share with the board. For another example, I saw a story about sex Ed being woefully inadequate in many schools and wondered if there was even a way to bring up sex Ed or health requirements without being subjected to a lengthy explanation of how I am a board member and need to stay out of management. Same thing for wanting to ask our dropout prevention team if we make accommodations for students who want to pump for their babies, if that accommodation is already being made then there is no reason to bring it up but if it is not I would like to at least know at what level that decision is made. We as a board still have not talked about what we learned from IASB even though there were tons of "shovel ready" ideas that have proven track records of improving outcomes for students because there is no prescribed place to discuss ideas from other districts. Lastly, I have made numerous mentions to Dr. Tate and members of the school climate committee about the importance of keeping suicide prevention efforts strong because that is important to me. Am I overstepping my bounds by keeping an issue I feel is important at the forefront of conversations or should I ignore my personal history and experiences because the rest of the board does not seem to care as much as I do? I understand and appreciate the fact that there is a line between staff and the board, I hope that we can always trust our staff to follow directives and implement plans the board decides on. I also hope that board members will not feel like their hands are tied or their mouths are taped shut because of the rules of governance. With that I would like to open with my first philosophical question, is this a proactive or a reactive board and should it be proactive or reactive?"

Director Clewell agreed the board can sometimes be too reactive but doesn't think it is too much different than other boards. He would like the board to acknowledge issues at hand and do something about that, but he has served on the board when it was strictly a rubber stamp board and this board is not like that at all. He believes this board is very knowledgeable and tolerant of opinions but we can always do better.

Director DeFauw pointed out that if the board went to a policy governance model it would be even more hands off. She said to be painted as someone who is not passionate she takes issue with. She related how important it is for board members to preface their statements when they are not acting as a board member with something such as "my personal opinion is" and to make clear you are not speaking on behalf of the board. She emphasized according to our own policy the Board President is the spokesman for the board and she has learned the hard way that an innocent comment can be taken completely out of context when she wasn't even acting in the capacity of a board member, but strictly from a personal perspective. She also stated that this board has challenged many administrative decisions, so we are very deliberate in our decision making. She does appreciate this

candid conversation. Director Krumwiede said it has taken him a long time to figure out his role as a board member and what is and is not appropriate. He is very passionate about some issues and has had to ask other board members when he may be out of line. He said there is a definite line between board and administration responsibilities. Director Snyder said he thinks the board works well together. He said he can't think of anything more offensive than him telling an educator how to do their job. We all have things we believe in and every board member is passionate about a variety of issues, but we need to remember that we have serious budget issues to deal with. He believes the board is a combination of proactive and reactive but also feels those terms are overused.

Director Hayes stated she appreciates the conversation and noted how welcoming everyone has been to her. Her impressions so far is that this board has quite a bit of unity and said that it seems the board's primary responsibilities are budget and policy and this is what we should focus on. Dickmann agreed that the board does a great job discussing but that her frustration stems from feeling limited in bringing new ideas to the board and has felt push back when she has tried to do this. President Johanson said she doesn't believe the board can be one or the other (proactive vs. reactive) and doesn't like how the question is phrased. He indicated that communications and/or questions generally go through the Superintendent not directly to staff and that the board's primary responsibilities are outlined in Iowa Code as being finance and policy. Dickmann said she can abide by the rule that the Board President is the spokesman for the board, but said there are other type of activities she is involved in that don't have anything to do with her position on the board and sometimes these events get media coverage and she is interviewed by the media and asked if this is problem. DeFauw responded that the board would not suggest she give up any of these community activities, but by the same token, she advised the need to exercise caution and make it clear that you are not speaking on behalf of the board in these type of situations.

Johanson stated there is a process for all board members to relay information and ask questions and board members have direct access to the superintendent. He indicated that when she suggested the "Tools of Mind" curriculum the administration did review the curriculum and discussed her suggestion among staff but they decided against implementing it at this point but she would not accept that conclusion and kept pushing the idea. Dickmann said she was shocked that it would not be used and wanted to continue pushing the idea and believes the board should be more aware of what is going on with curriculum. Director Hayes stated that from her short tenure on the board it seems we more pressing issues to discuss, such as the budget, and this doesn't appear to be a key issue at this point. DeFauw said the board's role is to provide direction to the Superintendent and doesn't see a problem with learning more about curriculum and what is being offered, but she trusts the Superintendent and our staff to set curricular goals and this is a measure of Dr. Tate's job performance. When a board member bypasses the process and contacts staff directly about an idea or request rather than going through the Superintendent the staff members feel compelled to act because we are the board. Krumwiede and Clewell agreed saying that the board needs to remember that the curriculum staff are the experts in this area and they devote a tremendous amount of time and research into making their decisions. Johanson thanked Dickmann for her opening remarks and thoughtfulness on these issues and encouraged her to feel free to lean on other board members.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

None.

13. BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS

Board Reports:

Director Krumwiede expressed appreciation to Director Clewell and Mary Correthers for their leadership and preparation for another successful Get OnThe Bus Trip to Des Moines.

Director Clewell thanked Toby Paone for the opportunity to conduct an Education Forum from noon – 1:00PM on Saturday, March 7th which will provide an opportunity to discuss funding issues and the new bill being proposed by the Legislative Advocacy Committee. The forum will be held at the Rogalski Center at St. Ambrose.

President Johanson thanked the Legislative Advocacy Committee, Dr. Tate, Brenda Thie, and many others for all their work in getting the work done to prepare the bill to ask for additional spending authority.

Board Requests:

Director Snyder: I would like to know if lower fuel costs have had an impact on our budget in regard to busing and if so, have we been able to put a number to it?

Director Snyder: I would like information regarding IHSAA policies governing athletic programming in school districts with multiple high schools.

Director Krumwiede: District update on vaccinations for staff and students in our district.
Snyder: info-govern athletic programming

ADJOURNMENT

Director Clewell moved the board adjourn. Director DeFauw seconded the motion. By consensus President Johanson declared the meeting adjourned at 9:57.

Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer