

# **DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER  
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM  
1606 BRADY STREET  
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

## **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014 REGULAR BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM**

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 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 7:00 PM.

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

Director Sherwood read the board priorities.  
Director Dickmann read the mission and vision statements.

### **I. SUPERINTDENT REPORT**

Dr. Tate introduced BrieAnn Harvey, the new student board representative from the Kimberly Center and she reported on some recent school activities. Emily Huber reported on an upcoming concert and show choir and Hannah Herrington reported on the accomplishments of the wrestling team and other school activities.

### **II. SHOWCASE**

A. Harrison Elementary – Principal, Lisa Baxter introduced three students who prepared a presentation to the board with the help of the TAG teacher, Chris Smith. They talked about what makes Harrison a great place to learn and discussed their Saddle Up and Read effort. They discussed activities such as Stepping Stones and Big Brothers/Big Sisters and how much they love their school and the teachers. Board members complimented the students on their excellent speaking ability and what a great presentation they had provided.

**III. COMMUNICATIONS (Including Open Forum)**

- A. March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30PM Committee of the Whole, ASC, Jim Hester Board Room
- B. March 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00PM Legislative Advocacy Committee, ASC, Executive Board Room
- C. March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM Regular Meeting, ASC, Jim Hester Board Room
- D. March 13<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup> – Spring Break
- E. March 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM Regular Meeting, ASC, Jim Hester Board Room
- F. March 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:30PM Taste of ProStart, The River Center, Bettendorf.
- G. Open Forum for Community Input  
 Bridget Osborn, 6259 114<sup>th</sup> St, Bluegrass- Spoke on district directives and made suggestions for change.  
 Tammie Wink, 6188 135<sup>th</sup> St. Bluegrass-Asked board to reconsider recess and lunch time.  
 Kim Riley-Quinn- Program Director for QC United 626 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> St. Davenport- Presented Pete the Purple Bull which is an anti-bullying initiative which teaches social responsibility.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

To conserve time and focus attention on non-routine matters on the agenda, the Board considered a number of items grouped together as a Consent Agenda, all items to be approved in one motion.

**A. Reading of the Minutes of the Last Regular and Intervening Meetings**

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 (Regular), February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (Regular), February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (Closed Session).

**B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Retirements, Leaves, Etc.**

**APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS**

Anthony, Kyle Track Girls' Assistant West High	12% \$3,482.00
Bruhn, Matthew Assistant Boys' Baseball Central High	12% \$3,482.00
Ewing, Robin Assistant Boys' Track Central High	12% \$3,482.00
Hester, Janelle Track Girls' Assistant North High	12% \$3,482.00
Van Hulle, Michael Track Boys' Assistant North High	12% \$3,482.00

**APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED**

Conner, Carrie Para Educator Buffalo Elementary	Effective: February 13, 2014 Salary: \$9.96/hr Hours: 2.50 hrs/day
---	--

Dibbern, Andrea  
Para Educator  
Garfield Elementary  
Effective: February 17, 2014  
Salary: \$10.46/hr  
Hours: 6.50 hrs/day

O'Dette, Elizabeth  
Transportation Router  
Operations Center  
Effective: March 10, 2014  
Salary: \$17.67/hr  
Hours: 8.0 hrs/day

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Beale-McDonald, Blayne  
Para Educator  
West High  
Effective: February 13, 2014  
Years of Service: 2 mos

Castel, Melissa  
Para Educator  
Walcott K-8  
Effective: January 8, 2014  
Years of Service: 2 mos

Stroupe, Nichole  
School to Career Coordinator  
Kimberly Center  
Effective: February 21, 2014  
Years of Service: 1 yr

Wood, Bethany  
Para Educator  
McKinley Elementary  
Effective: March 12, 2014  
Years of Service: 3 yrs 1 ½ mos

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION

Sloat, Gary  
Director of Learning Info. Services  
ASC  
Paid Leave of Absence  
Effective: ~~January 1, 2014 – March 17, 2014~~  
January 31, 2014 – March 17, 2014

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Lipes, Brenda  
Music  
Washington Elementary  
Unpaid Leave of Absence  
Effective: February 21, 2014 – May 30, 2014

RETURNS FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED CORRECTION

McCalester, Trianna  
Para Educator  
~~Madison Elementary~~ Jackson Elementary  
Effective: ~~January 28, 2013~~ January 28, 2014  
Salary: \$10.46/hr  
Hours: 6.5 hr/day

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Martinez, Barbara  
Para Educator  
Sudlow Intermediate  
Unpaid Leave of Absence  
Effective: January 13, 2014 – March 7, 2014

**Motion:** Director Krumwiede moved the board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Sherwood seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** The vote of the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Krumwiede, Sherwood, DeFauw, Clewell, Snyder, Dickmann and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

## V. APPROVAL OF BILLS

**Motion:** Director Clewell moved the board The following resolution is recommended by the Administration for adoption of the bills from the bill listing periods: February 6, 2014 through February 19 , 2014.

“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 the several amounts. Further Resolved, the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented for the periods of February 6, 2014 through February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014 the following voided check:

#314881 payable to Quad City Times in the amount of \$1732.40 (Wrong amount)

Director Dickmann seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Dickmann, Krumwiede, DeFauw, Snyder, Sherwood and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

## VI. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

### A Public Hearing – Early Start Date (2014-15 School Year)

President Johanson announced this was the time and place for the Board to hold a public hearing for community input on a request to the State for a waiver for an early start date of Thursday, August 14, 2014 for the district for the 2014-15 school year. The public hearing was published in the *Quad City Times* on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. No one spoke at the hearing. The public hearing was then declared closed.

### B. Public Hearing for 3801 Marquette Street Demolition Project

**Motion:** Director DeFauw moved the board approve the plans and specifications for the 3801 Marquette Street Demolition Project. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion: President Johanson conducted a public hearing on this project. No one spoke. The public hearing was declared closed.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: DeFauw, Krumwiede, Dickmann, Sherwood, Clewell, Snyder and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

**C. Public Hearing for Walcott Partial Roof Replacement Project**

**Motion:** Director Sherwood moved the board approve the plans and specifications for the Walcott Partial Roof Replacement Project. Director Snyder seconded the motion. President Johanson conducted a public hearing on this project. No one spoke. The public hearing was declared closed.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Sherwood, Snyder, Dickmann, Krumwiede, DeFauw, Clewell and Johanson. All Ayes motion carried.

**D. Public Hearing for Truman Remodel Project**

**Motion:** Director Krumwiede moved the board approve the plans and specifications for the Truman Remodel Project. Director Dickmann seconded the motion. President Johanson conducted a public hearing on this project. No one spoke. The public hearing was declared closed.

**Discussion:** Director Krumwiede asked about timeline for project. Mr. Martin showed the board slides on existing conditions at Truman and the plans for the remodel and renovations which has an August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Director Clewell asked for a ball park amount for new construction and Mr. Martin said it would be 6-10 million to build new. Mr. Martin indicated that LOST funds, not the general fund, are being used for this project and the project will help save money down the road. Director Sherwood encouraged re-expanding the skill set of custodians as it has been in the past.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Krumwiede, Dickmann, Clewell, Snyder, Sherwood, DeFauw and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

**E. Public Hearing for North Partial Roof Replacement Project**

**Motion:** Director Dickmann moved the board approve the plans and specifications for the North Partial Roof Replacement Project. Director DeFauw seconded the motion. President Johanson conducted a public hearing on this project. No one spoke. The public hearing was declared closed.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Dickmann, DeFauw, Snyder, Sherwood, Clewell, Krumwiede and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

#### **F. Approval of Bid for Remodel Restrooms-Phase 4**

**Motion:** Director Sherwood moved the board approve the lowest, responsible, responsive bid from Construction Partners Inc. for \$399,260.00 for Restrooms Renovations Phase 4. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Sherwood, Clewell, Krumwiede, DeFauw, Snyder, Dickmann and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

#### **G. Approval of Architect for Central Tennis Courts at Brady**

**Motion:** Director Clewell moved the board approve Greg Gowey from SGM Architects for design and engineering of the Central tennis courts at the Brady Stadium complex. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Mr. Martin stated there will be a total of 8 courts. Director DeFauw indicated she would be voting no on this motion because she believes this project represents an inequity in the distribution of LOST funds.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes Clewell, Krumwiede, Sherwood, Snyder, Dickmann and Johanson. Nays: DeFauw. Motion carried.

#### **H. Early Start Date 2014-15 School Year**

**Motion:** Director Krumwiede moved the board approve the administration's recommendation that the first day of school for students in the 2014 - 2015 school year be Thursday, August 14, 2014. Director Sherwood seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Director Dickmann said she believed August 18<sup>th</sup> would be a more appropriate start date. Director Snyder inquired about snow days and said that the feedback during open forum was for students to get testing done before the break. Director Sherwood said parents are looking for a later start date and he has real questions about the validity of testing and doesn't feel passionate about getting testing done before the break. He said he would vote no and would like the start date to be later. Director Krumwiede stated he will support the administration's recommendation based on feedback from students and teachers and the high school administrators and the fact that surrounding districts are also starting around the 14<sup>th</sup>. Director Clewell expressed concern about chasing test scores rather than achievement and said the board needs to explore how we can do this better. He said it makes sense to align the start with other districts, but doesn't know how he will vote. President Johanson asked for the required due date for making this decision. Ms. Miller said it was originally March 1<sup>st</sup> and there was some discussion about this topic. Johanson said he hasn't heard a good reason for starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> rather than the 18<sup>th</sup> and is also considering concerns of the Fair Board and 4-H activities. He said he is inclined to vote no.

Director DeFauw stated she was very dismayed at comments being made that students are not studious and just chasing test scores and that their only concern is getting the test done before break and that it seems the board only wants to follow the opinions of others when it is congruent with their own thought process. She said the board needs to support the administration. Director Krumwiede said he was very disappointed in this discussion as well. He had spoken with a reporter earlier and the reporter said he had interviewed parents about the start date and the majority of parents didn't have a preference for when school started. Krumwiede expressed that they have spent time asking students, staff and the public their opinion on this matter. He said if we start on August 18<sup>th</sup> we will definitely need some cushion for snow days but expressed he will not vote in favor of starting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion to amend:** Director Clewell made a motion to amend the school start date to August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Director Sherwood seconded the motion.

**Discussion on amendment:** Director Dickmann said community members spoke in favor of both starting early and starting late and there are people on both sides of argument. Director Snyder said he was concerned about cutting into the ultimate family time which is time at the Holidays.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion to amend was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Sherwood, Dickmann and Johanson. Nays: DeFauw, Krumwiede, Snyder. Amendment passed. President Johanson noted the amended motion now reads: Administration recommends that the first day of school for students in the 2014-15 school year be Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Discussion on motion as amended:** President Johanson said that he respectfully disagreed with the comments made earlier and that he is voting as he believes is right and that his vote is not disrespectful of those mentioned.

**Vote motion as amended:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Sherwood, Dickmann, Clewell and Johanson. Nays: DeFauw, Snyder and Krumwiede. Motion carried.

## **I. Budget Reduction Plan**

**Motion:** Director Clewell moved the board approve the Superintendent's Reduction Plan for the 2014 -2015 school year as presented. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Director Sherwood noted the board still needs to find bigger solutions concerning budget cuts and said that the school district has a much smaller population than in the past and it needs to resize properly. Director Clewell thanked everyone for their efforts and said this is the plan we have now and the CFO has said this puts us on target for reaching our target unspent balance and this is a reasonable course for moving forward. Director Krumwiede said he is feeling comfortable for this year, but reinforced that the board needs to make deeper cuts next year. He stated that the board needs to start now with the discussion on the additional recommendations made by the Superintendent. Director Dickmann said she is not thrilled with making any of

these cuts but this is a good plan for moving forward. Director Clewell noted how more information on the various funding streams needs to be provided to the Quad City Times so they are reporting accurate information on the budget.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Krumwiede, Sherwood, Dickmann, Snyder, DeFauw and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

#### **J. Policy**

**Motion:** Director DeFauw moved that board approve the following policy previously discussed at the 2/3/14 board meeting.

305.24- Prevention of False Claims, Fraud & Abuse in Government Funded Health Programs

Director Dickmann seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: DeFauw, Dickmann, Clewell, Krumwiede, Snyder, Sherwood, and Johanson. All ayes motion carried.

### **VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. Reducing Cost of Publishing Board Minutes.**

President Johanson noted that currently the cost of publishing the entire board minutes in the paper cost approximately \$16,000 last year and the recommendation is to publish the proceedings only which will result in significant savings. Johanson asked for discussion and whether the board wants to put this to a vote. Director Snyder noted that full minutes will still be available to the public through the district website. Director Sherwood said some people read the minutes in the paper but we don't know how many and said he doesn't think it is a great number of people. Director Dickmann said it is a good opportunity to cut the budget without cutting services. Director Clewell would like for it to come forward for a vote. Director Krumwiede thanked the board secretary for providing the board with the research on this topic.

President Johanson rearranged the agenda and indicated that the Administrative Reports will be presented next before continuing with the second discussion item.

### **VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **A. Grow Your Own Report**

Former board member, Mr. Larry Roberson began the presentation. This project provides para educators with the opportunity to go back to school and eventually become teachers in our district. He emphasized this project will help close the achievement gap and provide more teachers in the classroom that represent the community. He noted that many para educators currently have a two year degree and hopes the board will support this



project. Mr. Jabari Woods stated this program provides a unique opportunity for the para educators in our district to complete their education and become teachers in the district this is an investment in people and hope. Dr. Goldstone noted that para educators are the lowest paid group in the district yet they are the ones who have elbow-to-elbow experience working with students and what better group for the board to support. She reinforced that this is a lifetime investment for our students, staff and the community. Director Krumwiede noted that Davenport is the only school district that doesn't belong to a consortium with the AEA for on-line learning and he expects this will change and will provide support to the para educators to continue their education. He also noted that Davenport is the only district that doesn't pay for para educator's course work for certification and Mr. Woods addressed this concern and how the AEA is looking at reducing expenses for para educators. Board members expressed their support for the program and it was also mentioned that the wages for the para educators needs to be a part of the bigger discussion.

**President Johanson called a recess at 9:15 and the board reconvened at 9:20.  
Director DeFauw had left the meeting.**

## **VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)**

### **B. Board Priorities**

President Johanson read the Board Priorities:

- 1) Provide leadership and direction to improve the overall learning environment in our classrooms, schools and district including the health, safety, security and happiness of students and staff.
- 2) Direct and support actions, programs, and activities which reduce the impacts of poverty on our students, their families, and our community.

He asked for discussion on how the board provides the leadership and direction to implement these priorities and referenced the ideas from the brainstorming session that Dr. Tate conducted with the principals. Director Dickmann would like to expand programs that prevent bullying and encourage an environment of emotional well-being in the schools. Director Sherwood was very impressed with the ideas on the brainstorming list and would encourage a conversation on the idea to change the transfer policy to enable students in poverty to remain in their school if the family moves. He also likes the idea of having a preschool in every elementary building. The board should also have a strong focus on attendance and he would like to explore weekend academies and having community based services available in the elementary buildings. Director Snyder was also impressed with list and expressed how important it is to encourage kids to become involved in the arts and also mentioned the idea of requiring high school students to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity. Director Clewell also complimented the list of ideas presented and he would like to ask the policy committee to consider what can be done to affect the climate and poverty in schools. He said we need to have an overall coordinated effort in order to make this happen. Director Krumwiede also mentioned the idea of having a preschool in every elementary school and talked about how this has worked in the past and was very successful. Krumwiede indicated the need to measure school climate in some way and talked about how they used to have a school walk through to ascertain school climate. Johanson noted previous board discussions on

the importance of adequate recess and lunch time. He noted that we are asking students to adhere to a rigid schedule in order to accommodate the adult's schedule and noted how we need to focus on the students more. He would like to have continued discussion and would like the Agenda Committee to schedule another discussion.

## **IX. BOARD REPORTS/REQUESTS**

Director's had the following board requests:

Dickmann: How much is the district spending on aligning the curriculum to the common core? Is the district mandated to fully align with the core standards? How much time and money is being spent on standardized testing, is it all mandatory? How much time/money is being spent on large scale data collection and processing?

Krumwiede: Discussion item for March 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting - The School Board Technology Committee would like to present and discuss their research and findings on the Board's use of technology and going paperless.

Sherwood: I would like a recommendation from the administration on how we might reduce the impact of school moves on children of poverty.

Snyder: I would like to request a sit-down with Board members and administration in conjunction with the Davenport Police Department traffic folks or liaisons to discuss our student safety in regards to traffic. Two students hit by cars in three weeks is two too many.

Snyder: Lunchroom and food prep temperature conditions during warm months. I have heard that temps are in some cases unbearably warm for the Food Service staff. Is there anything we can do to help with this? They too deserve as good of a working environment as we can provide.

Clewell: Request the Policy Committee consider how the Board's intent to meet its priorities can best be communicated to our schools. This may be through Administrative Regulation or Policy. I would appreciate the Policy Committee's consideration.

Director Sherwood said he hopes the technology committee can explore having board members skype instead of using phone when they have to be absent from board meetings.

Director Snyder reported on his attendance at National History Day at Wood.

Director Sherwood spoke about a concern expressed by a parent regarding the serving of a soul food lunch at one of the schools. He said some people were upset because of the way it was presented. As a teacher for 20 years it was a routine matter to have multicultural lunches in district. In the case there was no context or conversation about the historical significance of the food served and used as a teaching moment he can understand why someone may be upset. He apologized for this, but did not want

to apologize for the intent of having the meal. He said he hopes we can improve on how this is done in the future.

Director Dickmann noted that Monday March 3rd is Read Across America and encouraged everyone to read to students.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Director Clewell moved the board adjourn. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion. By consensus President Johanson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

---

Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer