

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

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, February 3rd, 2014 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, Jamie Snyder, Nikki DeFauw and Maria Dickmann. Superintendent Art Tate and other administrators were also present.

1. Budget

Dr. Tate reviewed his initial budget recommendations that total 2 million in reductions. He requested the board's philosophical recommendations in how much of the cuts should be substantial cuts this year and how much should be taken from the health reserve. Director DeFauw said she is glad to see that the list reflects less reliance on the health reserve fund as it is not sustainable to rely on this annually and to do so is not in the best interest of the district. She believes sustainable cuts are required. In terms of being conservative this year, she would prefer not to step back from cuts. She also looks forward to the report on the block schedule and exploring this course for next year. She expressed concern about custodial efficiencies and reducing department budgets being on the list and expressed that we rely too frequently on going to this well for cuts. Director Snyder asked how much is in health reserve fund and Dr. Tate said there is 28 million. Snyder prefers not using the health reserve fund unless absolutely necessary and would like to find other avenues for making sustainable budget reductions. Director Krumwiede is also in favor on not relying on the health reserve fund and asked questions regarding core, standard and enhanced services. Krumwiede said he wants to be very careful not to make reductions in those areas that would directly affect student achievement and the list presented makes sense to him. Krumwiede requested more information on eliminating the stipend for teacher-in-charge positions and custodial efficiencies. Dr. Tate responded this information will be provided and he would make the board aware if any of the cuts would impact student achievement.

Director Dickmann stated she is comfortable with recommendations made so far. Director Clewell stated that the list reflects the direction the board has asked the superintendent to pursue and this is a good beginning. Director Snyder asked about the custodial efficiencies and Dr. Tate explained that during the last round the custodial staff developed suggestions for certain efficiencies so this list was generated by them. There was a brief discussion about the recommended amount for the health reserve and Ms. Tangen said the indicated amount is in line with the recommendation made to the district by Mr. Sigel. She also explained these numbers are based on receiving 4% allowable growth. Dr. Tate reported that Rob Scott is in process of meeting with the city and county on creating more collaborations to reduce the budget. President Johanson expressed a concern about the unspent balance and asked Ms. Tangen for details about the recommendation made by Mr. Sigel to the board. Johanson would also like more detailed information about the board account.

2. State Minimum Instruction Time Options

Deb Miller explained that previous guidance from the Department of Education (DOE) indicated the deadline to submit the district's decision on 1080 hours vs. 180 days was March 1st, but today they learned the deadline has been changed to the springs BEDS for this year and future years. Ms. Miller distributed an updated memo to the board that reviewed Iowa Code as it relates to minimum school day and the changes that will occur beginning the 2014-15 school year. She also provided the wording on pending legislation as it relates to possible changes in the law. She reviewed the points to consider in choosing 180 days over 1080 hours of instruction as well as points to consider choosing 1080 hours over 180 days of instruction. Mr. Rob Scott provided a report on the results of the Bell Time Study Group and stated this committee recommends using the 1080 hours model. This recommendation could change based on forthcoming information expected from the legislature as the result of the change in the deadline. There were several questions from board members regarding how these changes could impact lunch time, the block schedule, and early outs on Wednesday.

There was a discussion about how research supports the benefit of a later start time for the high school and Mr. Scott mentioned the possibility of two tier bussing and increased cost efficiencies. Director Krumwiede asked what was going on around the state and Ms. Miller said the UEN districts favor the 1080 hours model, but this could change based on the forthcoming information from the legislature. Director DeFauw said she encourages a later start time for the high schools and would welcome further discussion about this possibility. Director Dickmann noted the importance of physical activity and gym hours. President Johanson noted the inconsistencies in schedules in the buildings from the handout and there was a discussion about how the high schools and intermediate schools were very similar but that elementary schools had a wide variety of times and how it isn't easy to equalize out. Director Clewell noted he sees the importance of making things equitable for students, but would also like for the schools to have flexibility if that is what they need in order to accomplish our vision.

3. School Start Date

Dr. Tate explained that they had conducted forums asking for public feedback regarding the school start date and Mr. Scott has asked high school principals what they would recommend. The main issue seems to be the high school schedule and whether the students take tests before going on winter break or after coming back from the break. Mr. Scott reported the principals said August 18th should be last possible start date and they are open to testing taking place after winter break as long as it wasn't the first week after returning to school. Dr. Tate said Bettendorf, Pleasant Valley and North Scott were looking at August 13th but no decision has been made yet. Director Snyder said he likes the 18th as a start date and that he received strong feedback from students that they want to take the tests prior to winter break. He also pointed out that this allows students who are graduating early to be finished and not have to come back to school. Director DeFauw asked student board member, Hannah Herrington, to comment on this subject. Hannah talked about how they got stuck last year from the snow days and having to make them up afterwards and it was hard remembering everything over the break for the tests and that she prefers taking the tests before the break. Director DeFauw likes the August 18th start date and reinforced the student perspective on having the tests completed prior to winter break. Director Dickmann likes the August 18th date as well and thinks August 13th is too early and also thinks students should be able to take the tests before the break. Director Clewell mentioned the students who are involved in 4-H and he wouldn't want the start date to interfere. Mr. Scott said they always work with the 4-H students. Director Krumwiede mentioned how he thinks it is important to coordinate calendars with surrounding districts in order to share professional development which would save money. Krumwiede said he is fine with the 13th or the 18th but if the whole point is to get finished with testing before winter break then he wants to make sure we have an adequate number of days in light of snow days. Dr. Tate responded they have not been coordinating professional development due to the issue of substitutes and not being able to find enough if it is offered on the same day and that our district may be emphasizing professional development in

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different areas than the surrounding districts. President Johanson asked if there was a code requirement that requires all levels of education to start on the same day. Dr. Tate responded that he thinks that is possible but it may cost more in transportation. Johanson asked if there was any research that connects start date to student achievement and Mr. Scott provided some explanation and noted that the State Fair is August 7th – August 17th this year. Johanson said he was good with the date of August 18th. President Johanson adjourned meeting at 6:45PM.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary