

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM
1606 BRADY STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
5:30 PM

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Monday, March 2, 2015 for their Committee of the Whole 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 5:30 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: Directors: Ralph Johanson, Rich Clewell, Maria Dickmann, Nikki DeFauw, Jamie Snyder, Ken Krumwiede and Linda Hayes. Superintendent Art Tate was also present.

1.01 Poverty Committee Report

The presentation started with a tribute to Director Sherwood who was the Poverty Committee's Chair before his passing. Davenport Schools, the School Board, and the members of the Poverty Committee recognized the contributions of Director Sherwood as well as his service and inspiration to this committee. Director Krumwiede, current Chair of the committee, introduced his widow, Ann McCluskey, and their daughter Melissa who were in attendance for this tribute. Director Krumwiede introduced members of the Poverty Committee and provided a brief overview of the work being accomplished by the committee. Ellen Reilly presented local poverty statistics and highlighted the fact that the 40 members of this committee are a cross section of community members, parents, social and religious organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, city and county representatives and education representatives.

Three subcommittees were formed and identified three priorities: Transportation, School Climate and Training, and Early Childhood Education/Kindergarten Readiness. Multiple ideas were discussed by the transportation sub-committee. They identified seven schools as having a high number of chronic absences and decided they would try to address this problem. They selected Madison as their pilot due to the family-based supports through Family Matters and an attendance grant received by Madison during the 2014-15 school and also the fact that it is a 100% walk zone school. Ms. Reilly explained how they worked with Operations and Beth O'Dette to create a bus route that would provide transportation to students who are chronically absent. Attendance progress is currently being monitored and at the end of year results will be examined and if successful, other schools will be reviewed. Parents have already expressed their appreciation for the transportation being provided. Sarah Harris presented the report for the training and climate sub-committee. This group identified gaps, new options and some innovative ideas around the following initiatives: reviewing and improving the district's onboarding process; looking at the possibility of adding key components for supporting a positive school climate in interviews and test questions; creating a professional development series to

help support changing perspectives on what poverty means; supporting community wide events such as the Navigators Training on March 10th and the QC Opportunity Conference on April 18th. Tammy Conrad and Bill Schneden presented the report from the preschool/kindergarten readiness committee. This committee's discussion have focused quite a bit on increasing access to 4 year old preschool and asking whether the district is meeting the needs of the children being served. They had three all day meetings and created a vision with a particular focus on students at risk. They established the following goal: To provide additional preschool access to 4 year olds focusing on the most at risk, especially children of poverty in the Davenport Community to assure Kindergarten readiness. They reviewed their recommendations for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. Director Krumwiede discussed the remaining work to be done by this committee and members of the school board. He suggested a book study of Dr. Beegle's book on poverty by the board and that board members attend the Navigator Training. Board members complimented the committee on their work and emphasized what a great job they are doing. Members of the subcommittee answered questions from the board and President Johanson thanked everyone for their hard work.

1.02 Community Schools Model

Rachael Steiner, Steve Mielenhausen and Jennifer Best from ISU Extension presented on the Community Schools Model. Ms. Steiner reviewed the five general conditions to be considered a community school and discussed how Madison Elementary is on the way to becoming a full service community school. Mr. Mielenhausen, Principal at Madison, reviewed the distinct features of Madison school that meet these criteria and explained the layering of services provided at the school. These services include intensive family and teacher supports; Out of School Time programming; mental health services; and early learning opportunities such as Kinderjump and early childhood outreach. Many of the services are provided daily in partnership with the Families Matter Program from ISU Scott County Extension. Board members asked about the sustainability of the Families Matter program due to short term funds and if these programs have helped reduce the mobility rates at Madison. Mr. Mielenhausen provided more details. Board members thanked the presenters and emphasized the importance of keeping these initiatives active.

1.03 North Academic Recovery Program

Jay Chelf, Principal of North High School, provided an overview of their Academic Recovery Program. The program started three years ago after he reviewed data that indicated too many students were failing four or more classes. They work with the students and their families in this effort. The program consists of a self-contained classroom that focuses on helping students change negative behaviors that are contributing to their failing classes. The students in the program lose some of their privileges such as passing time and eating lunch with peers, but can start earning back those privileges within a week. They get personal attention from all the teachers and this helps many of the students. The program has been successful and the students are earning elective credits and changing habits. Board members thanked Mr. Chelf for all his efforts.

President Johanson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary