

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM
1606 BRADY STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803
MONDAY, JUNE 1ST, 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, June 1, 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 Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:35PM. Present: Directors: Johanson, DeFauw, Krumwiede, Snyder, Clewell, Dickmann and Hayes.

1.01 Special Education Continuum of Services

Patti Pace-Tracy provided an overview of the range of special education service provided in the District. These include a wide range of services and programming in the following areas: behavior, autism, deaf-blindness, hearing impaired, life skills and multiple disabilities. The largest category of services provided in the district is for specific learning disabilities which is defines as one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations, including conditions such as dyslexia, brain injury, perceptual disabilities etc. These services are provided in all buildings. Board members asked questions regarding if the restructuring of the AEA will impact services, funds used to pay for special education, if there is a connection between high poverty rates and special education and graduation requirements. There was extended discussion regarding contracts and whether one student should require 3 FTE's, the billing tool used in and how much the district is paying for students that are out of district. President Johanson asked if the higher percentage of special education in the district is related to SES (Socio Economic Status) and Ms. Tracy said she can provide this information.

1.02 Boys Town Model/Davenport Way

Bill Schneden began the presentation and explained that phrase "Davenport Way" refers to the district wide multi-tiered system of support (MTSS). Sarah Harris discussed how MTSS leverages the principles of RTI (Response to Intervention) and PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) and integrates a continuum of system wide resources, strategies, structures, and practices. Amy Clayton provided more details on the Boys Town Education Model which is an intervention strategy that focuses on managing behavior, building relationships, teaching social skills. This model emphasizes preventive and proactive practices rather than reactive responses to deal with student behavior. Ms. Clayton explained the Davenport Way Implementation and Action Plan and shared data with the board that reflects measureable success using this approach. Board members commented on the presentation and thanked them for the progress being made and the work they are doing.

1.03 Technology Vision.

Dr. Tate led a discussion concerning the board's hopes and vision for the future of technology in the district. He explained this discussion is the last in a series of focus groups where participants were asked to think about and discuss seven questions related to the use of technology in the school district. This document is available on BoardDocs. Gary Sloat and Corri Guy were also available for questions. Director Clewell commented that we aren't asking the right questions and instead of "one-to-one" it should be "one to world." It is not about the hardware but about how students relate to the world, our culture, and how students successfully incorporate technology in their lives. President Johanson discussed the rate of technological change and how it grows exponentially according to the research he conducted. He wants to be bold, innovative, and think beyond "one to one" and think about 10, 20 or even 30 years into the future. He thinks technology is more important than new tiles in a bathroom and when looking at the strategic plan we should ask how much money are we allocating for technology and can we make broadband more available.

Director Snyder said he is all for technology but he can't get past the fact that our school district is 67% free and reduced lunch and many students do not have computers or wireless access. Director DeFauw agreed with Snyder's comments and remarked that until we can guarantee equal access for all students in their homes they will not be able to use all this great technology as intended for learning. She believes it is unrealistic for the district to move to doing all business online because that would disenfranchise families that cannot, will not, or do not access information online. She mentioned how participation levels have decreased since the online enrollment for Dads Club. She also remarked that every student will not want to read textbooks online or on an iPad and emphasized she thinks it is foolish to think that all students would be able to acclimate to strictly an on-line environment.

Director Dickmann agreed we shouldn't focus on the hardware but on how students learn and focus on how we can integrate technology into instruction. She asked how we can use the internet for learning and combine "one to world" with a traditional approach. Director Krumwiede agreed and thinks the District should provide access in different ways and it should be adapted to the learning style of students. Professional development is needed to utilize the technology we already have available. There was a discussion about the level of access available to staff and students and the appropriate use of technology for students in particular. Ms. Guy discussed the importance of teaching digital citizenship at most grade levels.

Tate said he is hearing some members of the board saying they would like Davenport to be the premier district in Iowa concerning technology, but at the same time let people come along as they are ready. Tate asked the board for feedback on how tough do we want to be on staff and administrators when it comes to learning new technology. For example, should every teacher be required to know how to use a smart board? Several board members agreed they should be required to learn how to use them but not required to use them. Dickmann said we can have opportunity without having mandates. Johanson said he is receiving feedback from teachers that we need to be more restrictive with technology. Dr. Tate asked if it is a realistic goal for us to prepare our students to use whatever technology they will find in college and career. Johanson emphasized the importance of anticipating the future and said he understands being fair to everyone but he doesn't want to hold the whole district back and not move forward until we achieve equal access for everyone and said maybe we do provide hot spots for students and we

make this one of our goals. Tate mentioned feedback from the focus groups suggested solutions such as longer hours before or after school or more access throughout the city through hot spots. Hayes commented that many places have wireless access now. Sloat mentioned how one school district lists where all the hot spots are in their area on the District website. There was continued discussion about the importance of access and how to use technology in the learning process and how important it is to teach students the appropriate use of technology. Johanson advocated again the need to allocate funds for technology in the long range plan and doesn't want to limit our thinking when developing this vision. DeFauw said the goals need to be balanced. She said students in Bettendorf are assigned iPads but some of those students still find it a burden to locate wireless access to do their homework since they don't have access at home. She also said a hot spot is not going to make a difference to a child who doesn't have the time, ability, or home environment to use it. She thinks going strictly to e-books is a bad idea because for some students this can actually be a barrier to learning. Hayes commented that some students associate the use of computers with play and aren't interested in using technology for school work so there should be a variety of options.

Tate emphasized there is a certain level of technology everyone needs to get a job, go to trade school or college. From this perspective he asked the board if the district has a responsibility to teach technology. Board members agreed but also asked that any plans keep in the mind the families in the district who do not have computer or wireless access. Tate explained it looks as though we need to plan for the next 5-10 years and staff will continue to do more research and he will have something ready by the summer. Johanson specifically said he doesn't want resources to be a barrier in planning for the future.

President Johanson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15PM

Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer