

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
June 3, 2013**

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, June 3, 2013 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, Nikki De Fauw and Patt Zamora. Larry Roberson was absent. Superintendent Art Tate and other administrators were present.

1. Scott County Family Y Partnership with DCSD

Marsha Tangen reviewed the shared use agreements with the Scott County YMCA and West and North High Schools. The District entered into an agreement with the Y and West High School in 2000 and North High School in 2002. The contract for both sites is basically the same with some site specific details. She provided highlights of the contract including the term of the contract which is 25 years with an option to extend or terminate, parking is dedicated at both facilities and the Y pays an annual rate of \$1 for each site. She discussed the shared scheduling arrangements and responsibilities and noted there is a steering committee that includes seven members.

Tony Calabrese, Vice President and Brad Martell, CEO of Scott County Family YMCA, provided an overview of the collaborations and partnership activities with the Davenport Community School District over the years and shared data on usage and number of visits. They discussed program collaborations and various initiatives. Dr. Tate explained that he and Marsha and Scott Martin meet with Tony periodically to discuss joint uses and issues that may arise. Tony highlighted items on the Y's capital improvement projects and noted the Y pays for the total amount of operating costs. Tony asked the district to consider contributing \$275,000 towards capital improvements.

Director Sherwood asked if they had considered solar hot water and where they would put the playground at North. He indicated the playground would go on the north side of the building. Board members inquired about the timeline for enhancements; status of the fundraising campaign; and how the principals feel about the partnership in general and also in relation to scheduling issues. Brad explained that the latest in the timeline is 18 months but that some projects would come quicker than others and if the district could not contribute it would require they reprioritize projects. Brad explained the fundraising campaign has gone very well so far and they hope to have raised 80% of their goal by December of this year. President Johanson asked for more clarification on how they define uses and visits specifically, who schedules the time, and that he sometimes gets calls from parents who are frustrated regarding the scheduling. Tony provided more explanation on their definition of use and visits and explained the scheduling is a collaborative decision. Principals, Jay Chelf and Mike Lawler were in attendance at the meeting and shared the partnership is a positive one and stated they collaborate on scheduling issues and

that they haven't encountered problems. Johanson noted that according to their data the Y seems to get more use from the pool than the district. Tony clarified that at West the Y gets very little use of the pool and noted they are speaking about the whole facility. Johanson noted the district is getting ready to spend a great deal of money for a pool at Central and asked Tony and Brad their opinion about what option they think is better for the district to have a partnership or own their own pool. Brad stated that the district saves money by collaborating but you also give up some control. Director Clewell asked about the adult locker rooms at North and stated he has heard there is some inequity in this regard. Director Zamora said it is logical that the Y would have to get more use since they have to pay for expenses. Director Sherwood noted the importance of branding and highlighting the partnership in their materials. Johanson asked if the capital improvement considerations are mentioned in the original contract and Marsha said she would find out. Dr. Tate stated they need to look at the contract and see how capital improvements fit into the district's long range plan and need to agree on this before getting started. Director De Fauw made comments regarding the possible impact on the district's budget long term without a collaborative effort to provide pool facilities at Central. Zamora noted this is exactly why the agreement was made to start with because we have the sales tax money to get the facility and not the operating funds, so the partnership has been beneficial for both parties. De Fauw agreed and stated now we going to assume \$150,000 annually in operating costs for which we do not have a funding source, and noted perhaps we have been short sighted in not fully vetting collaborative relationships within the community.

2. District of Distinction Committee Reports

Dr. Tate explained the District of Distinction Committee began to meet last summer and has dedicated lots of time to looking at ideas and then deciding which ideas meet their criteria for becoming a district of distinction. They identified six areas that have the greatest promise and each group provided a brief presentation.

- A. Dual Graduation Academy** - Members of this committee include Dr. Tate, Jay Chelf, Guy Heller, and Ellen Reilly as well as other teachers and counselors. Dr. Tate explained that if a student is in the program at North High School that is a dual graduation program they will obtain a high school diploma as well as a degree from Scott Community College after four years. This will challenge students to their maximum, save families a significant amount of money, and give students a leg up on their college education. Jay distributed a handout and highlighted the specific classes and discussed the schedule that is planned for the program. He explained the cohort group will need to stay together and all the classes will be taught at North High School. The program will not limit the number of electives students can take. Scott Community College is a full partner and will be on site. The program could start in the fall and it would not cost any money. Ellen and Guy discussed the selection process and noted that transportation issues need to be considered since this would involve students from all over. Board members asked if other students will have the opportunity to attend, if qualified teachers are currently available to teach the classes and if multiple prep times would be involved. It was explained that all students will have the opportunity to take classes and they are looking into the number of qualified teachers and that it will not involve multiple prep time. Jay said they are hoping to start with 40 students but others can jump in once it starts. There was a discussion about how this program may affect current AP and honors classes, and De Fauw expressed a concern that the cohort will be prioritized and wants to make sure all students have equal access to classes. Jay responded he doesn't see this as being a problem. Board members expressed their excitement about the program. President Johanson expressed a

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concern about how free and reduced representation figures into the equation and Dr. Tate noted he has challenged committee members to match student recruitment to the district diversity ratio for this first year, but they envision an application process in the future. Dr. Tate said he is not hearing anyone say do not do this so they will move forward and explained the committee will be meeting next week and will move forward.

B. Creative Arts Academy - Joel Franken introduced the committee members in attendance and provided an overview of the program. A comprehensive folder of materials and a CD explaining the program was distributed to board members. The committee studied several arts magnet schools throughout the nation and a 41-item questionnaire was developed and sent to schools. They received an approximate 30% response rate which helped to formulate the curriculum, structure, and staffing of the new Creative Arts Academy. Joel explained this would be a magnet school for the arts for grades 6-12. The mission will be to “facilitate individual learning in a career-oriented arts foundation for a global marketplace. This preparation will foster creativity with a sense of responsibility to self and community.” The committee recommends the following five divisions 1) Communication Arts 2) Dance 3) Drama 4) Music 5) Visual Arts. Joel reviewed the proposed criteria and project design and explained they would like to launch by the fall of 2014. They are exploring suitable downtown facilities and will be creating an ad hoc committee this month to explore possibilities. Rachael Mullins highlighted proposed sources of funds and financing, expenses, and start up dollars for the program. There is very strong community support and a wide variety of potential partnerships. There was discussion about the potential funding from the RDA, ensuring the academics will stay strong, if this would involve additional costs per student, if this would have any effect on current programs, and what cohort group they would start with. Dr. Tate explained they need to find another source of funds and Joel explained they have started the conversation with the RDA. Committee members explained this program would provide more opportunities for students and should not have any negative impact on current programs and they see it as a career pathway or trade school for the arts. Joel explained they would like to start with the whole school but the proposal is the cohort would consist of 6th through 8th grade. There was discussion that the draw for an academy like this would be strong from high school students, whether they could start with less than 5 divisions, and the importance of conducting a needs assessment as the next step to ensure they are providing what the community needs and wants.

C. Career Institute of Innovation and Technical Studies.

Julie Staszewski introduced members of the committee in attendance at the meeting and Mike Lawler presented an overview of the proposed program and highlighted their vision statement, proposal team, components of the program, and career exploration opportunities. He mentioned various sources of funding and next steps such as forming an advisory council facilities plan, developing partnerships and a marketing plan. Director Sherwood mentioned a strand of agriculture being included and there was brief discussion about this idea. Director De Fauw asked about the implications for current programs at high schools and noted that it may be difficult for students to change from their home school. Juli said current programs will continue and students will have multiple opportunities, but students would come to the academy if they wanted to pursue this career path. Director Clewell noted the importance of educating whole child and there was some discussion regarding the pros and cons of preparing students for specific careers.

D. Foreign Language Program – A committee member started the presentation speaking in Spanish and then she gave a translation. Dr. Tate discussed the benefits of studying a foreign language for K-5 students which includes enriching and enhancing cognitive development, it narrows achievement gaps, and benefits academic progress in other subjects. The vision of the program is that all Davenport elementary students, beginning in kindergarten and continuing through fifth grade, will have foreign language instruction as part of the regular curriculum. The recommended language for study is Spanish, based on its growing prevalence in our community. They discussed a preliminary budget and possible sources of funding and the suggested timeline for rolling out the program. Board members acknowledged the importance of learning a foreign language at the elementary level and there was discussion about building capacity at the intermediate level for foreign language offerings. There was also a discussion about staffing requirements of the program.

E. International Baccalaureate Program- Dr. O’Melia distributed a report for the board which provided an overview and program requirements for an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. All of the IB programs are very prescriptive and require a long term commitment on the part of the District. Each of the programmes requires three years preparation for full implementation. The primary and middle year’s programmes require school-wide implementation while the diploma programmes can be limited to a cohort of students. There are costs associated with each year of planning and ongoing costs as an IB school each year and O’Melia reviewed some of those costs. She highlighted courses required for each area and the requirements involved in the diploma program. She included possible questions and concerns in the report. O’Melia recommended further research and visiting schools who are currently implementing the IB program. There was a brief discussion about the program in Des Moines. Director Zamora mentioned how some schools that have the program are dropping it. Director Sherwood noted there is a very successful program in Florida and mentioned the importance of a feeder system and how an IB program can provide this. President Johanson asked for more details concerning the timeline and costs and fees for the program.

F. Sports Academy

TJ Schneckloth, Brad Oates and Cory Williams presented an overview of a proposed program called the Middle School Sports Academy. The philosophy of this concept is creating athletic students who achieve in the classroom and are leaders both on and off the field. This would be achieved through a training methodology founded on seven disciplines which he reviewed. Individual plans would be specific to the student and success would depend on recruiting world class coaches. The potential location would be JB Young School. Brad explained the academy would consist of 6-7-8th grade male and females interested in attending an educational setting built around developing future athletic skills and understanding. He noted, however, this program would be very far out into the future and is only in the very beginning stages of planning. Cory discussed potential schedules and mentioned potential community partnerships.

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Director Zamora clarified that students would be going back to their home high school. Director Sherwood said it has potential but there is much to work out. Director De Fauw expressed concern about possible recruitment of student and maintaining commitment to the home high school. Director Zamora emphasized that something needs to be done about the feeder system and how we are currently not giving student athletes the right opportunities. Director Krumwiede said he still has lots of questions and suggested that the program may need to start earlier than middle school noting that the district needs to start earlier than middle school and asked about selection process. He also noted that the district had winning teams when we had very strong elementary intramural program and suggested thinking about starting something like this at the elementary level again. President Johanson asked board members for final comments regarding all the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned by President Johanson at 9:05 p.m.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary