

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2017**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**  
**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 5, 2017 for their Committee of the Whole Meeting. The meeting was held at the Achievement Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room, 1606 Brady St., Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Johanson called the meeting to order at 5:30PM. Present: Director's Gosa, Clewell, Mayfield, Snyder, Hayes, and Johanson. DeSalvo was absent.

**1.01 Mastery Based Diplomas**

Ms. Corri Guy, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Bill Schneden, Associate Superintendent presented an overview of the concept of Mastery Based Diplomas. Director Clewell had requested a discussion on the topic. They explained this type of diploma is competency based education. In short, (CBE) -Competency Based Education involves a total rethinking of the nature and structure of school, leading to individualized education for all students. Mastery based diplomas are not being offered in Iowa at this time, but Ms. Guy discussed Iowa Big, a high school campus in Cedar Rapids that offers credits for competency based experience or projects and that credit is then reported back to their "home" school. Colorado and Alaska do offer mastery based diploma programs.

Guy explained that Iowa has had a Competency Based Education task force since 2012 and members of the local AEA are members, but the state has ended funding for their work with recent budget cuts. Ms. Guy did provide a comparison of SBAR (Standards Based Assessment and Reporting) with this concept. She explained that SBAR is the current system being implemented in the district and is a plan that will ensure grading and reporting practices accurately reflect what students know and are able to do in accordance to the prioritized reporting standards. The system will be fully implemented by the end of the 2019-2020 school year. She explained that competency based education is referred to in the 4<sup>th</sup> destination of Standards Based Assessment and Reporting and the district is currently working through Destination 1 and 2 with SBAR. She explained that Destination 1 consists of addressing counterproductive practices and beliefs and Destination 2 consists of re-thinking, repackaging and redeveloping curriculum instruction and assessment. Mr. Schneden provided additional details about these two categories.

Board members asked questions and discussed both types of instruction. Director Mayfield asked when the results will be evident and expressed concern that he has seen many different programs be implemented in the district over the years that promised results but in the end did not. He also expressed concern that students who need extra help don't get left behind and also mentioned the low enrollment of students of color in the AP classes. Ms. Guy provided some examples of how SBAR is already showing results in some of the elementary schools and discussed how the plan is focused on implementing systems of supports and intervention for those students who are in danger of falling behind.

President Johanson asked Ms. Guy if she was in favor of CBE and she responded she is in favor SBAR- the approach currently being implemented in the district and there was continued discussion about this and also the option of offering some type of hybrid of both approaches. Director Snyder asked how GPA would be affected if CBE were fully implemented and how this would affect college applications and scholarships since they rely so heavily on GPA. Director Clewell expressed

frustration about how the state tells us how to do education and they can't be the ones to lead us to quality education. He is in favor of moving toward mastery based diplomas and expressed concern about how the achievement gap in the district has not changed since he has been a board member. He said the district is not doing the job where the achievement gap is concerned and he believes CBE would be the answer to closing the achievement gap. There was continued discussion concerning pros and cons of this approach and Ms. Guy said she would provide more information to Clewell concerning the program.

### **1.02 Contract Language**

President Johanson explained he had requested on a discussion on this topic because he has felt for years that contracts are not written for the benefit of the district. He expressed frustration that it seems the district is always held responsible for paying for mistakes made by others and thinks the district could borrow some ideas from the business world on how to write contracts that would favor the district. For example, if a contractor finishes a project early they receive a bonus or if they are late they are penalized in some way. Johanson clarified he is speaking mainly about architect contracts and specially the AIA Architect contracts and mentioned CSO Architects specifically and the problem with front loading payments.

Mr. Maloney provided an explanation of the content of the AIA contract and said he believes there is a need to increase how specific the plans are and how his department will be spending more time in the design and development phase to review plans. Director Hayes asked what the standard percentage is for contingency fees and Maloney said the range is between 5-10%. He said for a project as big as Central he would have recommended a 10% contingency. Director Gosa suggested the district needs to look more closely at what defines the lowest, responsible, responsive bid to make sure contractors do not submit a low bid only to up the total by submitting change orders. Gosa also asked Maloney to check if the district requires a Department of Labor Training Certificate. Maloney said he would research this and get back to him. There was a brief discussion about what could be done to prevent under bidding.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

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Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer