

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER**  
**JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM**  
**1606 BRADY STREET**  
**DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 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, August 3, 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. Present: Directors: Johanson, Krumwiede, Snyder, Clewell, Dickmann, DeFauw and Hayes.

**1.01 Student Achievement Report**

Dawn Anderson-Rascher presented the 2015 DCSD Achievement Results. She reviewed universal screeners methods, advanced placement trends, achievement analysis matrix trends in reading and math, proficiency and growth expectation by grade, achievement gap trends, subgroup proficiency comparisons, and Iowa Assessment math and readings trends. She highlighted pockets of success as well as pointing out areas of concern and steps administration will be taking to address the lower scores in math and reading which include hiring more reading and math coaches at the elementary level. They are also implementing a new math curriculum as a pilot at Fillmore Elementary with some good preliminary results.

Dr. Tate discussed next steps and plans for improving student achievement. He distributed a handout entitled “Superintendent’s Review of Noteworthy Progress/Annual Iowa Assessments Report” and highlighted accomplishments. Some of these include how in grades K-5 proficiency increased to reach benchmarks in all but 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; five out of six intermediate schools moved up on the achievement matrix in math; district reading scores at the elementary level moved into the green quadrant; and when looking at percent of students meeting one year or more math growth there has been an increase in growth in all grades but one at the elementary schools. He then reviewed concerns that warrant action in math and reading achievement and how an unacceptable achievement gap still exists for free and reduced meal, African American, and Latino students at all three school levels. He discussed plans for addressing these concerns.

Board members asked for more information concerning a drop in 4<sup>th</sup> grade math assessments, DIBELS data for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, AP exams and the effects of a change in curriculum on students. Board members expressed their frustration with the continuing achievement gap and some of the achievement data results. DeFauw noted the success reflected in some of the aggregate data and said we seem to be doing an ok job with respect to the middle class majority student but is discouraged with results for minority students. She said for several years the board has been presented with approaches like expanded interventions and increased instructional time that were supposed to make a difference, but we now have four years a data that says it is not. To address these concerns the administration is saying they will add more of the same approaches but she doesn’t see evidence that these approaches are working. She commented that she appreciates

the information presented on the “Davenport House” and the approaches being used but questioned whether all the initiatives can be accomplished with fidelity. Director Clewell said he is overjoyed with successes but is still frustrated with flat line results and that the District doesn’t have more success and asked what the board can do to help or he is asking for too much. Dr. Tate said if he knew it he would do it and that the next thought may be is he the right Superintendent.

Clewell asked if the board can help and wants to make sure they are providing him with the resources the district needs and Dr. Tate said the board has never turned down a request and if he doesn’t think he is doing the right things he will back out himself but did mention that bidding does affect student achievement in a negative manner. Director Krumwiede expressed the district needs more support from parents and how the threat of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention got the attention of parents in the past. Bill Schneden said that according to this year’s data, 420 current third graders would be held back. President Johanson said he believes the administration is doing everything they can and mentioned a speaker he heard at a NAACP event who also emphasized the importance of the family unit to education. Director Snyder requested a follow up report from the meeting where they will be reviewing the individual data from these results and developing a plan to address concerns.

### **1.02 Long Range Facilities Plan**

Dr. Tate provided a brief review of the Long Range Facilities Study. He distributed an Executive Summary and highlighted the background, process and first look at the 10 year plan. Standards for buildings and cost to achieve building standards was presented as well as a discussion of how the board priorities were considered in finalizing the plan. The full plan and executive summary will be on district website tomorrow. Mr. Maloney discussed the priorities driving the project including health, safety and welfare of students, staff and the public; creating welcoming and secure campus, supporting instructional programs and efficient use of existing facilities with the goal to achieve relative parity of conditions among campuses. Ms. Tangen discussed funding sources and Gary Sloat and Corri Guy discussed the integration of technology into the plan and how they are piloting a program for the digital divide. The district’s bandwidth is making progress but we still need more. Maloney provided a brief analysis of on-going operations and maintenance and recommended a \$500,000 contingency for Central High School.

Dr. Tate recommended the board adopt the 10 year plan at the August 24<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting. Tate stated that after reviewing the data from this report he is making a recommendation the board pass a resolution to consider closing JB Young School. He distributed a handout specifying why he is making this recommendation. He explained that JB Young is the most expensive school in the district to bring up to the standards established by the long range facility plan and current enrollment at JB Young puts the school at only 34% capacity and the district average is 69%. Because of low enrollment many programs cannot be provided based on the district funding formula.

JB Young students would be transported to one of five schools: Sudlow, Williams, Smart, Jefferson and Madison depending on boundaries to be established. The continuous annual savings from repurposing JB Young K-8 School would be over \$1.9 million. He is proposing that the Achievement Service Center (ASC) operations be moved to the JB Young building and the cost for making this move would be offset by using the funds already programmed for major maintenance at the ASC. He would also like to establish a community presence on the first floor

of this building which would prove to be an asset to the neighborhood and provide space for community organizations to serve the community. Tate explained they will conduct an informational meeting at JB Young before the August 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Director Snyder had to leave the meeting at 7:50PM.

Director DeFauw asked what other alternatives Tate considered before making this recommendation and asked the board to consider if 95% capacity is reasonable for elementary schools. She recalls that 85% capacity was closer to what the board has said they wanted and she requested additional board discussion on this topic. Director Dickmann asked about plans for electricity generation, inquired about bus routes changing and the possibility of an 8:00 start time. She mentioned the possibility of JB Young students going to other schools in order to create added diversity. She requested a board discussion on building needs vs. district needs. Director Hayes asked for an explanation of the miscellaneous expenses regarding projected savings from closing the school. Director Krumwiede said he hopes administration considers creating additional pre-school opportunities on the first floor if the school is closed.

There was a discussion about the district expanding fiber optics and coordination efforts with the city and how the District is currently at 1.6 gigabytes and the industry standard is 16. Johanson asked how the Diversity Plan would be affected by closing JB Young and Clewell would like a board discussion on parity of conditions.

### **1.03 Iowa Association of School Board (IASB) Priorities**

Director Krumwiede explained the process for submitting legislative priorities to the IASB noting the August 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. Krumwiede serves on the IASB Legislative Resolutions Committee (LRC) and he provided an overview of how this committee reviews the legislative priorities they receive from members across the state. He recommended that funding equity be the only priority submitted by the Davenport School Board this year. He discussed his intentions to really promote this cause as a committee member on the LRC. Board members agreed with his recommendation. This will be on the agenda at the 8/10 board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

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Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer