

8-5-13 Minutes

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM
1606 BRADY STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

AUGUST 5, 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, August 5, 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, Larry Roberson, and Nikki DeFauw. Patt Zamora was absent. Superintendent Art Tate and other administrators were present.

1. Presentation by Margaret Buckton

Ms. Buckton provided a brief professional history and indicated she is currently a lobbyist for the Urban Education Network. Her presentation provided information on Allowable Growth, Education Reform HF 215 and Tax Reform SF 295. There is a new vocabulary in reference to Allowable Growth which will become effective July 1, 2014. She explained impacts to budget guarantee, categoricals, AEA's and property taxes. She also reviewed the new requirements for school employee background checks. Ms. Buckner then provided an overview of Education Reform HF 215 which include the following: Division I-Funding; Division II-Funding Terminology; Division III-Iowa Learning Online; Division IV-Online job posting, Teach Iowa Student Teaching Pilot, Teach Iowa Scholar Program; Division V-Assessments; Division VI -Council on Educator Development (Evaluation and Teacher Leadership and Compensation Timeline); Division VII-Teacher Leadership); Division VII-State Supplemental Assistance for High-Needs Schools; Division VII-Attendance Center Performance Rankings; Division VIII-Competency Based Instruction Task Force; Division IX-Instructional Hours or Days; Divisions X-XII-Homeschool and Non-Public School Options; Division IV-Misc.Provisions; Division IV-Misc. Provisions; Division XV-Extended Learning Time Pilot Project and Appropriation. She reviewed and highlighted specific information and timeframes for each of divisions. There was a discussion concerning the Division V Assessments and Division VI Council on Educator Development (Evaluation.) The council is created to study and make recommendations on statewide teacher evaluation system and performance review requirements and statewide administrator evaluation system. The first meeting is August 14th with the findings due November 15th 2016. She discussed the teacher leadership and compensation timeline and explained specifics on the Site Based Review Council which the school board appoints. She reviewed the duties of the Council and there was some discussion about the need for the local plan to be specific. President Johanson asked about the shift regarding special education and some specific questions about allowable growth. He also asked if there has been a definition established yet for student academic growth and Ms. Buckner responded this has not been decided yet. Johanson inquired as to whether the district should participate in the Competency Based Instruction Taskforce and Ms. Buckner said it would be a good opportunity; however, the deadline in December is fast approaching. She then provided a brief overview of the property tax changes but indicated there is no impact on schools at this time.

2. West Sound System

President Johanson explained that at the last meeting the board was considering the Central Auditorium as well as the West Sound System and explained there were concerns expressed about the difference in the approach that was taken with respect to each school. As a result of those concerns the West Sound System agenda item was not passed at that time and the board asked for more clarification regarding this issue. Eric Page explained there was some misunderstanding about the process, plans and specifications and final price concerning the West system. In attendance with Eric, was Van Phillips, theatre consultant from Jones & Phillips, Topher Dick, sound consultant who helped design the West system and Mike Lawler, Principal at West High School. Mr. Phillips stated that the system that is being proposed will serve the students well and to make a comparison to Central is difficult because it is a different building type, but assured the board it would have good audio. He explained the evolution of the assembly type building to a performance arts center and how difficult it is to create a performance arts center from an assembly type building. He recommended a training video be created so proper training on this type of equipment could be provided. Director Sherwood noted that the proper expertise to operate this type of equipment is critical and that this is the main problem at North. Sherwood mentioned the possibility of creating a full time position to address this need. Director DeFauw acknowledged the need for a house manager, but would not support one for Central and not for the other buildings. She also noted that there was no district support to fund the system at North, so they did what they had to do to get one and if equitable systems are being considered then it may be time to revisit the system at North. There was a discussion about the number of wireless microphones that are needed. Sherwood asked Mike Lawler if he was satisfied with the proposed system and he responded that he was satisfied. There were comments concerning staff not being compensated for operating the systems after school and Mike Lawler stated this year staff will be compensated and also mentioned they have created a student technical team who will be trained to operate the system. Sherwood asked if they have been asked to assess North's system and they said they had not. President Johanson asked if this system is the same quality as the system at Central and Mr. Phillips stated it was the same quality.

Student Achievement Report

Dr. Tate and Dawn Anderson-Rascher presented the 2013 Iowa Assessment and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Results to the board. Dr. Tate explained there are two measures for every school and this year they used math and reading only. Dr. Tate said the scores were not what he had hoped for since he wanted positives in every test with every school and they didn't achieve that. He explained we have pockets of brilliance such as 13 of the 19 elementary schools had an increase in reading scores with Fillmore having a 12% increase. Unfortunately we went back in math in the elementary schools but 4 out of 6 intermediate schools progressed in math. Nine schools are above the national average for the Iowa Assessments both in growth and in scores. Dr. Tate said they believe they are doing everything right they just need to keep doing it with fidelity. Last year was the first year for non-negotiables and literacy and reading non-negotiables have been added this year and he reviewed some of the modifications to the Achievement Matrix Non-negotiable Actions explaining that there has been a major change to how lessons plans are handled.

Dawn-Anderson Rascher presented the 2012 Iowa Assessment Results. She reviewed a variety of Achievement Analysis Matrix which is a visual representation of the district's achievement from a score and growth factors. She indicated this is the first year using new software that allows viewing of different demographics with a click of a button and allows making comparisons of multiple years on the same graph. She reviewed 4 data tables and the proficiency change in reading and math and highlighted some patterns. Data indicates increase in proficiency for transition grades. She reviewed data for individual buildings and district wide and discussed the significance of the data. Director Krumwiede commented on the difference in instructional time for math and reading and asked if the

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amount of time allotted for math instruction is adequate. Dr. Tate said probably not but also explained efforts to focus more on math due to these results. Krumwiede noted the significant improvements in math being made at Smart and asked about taking the model classroom to other intermediates. Dr. Tate said he will find out if there was a relationship regarding this. Director Sherwood noted the research indicates that math is less resistant to making improvements than reading and asked if out of school time could focus some on math. Sherwood also said he would be interested in including data on absenteeism and parent involvement with this type of presentation. Director DeFauw stated she applauds the gains made in reading overall and the math gains for the intermediates, but commented that the district is still doing a disservice to our African-American students. She said the district has to create a plan to better serve these students and requested results from 2011, 2012, and 2013 in order to make better comparisons and interpretations of the data. Director Clewell stated he shares DeFauw's concern regarding certain demographics and also 11th graders and asked for more information regarding curriculum and initiatives. President Johanson asked some specific questions about absolute values and expressed similar concerns regarding the large drops in proficiency for African American students.

President Johanson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Mary Correthers, Recording Secretary