

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER  
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM  
1606 BRADY STREET  
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2016**  
**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 Tuesday, February 2<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for a 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 5:30.PM. Present: Director's Johanson, Clewell, Hayes, Gosa, DeSalvo and Snyder. Dr. Tate and other administrators were also present.

**1.01 Digital Innovators**

Jennifer Boyd, Curriculum Specialist; Corri Guy, Assistant Director of Curriculum/Instruction Technology and Student Engagement; and Doyle Massey, teacher at West High School conducted a presentation for the board on the new Digital Innovators Class. This is an online course for students 8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school to learn coding language that will solve a real world problem. Twenty-three students from eight different schools were accepted into the class which involved a very rigorous application process. All the mentors involved are from John Deere. Mr. Massey explained the specifics of the course and said the project completion date is April 26, 2016. They presented videos of the students and mentors collaborating on projects and explaining why they like this type of class and the types of skills they are learning. They are planning a Shark Tank type project and the board will be invited. Board members asked about grading, how the "sharks" will be selected, and what other types of skills does the class teach and encourage students to practice. The presenters discussed the different type of computer applications students are going to create.

**1.02 Diversion Programs**

Individuals from a wide spectrum of agencies and organizations talked about how they are working with Davenport schools on diversion programs. Rob Scott introduced the following people: Scott McKissick, Principal at Central; Chris Cartee, Diversion Teacher at Central; Judge Cheryl Traum; Molly Nickerson, Scott County Kids; Scott Hobart, Chief Juvenile Court Officer of 7<sup>th</sup> District; David Tristan, Juvenile Court Supervisor; Travis Thomas, Diversion Coach at Smart Intermediate and Todd Hawley, Principal, Smart Intermediate. Mr. Cartee explained that Iowa has a very serious disproportionate minority contact problem. He explained it is not just with kids and schools that this problem is within communities which has become a larger and larger issue. In 2014 there were 1,165 juvenile arrests and 58% of these were African American kids who only make up 12.5% of the population. In order to help address this issue they enlisted the help and cooperation of partners and decided to send eight individuals to the Georgetown training. These eight individuals represented the judiciary, juvenile court services, DCAT, Davenport Police Department and Davenport schools. They came back with a plan to

address this issue which includes a policy change stating they will no longer charge first offense simple misdemeanor non-traffic violations and instead have a diversion program for first time offenders. Mr. Scott discussed the support of the Juvenile Court Liaisons in the school buildings to help teach the classes and how this approach helps students avoid getting a ticket on their record which can become a roadblock to future success and even getting an apartment or a job. Board members inquired about the cost of the program and whether the program could be affected by budget cuts. The Davenport police expressed how much they value their partnership with the school district. Board members also asked how they could help and Dr. Tate said there will be policy change recommendations coming from the poverty committee in the near future and to keep this in mind.

### **1.03 Solar RFP**

Mike Maloney presented information to the board on opportunities and options for the installation and use of solar arrays in the district. He explained that current Federal Government tax policy encourages private investment in solar electric power generation and these programs can result in public entities gaining access to this technology resulting in potential budget savings. He discussed different projects across the country and how one Iowa school district, Waco Community Schools in Wayland, has installed two large solar arrays and they are reporting over \$100,000 in annual energy savings. One mechanism available to the Davenport district is to enter into a contract with a private investor who builds and operates the solar array and sells the power it generates to the district at cost per Kilowatt Hour (kWh) that is lower than the current regulated rate the district is now paying.

Administration has developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) that could be issued inviting qualified proposers to offer this arrangement to the district. An unsolicited proposal was received from a qualified firm to install PV systems at Buffalo Elementary and Walcott k-8. The proposer selected these schools because they believed that the financial transaction would work for the investor and the District. These two schools are served by Alliant Energy and not by Mid American Energy. There are differences in the way these two electricity suppliers deal with the transactions. Board members inquired about return on investment and also emphasized the importance of using caution and to vet very carefully. Director DeSalvo mentioned some situations she has encountered as an employee of MidAmerican and Mr. Maloney mentioned how the City of Dubuque has had some legal challenges regarding these types of projects. Maloney assured the board that they would bring in outside help and consult closely with school attorney, Mr. Dick Davidson. President Johanson said he was excited about the possibilities and would like to see some proposals.

### **1.04 Letter to Department of Education**

Dr. Tate discussed the notification he had received from the Department of Education about the district's unspent balance and that he intends to take money out of the reserve fund. Dr. Tate read a draft letter to be sent to Dr. Ryan Wise, Director of the Iowa Department of Education stating his intentions to take money out of reserve funds. President Johanson stated that the consequences for taking this type of action, and the board's support for doing so, could result in serious consequences for both Dr. Tate and board members. Johanson said he wants to make sure the board would like to move forward and put the letter on the board agenda for approval at

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the next Regular Meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Every board member stated they support the letter and emphasized the important of equality in funding. President Johanson thanked board members for their support and Dr. Tate for his leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

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Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer