

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM
1606 BRADY STREET
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Monday, May 7, 2018 for the 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 meeting to order at 5:30PM. Present: Director's Johanson, Hayes, DeSalvo, Beck, Potts, Mayfield. Gosa was absent.

1. Curriculum-Innovation and Technology

Jen Van Fleet and Kim Foley-Sharp shared a presentation with the board on the efforts and accomplishments within the district regarding innovation and technology integration. Their mission as stated in the presentation is “to ensure all teachers will successfully implement technology to enhance student engagement and learning”. They highlighted the fact that the Davenport School District has become a fully outfitted 1:1 environment with each student having access to a device throughout their instructional experience and provided examples of how the TLCS (Teaching Learning Compensation System) has been able to support teacher leaders in technology. They discussed the long range technology plan that is aligned with the DCSD Teaching and Learning Plan and how this is also meeting ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) standards. Many different learning events are offered such as summer boot camps, conferences and an after-hour training sessions called “Bucket Bytes.” Another valuable resource are Tutorial and Tips which are accessible 24/7 online. Board members asked questions regarding the process they use to choose technology, how they respond to teachers who may be resistant to new technology, and the role of the Technology Integration Lead Teachers.

2. Curriculum-AVID

Marianne Corbin, Program Director for Secondary Curriculum and Instruction, Nick Newman, 7th & 8th Grade AVID Teacher at Sudlow Intermediate and two AVID students provided an update on the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program. AVID is a national program that was started in District in 2013 with a 7th grade class at JB Young. Currently there are AVID programs at 9th, 10th, and 11th grades at Central High School, and 7th and 8th grade at both Smart and Sudlow Intermediate schools. AVID is a research-based program which implements the WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading) Model which provides support for post-secondary education. Students have to be accepted into the program. Mr. Newman provided a curriculum overview of a typical week for AVID students which also includes regular college field trips and guest speakers who share about their own careers. The two AVID students talked about how the program has helped them learn, develop and practice skills that will be critical in achieving success after high school graduation. Board members asked a variety of questions about the program and how helpful it is for students. Mayfield added how much better it would be if more students could take advantage of the program.

3. District Owned Solar Array Option

Dr. Tate stated the last time the board reviewed information concerning the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and this presentation will provide information about the additional option of the district purchasing and owning the solar arrays outright and return on investment regarding this option. Mike Maloney said capital funds would be used to purchase the solar arrays. The Board's most recently approved Long Range Facility Plan project priority list provides \$1.5 million for solar projects in FY 18/19 and FY 19/20. For each \$1.5 million spent on solar arrays there would be an estimated savings to the general fund of \$75,000, so the \$3 million would represent approximately \$150,000 annual on-going savings to the General Fund in the first year. Over twenty years, using the Mid-American cost escalation factor which was applied throughout the analysis, the total General Fund savings resulting from a \$3 million investment would be \$3,707,169. Mr. Maloney provided more specific details that were outlined in the handout and provided to the board and the public. One of the down sides is not being able to take advantage of tax savings. Mr. Maloney added that since the last discussion on power purchase agreements several of the firms have offered some much better terms for the board to consider. Representatives from Mid-American Energy, Derek Hooper, Key Account Manager for the Davenport School District and Ben Keith, who oversees the Key Account Managers for Eastern Iowa were available for questions.

Director Beck asked for additional explanation regarding the payment process and banking of credits. It was explained that starting May 1st if the district generated more power than it used and the excess kilowatt hours would be "banked" for later in the year when generating less power. The credits in the "bank" would be applied before the district would pay for additional power purchased from Mid-American on April 30th. Any remaining credits in that bank are "trued" up at a cost that is less than the cost of generation so the goal would be not to have credits in the bank on April 30th. Mr. Keith reinforced the importance of not oversizing the solar arrays. Beck stated the board should also consider the non-financial benefits of going solar and how this would be a value statement of the District and how it can also be integrated into the curriculum. Director DeSalvo asked questions regarding the process for monitoring efficiency, maintenance, capacities at schools indicated for possible placement of the arrays, and actual savings to the General Fund. She is not comfortable spending money on solar arrays from the SAVE fund at this time, and would prefer to use that money to improve school safety. She also expressed concern about the public's perception when they see money being spent on solar arrays during the process of closing a school. She emphasized the district has already saved \$200,000 with Mid-American on energy efficiency measures without purchasing solar and she said she doesn't see the general fund benefiting from the solar options.

President Johanson asked Mr. Hooper and Keith if they believe the energy efficiency measures the school district has implemented to the point are going in the right direction and they both agreed it was very positive and beneficial for the district. Johanson had additional questions for Mr. Keith regarding the benefits of owning the arrays and a power purchase agreement. Johanson expressed some skepticism regarding comments made indicating the district would not be as green if they did a power purchase agreement and some of the disadvantages of either buying solar arrays or entering into a power purchase agreement. Johanson asked more questions regarding cost projections from Mid-American. DeSalvo stated this would be a very significant project and noted that some past projects have come in considerably over budget so she would need to see concrete side by side numbers before she could make an educated decision. She expressed concern about making an investment or entering into a contract that may result in unexpected expenses or have negative impacts. Mr. Maloney acknowledged they have had to amend project budgets for a variety of reasons but they have not exceeded the amended budget authorized by the board. Johanson asked about the lease option concerning solar arrays and Maloney

indicated that the advice from Dick Davidson was the district could not legally enter into a lease agreement for this type of project.

4. Vision 2020 Update

Dr. Tate explained the purpose of the presentation this evening is to present to the community a revised recommendation for school closings which includes four different options. He is providing four options rather than just the one. He also emphasized that in the past when there was a decision that needed to be made regarding closing a school the question was “should we close a school or not?” Tate said that in his estimation there isn’t an option not to close a school. Tate stated that the budget reduction plans have been twice provided to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) which include closing a school and we know with reductions that have to be made that large of amounts of money has to be identified. He will review the four options outline in the documents that also include the factors that have to be considered in closing a school. Tate said this plan has required hundreds of hours to develop with staff members including Mike Maloney, Director of Operations; Rob Scott and Bill Schneden, Associate Superintendents; Marsha Tangen, CFO; Cori Guy, Director of Curriculum; and Rachael Steiner, Director of Marketing. This team reviewed and evaluated options and gathered data which is included in the handouts. Tate requested the board conduct additional meetings or workshops to discuss these options and the administration will provide data the board deems is important to make decisions. Tate made note that missing from the options is anything to do with Buffalo, Bluegrass or Walcott. He made the decision not to include these schools even though they have low enrollment because in his estimation these schools belong to a city, but the board may decide to go in a different direction. Dr. Tate reviewed the options which include:

A. Description of the option: Close one of the 3 large high schools, leaving 2 high schools with 10th, 11th and 12th grades; 5 intermediate schools with grades 7, 8 and 9; and 18 elementary K-6 schools with the addition of preschool where space allows. The closed high school will be repurposed or sold.

B. Description of the option: Implement prekindergarten or Kindergarten through sixth grade districtwide. Move seventh and eighth grade students from Williams to Smart, Sudlow, Walcott and Wood. Adams K-6 students will move to Williams facility. Adams facility will be repurposed or sold.

C. Description of the option: Students at Washington Elementary School will attend McKinley, Garfield, Madison or Eisenhower Schools. Buchanan students will attend Fillmore, Harrison or Truman Schools. Buchanan and Washington facilities will be repurposed or sold.

D. Description of the option: Convert all elementary schools to a prekindergarten or Kindergarten through 6th grade. All current intermediate schools will become seventh and eighth grade. Monroe school will be vacated and the current Smart building will contain grades Preschool through sixth grade. Seventh and eighth grade students will attend Williams, Sudlow and Walcott. Monroe school building will be repurposed or sold.

Tate explained that an evaluation of each of these options will be on the district website and available for the public to review. Each option includes the in depth consideration of the following: Description of the Option; General Fund Net Savings; Quality of Education; Safety of Students and Security; Cost of Operation; Cost of Necessary Capital Improvements; Effect on Community; Miscellaneous Factors DeSalvo asked if school capacity is a consideration. Tate said they have considered this and other factors such as buildings that have had recent renovation, boundaries and how many students would have to be moved, and representation of elementary schools in outlining boundaries of the district. She asked if they have worked with the city on demographic trends and projects. Tate responded they have not to this point, but they have known generally where there is movement. She asked why there were

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two schools in Option C and Tate said because this option would result large savings and they don't want to have to come back and do this again. Mayfield said if the district isn't doing something about losing students it will happen again and asked how far we will go in closing schools before we take care of the problem that is causing it. He said we could blame it on losing population but he doesn't think Davenport is losing population but we are losing students. He said just closing schools does not solve the problem and expressed concern about the part of the population that is continually affected by school closings. He is glad to see the additional options because prior to this, the only schools that have been closed have been south of Locust Street which affects one sector of this community on a continuous basis. Mayfield also expressed concern about students having to take a bus out of their neighborhoods.

Beck expressed concern about not solving the problem of declining enrollment and closing more schools south of Locust Street and asked for data from the city on development and population projections. Johanson said the answer to how to solve declining enrollment is extremely allusive and difficult and emphasized the short time line involved in making this very difficult decision. He also mentioned that Davenport is not the only district closing schools and mentioned that there used to be 2,000 school districts in Iowa and now there are only 200. He recommended the board view a video the Board Secretary has on closing schools. Tate asked the Agenda Committee to set up meetings to continue this discussion and requested that information requests come from the board as a whole. Beck asked if three public forums is sufficient and should an additional forum be scheduled. Potts suggested that this decision be made after the second forum is finished to determine whether an additional forum is necessary. The board agreed on this approach.

5. Bell Time Alternative

Dr. Tate presented an updated Bell Time recommendation. The initial goal was to save \$500,000 but that schedule will not be feasible so an alternative has been developed. This updated bell time schedule shows the elementary schools starting at 8:00AM rather than 7:35AM and the parochial schools starting generally earlier than they are currently. Children's Village will be the same and Keystone will be a little later. The high schools will now start at 8:35 and the Intermediate schools will start at 9:10AM. Part of the downside is later dismissal times for the high schools and intermediate schools.

Tate said he realizes people want a decision very soon, but he wants community input for this plan, but expects a decision can be made in late May. The estimated savings for this new proposal is \$300,000. DeSalvo mentioned how this would affect extracurricular activities and Tate said he understands but there is no perfect solution. Beck asked which schools have morning childcare and Tate said he could get that information.

ADJOURNMENT

President Johanson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer