

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
ACHIEVEMENT SERVICE CENTER  
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM  
1702 MAIN STREET  
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on Monday, February 4, 2019 for a Committee of the Whole Meeting. The meeting was held at the Achievement Service Center, 1702 Main Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Johanson called the meeting to order at 6:45PM. Present: Director's Johanson, Hayes, DeSalvo, Beck, Mayfield and Potts. Gosa participated by phone.

**1. Durham Bus Contract**

Mr. Maloney presented an overview of services and costs for Durham Services for the school buses and provided details on the renewal options for this contract. Also present to answer questions from Durham was Curtis Wheeler, General Manger; Lucy Kalkman, Chief Operations Officer and Alicia Hodges, Regional Manager. Mr. Maloney stated that bus transportation was a \$7.2 million general fund expense in FY 17/18 which is up from \$5.8 million in FY 13/14. Buses were leased from Durham for FY 18/19 for \$546,000. The number of bus routes has decreased from 107 to 90. Maloney discussed the price increase in diesel fuel costs going from \$1.83 Gal in FY 15/16 to \$2.97 Gal. in FY 18/19 and how there is a nation-wide driver shortage and labor costs are increasing with additional benefits being added by districts and contractors. Many districts are paying sign on and retention bonuses. The district also uses River Bend Transit services to provide nine para-buses for special education students. The statewide average spending for student transportation was 3.6% and a district audit for FY 17/18 indicated 3.1% of general fund costs which represents \$1.5 million less than the statewide average. Maloney reviewed Durham's renewal options for both including and not including fuel costs. Mr. Maloney recommended the district enter into the renewal with Durham as he believes the district can't get a better deal.

Board members asked a variety of questions about both the current and renewal proposal from Durham and reasons for increases in costs. Ms. Kalkman explained they anticipate a wage and benefit increase and how they expect tough negotiations from the teamsters and that the new proposal includes a new camera system on the buses. Board members asked about on-time performance statistics and how long it would take to conduct a study of cost and benefits of not renewing the contract and providing this service in-house. Mr. Wheeler also explained how they assure driver quality through very strict rules, background checks that go back more years than required, fingerprinting, drug tests and other requirements. They coach drivers on any unsafe behaviors and have zero tolerance for cell phone use. They also have technology that monitors the bus drivers. Mr. Maloney said he would do some follow up and provide the board additional information in order to make a future decision on whether to renew this contract.

**2. School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) Update-**

Mr. Schneckloth and Claudia Wood provided a brief update on the five year budget plan and emphasized how the district must show the required reductions over a period of 2 years to achieve a positive unspent balance by June 2020. Board members asked Ms. Wood to provide them with a copy of the documents and lists of exhibits that will be presented to the SBRC at the March 12th

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hearing. The plan includes budget reductions of over \$32 million in the next five fiscal years which includes making significant staff reductions next year as a major part of achieving that goal. The two-year plan includes reductions of \$10.7 million in FY19 and another \$12.1 million in FY20. A hiring freeze has been enacted since November 2018; all vacancies are carefully reviewed by the leadership team and many of them remain vacant. Mr. Schneckloth stated they are reviewing every line item, reviewing expenditures, making budget cuts in every department and emphasized how everyone understands the urgency in meeting these requirements. He expressed confidence in everything being on track and how he believes the district will meet the required financial goals of having a positive unspent balance by June 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Johanson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

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Mary Correthers, Board Secretary/Treasurer