

# REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 14, 2002

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in regular session, pursuant to law and the rules of the Board, on Monday, January 14, 2002 in the Board Room of the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa. President Jim Hester called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

On roll call the following members were present: President Jim Hester; Directors Richard Clewell, Steve Hunter, Steve Imming, Mavis Lee, Susan Low, and Patt Zamora. Some of the student board members present for the regular meeting were Kyle Peterson and Nichole Taylor (North High). Vice President Steve Imming read the communications.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### I. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Tuesday, January 15, 6:15 AM, Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Breakfast; North High café; the program starts at 6:45 AM in the auditorium "Living the Dream: Loving in Times Like These"
- B. Thursday, January 17, 7:00 PM, Graduation for 2001 Students; North High
- C. Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday -- Offices & Schools Closed
- D. Thursday, January 24, 5:30 PM, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, Buchanan Elementary School
- E. Monday, January 28, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Board Room
- F. Tuesday, January 29, 5:30 PM, AEA Board & Administrators Banquet; Isle of Capri Convention Center
- G. Monday, February 4, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, Hayes Elementary (tour of facilities will start at 5:00 PM)
- H. Monday, February 11, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Board Room
- I. Open Forum -- Vice President Steve Imming read the names of the individuals who wished to speak at open forum. The following people asked to address the Board with their concerns and questions concerning the possible closing of Grant and Johnson Elementary Schools and boundary changes being recommended by the administration.
  - 1. Lisa Crews, 2641 N. Start Street, Davenport -- Grant & Johnson school closings and proposed redistricting of Wilson
  - 2. Tom Stanger, 2415 Pershing Avenue, Davenport --Grant school closing
  - 3. Kim Gartner, 2501 Iowa Street, Davenport -- Grant closing and property value decline
  - 4. Nick Bagnaro, 734 Brady St., #8B, Davenport -- Closing Johnson Elementary; tutoring
  - 5. Spence Tracy, 15 Calvin Ct., Davenport -- Rezoning of jurisdictions for Wilson
  - 6. Bridget Carlson, 3125 W. 64<sup>th</sup> St., Davenport -- Special needs parent who has child enrolled in Autistic Program at Grant; concern over transfer, budget money availability
  - 7. Leigh Reitz, 1741 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Davenport -- Johnson school closing; showed pictures of Taylor School and had concerns about what is the future of these buildings
  - 8. Mike Skulte, 2122 Lillie Avenue, Davenport -- Delay vote on closing Grant and Johnson schools
  - 9. Emma Cousins, 140 Autumn Drive, Davenport -- Proposed closing of Grant Elementary and special education programming and ratios

10. Donell Mumm, 2216 Ripley Street, Davenport -- Delay the vote for closings
11. Abby Marks & Mallory Cross, 2301 N. Ripley Street, Davenport -- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who read a request to keep Grant and Johnson open
12. Debbie O'Leary, 304 W. Garfield Street, Davenport -- Concern about number of administrators and facilitators hidden in the district; don't close schools
13. Janet Burbridge, 415 W. Garfield Street, Davenport -- Closing Grant and making schools bigger is a concern
14. Karen Metzger, 2230 Western Avenue, Davenport -- Parents and staff should be involved with the closing of schools; concerned tax payers; should have a public forum and listen to options and suggestions
15. Amy Balluff, 2809 Main Street, Davenport -- What will happen to all the Kindergarten students and where will they go if Grant and Johnson close
16. Heidi Smith, 1530 W. 49<sup>th</sup>, Davenport -- Adams concern with boundary changes being proposed. Maybe a parent task force should be formed to discuss this; there are security issues and displacement of people
17. Jill Henderkott, 2229 Madison Street, Davenport -- Closing of our smaller neighborhood schools -- "the district that closes school" will be our slogan
18. Tim Puls, 2036 Hickory Grove Road, Davenport -- We should be auditing other programs to see if they are working instead of closing Johnson and Grant; look at semester fees, and collection of fees from people after more verification.
19. Marcia Bell, 1370 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport -- Against closing Johnson and Grant; moved into this area to raise her children; plans to open enroll out of district now
20. Sue Alaniz, 2211 Wilkes Avenue, Davenport -- Letter given to Board; we should review the middle school concept to see if it is working; there are other options besides closing schools; plans to open enroll out of district
21. Jerilyn Johnson, 2516 Washington Lane, Davenport -- What about other schools with low enrollment -- McKinley, Washington, and others--why not close them because of low enrollment
22. Connie Ketelaar, 1719 W. High Street, Davenport -- Utility costs were high last year; what about projected costs this year; we must be saving money -- we shouldn't close
23. Katie Rice, 1000 Blythwood Place J172, Davenport -- Regarding work with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant and students at Johnson school; these old schools are a good place to teach old history lessons
24. Matthew Ferris, 1400 Brady Street, Davenport -- A student at Palmer who wants to give back to the community and wants to keep Johnson School open
25. Katie Hanson, 1411 W. 41<sup>st</sup>, Davenport -- Letter given to Board; they work in Rock Island and live in Davenport because of the school schools; you will be displacing Adams and Wilson students with the boundary changes; a negative impact for students; please consider other alternatives as elected officials
26. Brenda Jordahl-Buckles, 1756 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport -- Objection to closing Johnson and Grant; angry and disappointed at methods--adding two students to each grade, adding all-day kindergarten to each school--where are the savings, and why last year was the savings \$612,000 and this year it is \$1,050,000. She reviewed a code of ethics for the Board and the boundary policy with the administrative regulations; and she attended all the meetings, and these items were never presented to the Board
27. Chris Carpenter, 1855 Hartford Ct., Bettendorf -- School music teacher; giving up a 92 year heritage and close family atmosphere; what about work with SmART Program and delivery of services; these schools are an asset to our community
28. Nancy Bolick, 2677 Tom Sawyer, Muscatine -- Johnson teacher; please reconsider another plan and keeping Johnson SmART school open

29. Janet Heinselmann, 1812 W. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport -- How can we get good press to market our schools, when you close them? All-day kindergarten will take up room in the buildings; there are probably 50 other ways to save money; what about busing expenses. Concerns about ESL and autistic children being moved and the environment
30. Andrew Hall, 1546 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport -- Why are some children being sent to Buchanan from Adams? No reason to affect four elementary schools with these closings and boundary changes; poorly thought out decisions being made. People will leave this community and go to other communities, or home school; this is discouraging many families; the Board needs to represent the taxpayers
31. Megan Seidel, 4014 Washington Lane, Davenport -- Concerned with the affect leaving Adams will have on them; what about PTA activities at Buchanan? They won't be happy anywhere else except at Adams and are afraid about making new friends
32. Karen Seidel, 4014 Washington Lane, Davenport -- These moves will have serious effects on her daughters; it will effect the whole house and uproot children in the community, which is not right.
33. Thomas Pilcher, 1720 W. Pleasant Street, Davenport -- Opposed the closing of Johnson as a concerned business partner in the area
34. Heidi Runge, 1419 W. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Davenport -- Letter to Board; Adam School parent and with boundary changes they will go to Buchanan. Understand difficult decisions and stewardship of tax dollars, but displacing and disrupting children is wrong; you will lose to other school districts
35. Timothy Barton, 1441 W. 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Davenport -- Petition given to Board addressing opposition to boundary changes
36. Nikki DeFauw, 5070 Garner Ct., Davenport -- Letter given to Board to delay the vote on January 28<sup>th</sup> to not make this decision until we find another solution and study this
37. Dr. JoAnna Graller, 1019 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport -- Letter given to Board expressing her anger and frustration with closing schools and boundaries. She felt children have a loss of self-esteem caused by these moves; students should have to come back from Bettendorf under open enrollment; and why hire an expensive athletic director
38. Dori Hildebrant, 2619 W. 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport -- They want children to stay at Grant, and if the school closes they will take them to private school or place in Bettendorf or PV under open enrollment
39. Joan Johnson, 1715 Wilkes Avenue, Davenport -- Concerns with Johnson closing and loss of the neighborhood schools; arts play an important role at that school
40. Jason Gordon, 2517 Washington Lane, Davenport -- They open enroll to Grant from Johnson area; the Board decided last year not to close schools. Why change this and what about the impact on the Junior High Schools; are we saving money or moving the financial buck around? This is a disinvestment in the community.
41. Lelund Eyres, 2207 W. Hayes, Davenport -- Talked about disinvestment in the community and history of schools; the neighborhood school was a powerful magnet and these parents care about education when so many others don't. Millions are spent on correctional institutions and students need a good start on life with small schools
42. Andrew Avila, 1749 Welshire Drive, Davenport -- Talked about why students leave our district for music, education, safety, and sports. He had concerns with aggressive kids and we shouldn't close small schools like Grant; talked about Jefferson School
43. Tamra Dundee, 325 W. Central Park Avenue, Davenport --Let's put our heads together and come up with other solutions to closing Grant School
44. Christine Cannon, 3110 Jefferson Avenue, Davenport -- They live in Garfield district but their son goes to Grant; please don't close Grant School
45. Kelly Beard, 3119 Fair Avenue, Davenport --They live close to Grant; if we close they will put children in private school instead

46. Jennifer Fey, (2715 N. Fairmount, Davenport (and Austin, Minnesota) -- Asked a question about turning off lights at buildings and time frames for using utilities; this is a suggestion that could save money and stop school closings by saving on utility costs if the lights were turned off
47. Niky Bowles, 6401 Utica Ridge Road, Davenport -- Why are you planning to build a new school on Eastern Avenue and 53<sup>rd</sup> Street? There is no sense in closing other schools and building a new one. Ms. Bowles talked about private schools out east; then talked about property on 53<sup>rd</sup> Street; she made accusations against an alderman who works for the district; she made accusations against the Board and the city. President Hester interrupted Mrs. Bowles and called her out of order.
48. Wayne Hern, 1130 Kirkwood Blvd., Davenport -- 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman spoke on behalf of the Grant and Johnson Schools and keeping them open; they want to keep kids in Davenport, and closing schools does not help the city; please look at other options to keep schools open
49. Darren Williams, 1711 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport -- Johnson School is a SmART School with special art and music programs; the school works. We spend millions on jails, River Renaissance, IMAX theatres, and projects; we build up and then tear things down; keep the schools open and display the art in the new Renaissance projects
50. Bob Chapman, 2106 Jebens, Davenport -- Former retired teacher; talked about Johnson School and the value of the SmART program there; this school should be promoted and celebrated; it should be duplicated, not torn down. PE and music should be encouraged each day because it makes better students; he expressed concerns with large elementary schools and not appreciating older facilities

President Hester thanked everyone for taking the opportunity to come to the meeting and speaking at Open Forum about their concerns. The Board will now consider other business on the agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### II. CONSENT AGENDA

To conserve time and focus attention on non-routine matters on the agenda, the Board considered a number of items grouped together as a Consent Agenda, all items to be approved in one motion.

#### **A. Reading of the Minutes of the Last Regular & Intervening Meetings**

The minutes from the following board meetings were presented for approval: Regular Meeting December 10, 2001; Special Call Expulsion December 19, 2001; and Committee of the Whole January 7, 2002.

#### **B. Financial Report**

It was recommended that the Treasurer's monthly reports of receipts and disbursements of the various funds for the period ending November 30, 2001 be approved.

**C. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.**

## RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Kruse, Lynn	Effective: 12/21/01
Spanish/French	Reason: Retirement
West High	Years of Service: 15 yrs.

## RESIGNATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Bobo, Lea	Effective: 1/16/02
Special Education/SCI	Reason: Relocation
Williams Intermediate	Years of Service: 1 yr. 7 mos.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Hoon, Mindy	Maternity/FMLA
Preschool	Effective: 10/29/01 – 12/21/01
Blue Grass Elementary	10/29/01 – 11/27/01 with pay
	11/28/01 – 12/21/01 without pay

Jeffries, Julie	Extended Leave of Absence without pay
Math	Effective: 1/07/02 – 6/03/02
Smart Intermediate	Reason: Family Responsibility

Weibel, Ida	Health Leave/FMLA with pay
Grade 3	Effective: 10/22/01 – 12/21/01
Fillmore Elementary	Reason: Health

Winter, Wallis	Health Leave/FMLA with pay
Special Education/MultiCat	Effective: 11/26/01 – 3/02/02
Wood Intermediate	Reason: Health

## RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Dillie, Chris	Effective: 1/15/02
Head Sophomore Football	\$2,848.00
North High	Reason: Personal

Dillie, Chris	Effective: 1/15/02
Head Varsity Baseball	\$4,510.00
North High	Reason: Personal

Leon, Karen	Effective: 12/10/01
7 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball	\$1,661.00
Sudlow Intermediate	Reason: Other Employment

Neuhaus, Tom	Effective 12/20/01
Asst. Varsity Baseball	\$3,323.00
North High	Reason: Realignment

Schlichting, Mark	Effective: 11/30/01
Head Sophomore Baseball	\$2,374.00
Central High	Reason: Personal

Schlichting, Mark	Effective: 11/30/01
Asst. Sophomore Football	\$2,374.00
Central High	Reason: Personal

## SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Cook, Janelle	7%
7 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball	Salary: \$1,661.00
Williams Intermediate	2001-2002 Academic Year

Cousins, Aaron	10%
Asst. Sophomore Boys Basketball	Salary: \$2,374.00
West High	2001-2002 Academic Year

Dean, Justin	8%
9 <sup>th</sup> Wrestling Head Coach	Salary: \$1,899.00
West High	2001-2002 Academic Year

Guy, George	14%
Head Boys Track	Salary: \$3,323.00
North High	2001-2002 Academic Year

Knutsen, Molly	7%
Asst. 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball	Salary: \$1,661.00
Sudlow Intermediate	2001-2002 Academic Year

Neuhaus, Tom	19%
Head Varsity Baseball	Salary: \$4,510.00
North High	2001-2002 Academic Year

## RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Coen, Margaret	Effective: January 4, 2002
Para-Educator	Reason: Other Employment
Madison Elementary	Years of Service: 1 yr 3 mos

(The following resignation was rescinded as of 1/16/02 through Human Resources)

<del>Dunker, Ronald</del>	<del>Effective: January 21, 2002</del>
<del>Lead Custodian</del>	<del>Reason: Personal</del>
<del>Garfield Elementary</del>	<del>Yrs. of Service: 14 yrs 5 mos</del>

Easley, Cheryl	Effective: January 4, 2002
Para-Educator	Reason: Personal
Wood Intermediate	Years of Service: 3 yrs 10 mos

Filbrandt, Virginia	Effective: January 7, 2002
Food Service Worker	Reason: Personal
Central High	Yrs. of Service: 4 yrs

Gau, Jennifer	Effective: December 14, 2001
Para-Educator	Reason: Further Education
Eisenhower Elementary	Yrs of Service: 9 mos

Hagberg, Kelly Para-Educator Buffalo Elementary	Effective: January 4, 2002 Reason: Personal Yrs of Service: 2 yrs 9 mos
Kirklin, Bonnie Food Service Worker Truman Elementary	Effective: December 5, 2001 Reason: Health Yrs. of Service: 1 yr 2 mos
Lewis, Phyllis Food Service Cashier J. B. Young Intermediate	Effective: December 5, 2001 Reason: Voluntary Self-Termination Yrs. of Service: 10 days
Mechem, Ginger Para-Educator Madison Elementary	Effective: December 14, 2001 Reason Health Yrs of Service: 10 mos
Ode, Holly Food Service Cashier Smart Intermediate	Effective: December 12, 2001 Reason: Voluntary Self-Termination Yrs. of Service: 3 days
Reiner, Barbara Para-Educator Harrison Elementary	Effective: December 21, 2001 Reason: Other DCSD Employment Yrs of Service: 1 mo
Teel, Patricia Custodian Eisenhower Elementary	Effective: December 11, 2001 Reason: Resignation Yrs. of Service: 1 yr
Walker, David Food Service Worker North High	Effective: December 13, 2001 Reason: Voluntary Self-Termination Yrs. of Service: 1 mo
LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED	
Terronez, Mary Para-Educator Jefferson-Edison Elementary	Health Leave with Pay 12/13/2001 through 03/15/2002 Reason: Health
APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED	
Bell, Tricia Clerk III Administration	Effective: January 7, 2002 Salary: <del>\$10.37</del> <b>\$9.99</b> (Corrected Human Resources) 8 Hours/Day
Rush, Shirley Food Service Worker North High	Effective: December 18, 2001 Salary: \$6.50 2.5 hrs/day
Winters, Linda Food Service Worker North High	Effective: December 10, 2001 Salary: \$6.50 2.5 hrs/day

Reinier, Barbara	Effective: January 7, 2002
Food Service Cashier	Salary: \$6.70
Smart Intermediate	3.5 hrs/day

Pickeral, Lisa	Effective: January 7, 2002
Food Service Worker	Salary: \$6.50
West High	2.75 hrs/day

CORRECTION: (November 12, 2001 Minutes)  
CLASSIFIED RETIREMENT

Reiling, Leah Rae	Effective: <del>January 15, 2002</del> December 21, 2001
Clerk II – 10 1/2 Mos.	Reason: Retirement
Walcott	Yrs of Service: 26 Yrs

\* Not a Teacher      \*\* Substitute Teacher      \*\*\* Not a Replacement

**ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA for JANUARY 14, 2002  
CONSENT AGENDA: Personnel**

**INTERIM ASSIGNMENTS**

Bob Mata	Effective: January 16, 2002
Interim Principal	for Rex Hutchison
Williams Intermediate	Salary: Determined from Administrative Salary Schedule

Jodi Hoogland	Effective: January 16, 2002
Interim Principal	for George Bleich
Jackson Elementary	Salary: Determined from Administrative Salary Schedule

Amy Reams	Effective: January 16, 2002
Interim Associate Principal	for Reg Shoesmith
Central High	Salary: Determined from Administrative Salary Schedule

Phil Ambrose	Effective: January 16, 2002
Interim Associate Principal	for Ken Scodeller
J. B. Young	Salary: Determined from Administrative Salary Schedule

Jean Powers	Effective: January 16, 2002
Interim Dean of Students	for Phil Ambrose
North High	Salary: To Be Determined

**MOTION:** Director Low moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of the addendum presented at their places. Director Lee seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Low, Lee, Hunter, Clewell, Imming, Zamora, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

### III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

A resolution was recommended by the Administration for adoption of the bills.

**MOTION:** Director Imming moved the following resolution for approval of bills: Resolved that all claims presented to the Board having been duly certified as correct by the Secretary, and reviewed by the administration and the Board ad hoc committee, the same be and they are hereby audited and allowed as just claims and warrants drawn on the Treasury for the several amounts. Further Resolved, that the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented, with the exception of Check #104911 that was voided. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Imming, Clewell, Hunter, Lee, Low, Zamora, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

## OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

### IV. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

#### A. **Public Hearing -- Phase II Plans & Specifications for the New Gym @ West High and Athletic Complex at Kimberly and Wisconsin**

The Board President conducted a public hearing on Phase II Plans and Specifications for a new gym at West High School and for the athletic complex at Kimberly and Wisconsin. The detailed plans for both projects were presented at the December 10, 2001 regular board meeting. The public had an opportunity to come forward to speak during the public hearing about the plans and specifications for construction at West and for the athletic complex being recommended. No one asked to speak on the plans and specifications on these two projects. The public hearing was closed.

The administration recommended the approval of the Phase II Plans and Specifications for construction of the new gym at West High School and for the athletic complex at Kimberly and Wisconsin.

**MOTION:** Director Imming moved the Board approve the recommendation of the administration for the Phase II Plans and Specifications for construction of the new gym at West High School and for the athletic complex at Kimberly and Wisconsin. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Imming, Zamora, Low, Lee, Hunter, Clewell, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Board Policy By-Laws Revisions**

The Board acted on recommendations regarding revisions in board policy by-laws that were reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 7, 2002.

**MOTION:** Director Low moved the Board accept the revisions and edits to the following board policy by-laws as reviewed on January 7, 2002:

- 901.01 -- Name of School District
- 901.02 -- Legal Status of the Board
- 901.03 -- General Powers and Duties
- 901.04 -- Number of Members
- 901.05 -- Filling Vacancies for Directors & Officers of the Board
- 901.06 -- The Student Board of Directors
- 901.07 -- Code of Ethics
- 902.01 -- President
- 902.02 -- Vice President
- 902.06 -- Negotiators

Director Lee seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Low, Lee, Hunter, Clewell, Imming, Zamora, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. State-Wide One-Cent Sales Tax Resolution**

The Board considered a resolution regarding the Statewide One-Cent Sales Tax being proposed through the Urban Education Network (UEN) and the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB).

**MOTION:** Director Imming moved the following resolution regarding the Statewide One-Cent Sales Tax:

WHEREAS, the Urban Education Network of Iowa and the Iowa Association of School Boards urge the state legislature to increase the state sales tax by one cent, dedicating all revenue to upgrade or replace school facilities of Iowa's 371 public school districts as directed by local school boards, and

WHEREAS, the quality of school facilities has long been recognized as an equity issue, but have yet to be adequately addressed, and

WHEREAS, the passage of this concept strengthens the capital side of the budget, eliminates potential litigation, and provides a lasting and long-term solution to a major statewide education problem, and

WHEREAS, Iowa has too long ignored the breadth and depth of this issue, and it is time to move forward to avert the inclusion of the courts in the resolution; and

WHEREAS, an essential piece of the legislation must be a hold-harmless clause for those counties that have passed the local option sales tax;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Davenport Board of Education adopts the following resolution:

RESOLVE that the Davenport School Board supports a Statewide One-Cent Sales and Services Tax to help all school districts in Iowa upgrade school facilities and provide an improved quality of education for the students in our state; and

FURTHER RESOLVE that an essential piece of the legislation must be a hold-harmless clause for those counties that have passed the local option sales tax.

Director Low seconded the resolution's motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Imming, Low, Lee, Hunter, Clewell, and Hester. Nays, Zamora. Motion carried.

**D. Bid #629 Replacement of Exterior Doors and Windows at West High**

**Bids and Quotations**

RE: Bid No. 629  
 For Board Meeting -1/14/2002

**1. Item, material or service being bid, with a brief description:**

The replacement of exterior doors and windows at West High School.

**2. Rationale:**

The existing windows and doors are in very poor condition. Replacement will provide cost savings because of energy efficiency and also allow classrooms to meet emergency egress requirements.

**3. Department and person responsible for the expenditure of the budget:**

<u>Support Services</u>	<u>Bill Good</u>	<u>\$926,415</u>	<u>Local Option</u>	
<u>Department</u>	<u>Administrator</u>	<u>Budget or</u>	<u>Sales Tax</u>	<u>Req. Number</u>
		<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Fund</u>	

**4. Number of bids sent to vendors:** 5 **Date:** November 15<sup>th</sup> 2001

**5. Number of bids received from vendors:** 3 **Date:** December 12<sup>th</sup> 2001

**6. Listing of Vendors:**

East Moline Glass, East Moline, IL. - Total Bid: \$733,321.00

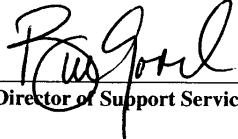
Zephyr Aluminum Products, Dubuque, IA. - Total Bid: \$1,196,480.00

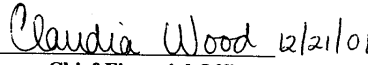
Jensen Construction, <sup>Kewanee</sup> ~~Kaw~~anee, IL. - Total Bid: \$973,415.00

**7. Recommended Bid:**

The low bid from East Moline Glass in the amount of \$733,321.00

**8. Other Comments:**

  
 Director of Support Services

 12/21/01  
 Chief Financial Officer

## D. Bid #629 -- Replacement of Exterior Doors and Windows at West High

**MOTION:** Director Zamora moved the Board accept the low Bid #629 from East Moline Glass in the amount of \$733,321 for replacement of exterior doors and windows at West High School. Director Clewell seconded the motion. (A vote was called and recorded as: Ayes, Zamora, Clewell, Hunter, Lee, Low, Imming, and Hester.) A point of order was made concerning conducting a public hearing prior to a vote on Bid #629.

President Hester conducted a public hearing for Bid #629 for doors and windows at West High. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was closed.

The second vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Zamora, Clewell, Hunter, Low, Imming, and Hester. Motion carried. (Note: Director Lee left the meeting after the original vote, but prior to the public hearing and second vote. She was not seated at the table when the second vote was called. Director Lee returned for the discussion items.)

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. Jackson School Media Center

Laurie Liliquist and Kathy Gaylord, representing the Jackson PTA, made a request for permission to name the new Media Center at Jackson School in honor of Mr. George Bleich. The principal was retiring January 15<sup>th</sup> and the PTA hoped the Board would give careful consideration to allow this request honoring a man who has given so much to so many for so long. According to board policy, this request needed to be brought before the Board for action. They would like to call this room at Jackson the Bleich Center. President Hester commented this was a wonderful choice to honor a person who has given many hours of service to the school district. The Board will bring this request back for approval at the next meeting.

8:50 PM RECESS: A five-minute recess was held prior to the budget recommendation presentation to set up computer equipment.

#### B. Budget Recommendations

The administration made a presentation outlining budget recommendations. The Board had an opportunity to discuss the recommendations and asked questions of the administration. They asked about procedures and implementation of plans and asked for clarification on several items: (1) Closing Johnson and Grant Elementary Schools; (2) Boundary Changes; (3) Service Fees; (4) Full-day Kindergarten/Class Size.

Dr. Blanche presented first and talked about the financial crisis in 2002-03. The district is reacting to state budget reduction and deficit. He explained the state budget reduction of 4.3% in the amount of \$2,736,349. He told how the District responded in 2001-02 with budget freeze, retirements, reductions, and cutting costs or by making adjustments at Hoover, Edison, with travel and for food and nutrition. The District also redirected Phase III and technology money. There still remains a budget shortfall of \$930,811 for the 2001-02 year.

The Board learned the background regarding the deficit and what had been done to correct this previously in the 2001-02 year. This information included early retirement savings, teacher reductions, driver education modifications, TAPP restructuring, and moving Eastern Avenue Program to the KCAE. There have been unforeseen budget challenges for utilities, open enrollment, and decrease in the instructional support levy revenue. There are declining enrollment issues and a \$2.2 million deficit at the end of June 2001. We are addressing a shortfall and fund balance deficit of \$3.1 million.

Dr. Blanche talked about the response to this budget crisis by closing Johnson Elementary, Grant Elementary, and increasing service fees resulting in a total of \$2.4 million savings. He shared reasons for closing schools such as space being available in other buildings based on current class sizes. We are a labor -intensive organization and staff reductions will save money. They carefully reviewed all facilities and looked at age of buildings, proximity to other elementary buildings, site restrictions, costs to upgrade, and declining enrollment in District.

Mr. Bill Thiessen presented information about where Grant and Johnson students will go; proposed attendance center boundaries and modifications; ESL programming to Hayes and McKinley; and the Autistic Program going to McKinley. The Board saw maps and details for redistribution at Grant, Adams, Wilson, and Johnson schools. There was talk about small school vs. large schools and charts on Urban Education Network Schools enrollment statistics. The administration talked about having a productive community based use for other buildings that were changed -- Hoover became an early childhood learning center; Roosevelt was given to the city for a community center; and Perry was sold to a private business.

The Board saw data on current service fees, collection rate of 57%, and 49% fee waiver students. The annual textbook budget was \$750,000. A recommendation was being made to increase the Kindergarten fees from \$24 to \$36; and first through 12<sup>th</sup> grade from \$36 to \$54. There was information about service fee comparability from neighboring districts also.

The last presentation was about adding value to our district with All-Day Kindergarten. We lost 73 kindergarten students to neighboring districts, private or parochial schools that did provide this service. For every student who leaves the district, they take \$4,512 in funding with them plus more every year thereafter. The proposal is for every elementary school in the District to offer the All-Day Kindergarten program. The District has the space requirements and staff requirements to meet this challenge. They also propose a revised class size guideline for next year with an increase of 2 students in each grade level from K-Grade 5. The Board saw a section review charge and projected numbers for 2002-03. With these changes, there will be 23 less teaching positions. The class size revisions make All-Day Kindergarten a reality with no financial impact.

The impact of response is that the estimated fund balance at the end of 2003 would be \$445,876, which is based on 4% allowable growth for 2003. In summary, we are reacting to a financial crisis, people are out of work, added value for all-day kindergarten, and still among the lowest class sizes in the state. The administration is addressing issue they know today but still have unknowns to deal with such as negotiated agreements and state funding.

Board members each had an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers during the discussion time. There were questions about the estimated savings projected for closing the two schools; boundary changes, not making any changes and what would happen to the deficit; capacity at buildings; numbers of teachers being reduced; increases in taxes, and spending authority issues. Director Zamora expressed her concerns about the information presented and the actual savings being projected. She felt we were not following guidelines for boundaries, and there might be better plans to review. She had questions on middle school effectiveness and open enrollment out of district. There were concerns about the loss of more students and this

becoming a spiral effect. Director Zamora felt there were other schools that should be looked at before closing Grant and Johnson; and was there proper notification before moving children to other schools in the District? She was not convinced of the figures and expressed an interest in receiving more accurate information. However, she said we have to accept the costs and responsibility to balance the budget; it is the administration's task to accomplish this goal. Director Low commented that if it wasn't Grant or Johnson, then what other school would have to close? There are going to be increases in the numbers of students at Garfield and other buildings, and class size also. There will be increases in fees and taxes in order to make this work. We need to look at the big picture, and something has to be done because we are in a crisis. Director Low asked for the capacity for each building from the facility study that was made. Director Hunter talked about getting out of the deficit and reductions needed. If we go another year without making changes, we will be in the \$4 to \$6 million figures; that will cripple us as a district in years to come. We have to come up with solutions and make hard choices. As a board, we need more figures to make these decisions. The numbers have to work if we are going to make all these adjustments.

Dr. Blanche responded to a question about facilitators in the buildings being administrators. He said these individuals are paid on the teachers' salary scale. We had coordinators working in our schools and a number of facilitators are paid out of Title dollars and grant funding. We have looked at programs and middle school. There was a laundry list of items to consider and cut and we followed through to look at them. The recommendations being made are the best ways to handle the deficit, and we don't want to damage programs that are working. If we cut those programs, then we will have an entirely different group of people voicing their opposition to those recommendations. Dr. Blanche stated he knew the schools well and they provide quality education all over the District. The teachers and principals are skilled and well trained.

Director Zamora wondered why we needed to get rid of all the deficit at one time; she still wondered about middle schools and their success. Dr. Blanche said the ITBS scores are going up and this shows improvement in the students. The class size recommendation years ago added 64 teachers and that amounted to \$3 million in extra costs yearly. We received only one-half of some of our state funding we needed. We need to make reductions now and we have to cut back or increase our funding some way. We need open enrollments and utility costs to go away and an increase in allowable growth. President Hester asked about what will happen to the schools that might close. Dr. Blanche said he didn't know right now and they haven't talked about plans at this point. President Hester felt this was an important issue because we don't want to have a building with boarded up windows and a negative effect on the neighborhood. Mr. Thiessen addressed questions about capacity in buildings and keeping numbers under 550. President Hester asked the administration to again look at all the figures, and make sure we are on solid ground with these recommendations. Before the Board votes, they want to make sure they have all the figures stated correctly. President Hester also talked about the legislature and the people in Des Moines who give us funding for our schools. Director Clewell added his appreciation to all the people who attended the meeting and for taking the opportunity to bring their concerns to the attention of the Board during open forum. The administration was also thanked for their hard work and efforts to solve these problems.

A public hearing will be conducted on January 28, 2002 at the beginning of the next board meeting. The board meeting will be held at the Administration Service Center with the regular meeting starting at 7:00 PM and provide an opportunity for people to speak again.

Director Susan Low left the meeting at 9:50 PM and did not return to the board table.

### C. Urban Education Network Meetings

Vice President Imming told board members that UEN had asked boards to discuss ways to better organize the UEN meetings so more members would participate. UEN asked us to consider four possibilities that were outlined in their November 15<sup>th</sup> report. The following proposals were explained to board members: (1) Utilizing the Fall meeting as the official annual meeting (departing from the Spring); (2) Emphasizing job alike functions with the Spring meeting as its primary focus; (3) Rescheduling the Spring meeting separating it from the Easter season; (4) Converting the August meeting to a drive-in meeting for only the Steering Committee, coupled with a 90-minute ICN meeting for the general membership. Vice President Imming asked the Board to consider these possibilities. We need to contact UEN right after our next board meeting with what we preferred. Please look over the four items and call Director Imming with input. President Hester agreed on the importance of UEN and has attended several valuable meetings. Director Zamora said we haven't had the opportunity to have much involvement in UEN and we need to have more members present.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

### VI. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Blanche recognized Dr. Jane Grady who is retiring from the District after 25 years of service. We greatly appreciate her untiring efforts and the significant difference she has made for children. Director Zamora commented that she has known Dr. Grady for some time; and Dr. Grady is a devoted person to the District. Vice President Imming met Dr. Grady when he got involved in education issues and was on a citizen's committee. She presented ideas to look at the language arts curriculum and did a great job. Mr. Imming was sad because Dr. Grady was retiring but wished her the best. President Hester met Dr. Grady in 1989 and agreed she has been a positive force for the District. We will all miss her.

### VII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

#### REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION:

- 1, Director Zamora requested a complete and specific accounting of how over \$1 million each will be realized by closing Grant and Johnson Elementary schools.
2. Director Zamora requested the Board put "Removal of 2.0 Grade Point Requirement for Athletics" on the agenda

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Director Imming moved the Board adjourn. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Imming, Clewell, Zamora, Lee, Hunter, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

Board President Hester declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

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Linda M. Smith, Board Secretary