

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
JANUARY 26, 2009**

The Board of the Davenport Community School District met for the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, January 26, 2009, pursuant to law. The meeting was in the Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Zamora called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell, Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Other people present were Superintendent Julio Almanza; Director of Assessment & Equity, Dawn Anderson Rascher; and Director of Curriculum & Staff Development, Juli Staszewski. Student board member, Nicole Woodson from North High also attended this meeting.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Dawn Anderson Rascher presented a report on meeting the No Child Left Behind goal of having 100% students proficient by 2013-14. The Board learned about monitoring student performance and making adequate yearly progress. Information was provided about establishing trajectory percentages and Iowa's AYP trajectories for reading and math at 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Rascher talked about the additional challenges for the District and outlined details of how numbers are used. The Board heard more about "Safe Harbor" and the state's growth model. There were statistics presented for reading groups, ITBS Reading percentage proficiencies, and other data sources for reading. Then the Board learned about ITBS math percent proficiencies and other data sources for math. The plan of action and preliminary work needed were outlined so the Board could understand what had to be done.

Preliminary work looked at notification of parents and community; completing the audit, diagnosis, and action plan; and communication of the action plan. There was discussion about leadership responsibilities and shared vision for quality instruction. Ms. Anderson Rascher also talked about instruction and professional development and she shared information about the Iowa Core Curriculum and strategies. There is a coherent system in place and sustaining actions to be used for student improvement in both reading and math. The summary noted the District was striving to meet the NCLB expectations but there were also other standards we used to examine student proficiency and progress. We are committed to our students and will continue to assure families that children in our District benefit from their experiences in school. We provide a full range of courses and programs including AP classes, career and technical education, and outstanding fine arts curriculum.

DINA RESPONSE

Juli Staszewski presented the District In Need of Assistance response and explained how plans were developed every year. She talked about the Comprehensive School Improvement Plans for buildings which was based on a similar format. Director Johanson asked about the proficiency level being high enough, and Mrs. Staszewski responded the District wants to raise it even more and go beyond the minimal levels. Our intentions are for students to do much better. Director Johanson asked about trajectory charts and strategies that will enhance student achievement. Mrs. Staszewski said we work at meeting the needs of each child and many of the things we do help all the students and benefit them in the long run. The plans are written specifically for our students. Director Tupper asked if we will meet or exceed our trajectory of all students being 100% proficient by 2013. The administration responded they were optimistic and certainly were trying to meet this goal for all our students. Superintendent Almanza talked about NCLB requirements and said we are making progress toward the trajectories but NCLB is geared for small populations. We will meet the needs of a majority of our students but not in all subcategories listed by NCLB.

Director Johanson remarked he felt the trajectories were inappropriately established by the government and makes it impossible for Districts to be successful to reach 100% proficiency. The superintendent talked

about students making growth in so many areas and moving forward; but NCLB created scenarios that don't work. However, we are not in control of this; the federal government is in charge and they created the requirements. The superintendent and staff members answered additional questions about guidelines, reporting test schools, and having analysis of the data. The superintendent responded we can give the Board more data along the way on these tests, but it is inconclusive until the State does its work and presents conclusions. Mrs. Staszewski said the administration was monitoring student progress and there was a lot of internal work done to examine data. Director Tupper expressed his frustration with asking for test data and not getting feedback in a timely manner for the Board. He was concerned about why this information was not being presented. Ms. Anderson Rascher talked more about the students in the exceed categories and how their upper level courses better prepare them for tests being given so they get higher scores. There was additional dialogue about students being challenged to do better work and transition strategies being used for instruction.

Director Krumwiede had questions about shared vision and middle schools. Mr. Almanza talked about the Iowa Core Curriculum and preliminary stages for training. Each building will be using a model and training will take place. There were questions about differentiated instruction and intensive work going on in schools. Mrs. Staszewski explained teacher quality money was used for high level training, and during the first day of staff development training will be provided for intermediate and high school teachers to get a better understanding of differentiated instruction methods. On Wednesdays the teachers can go back to their buildings and recreate training for others. Because of teacher quality money, all the money in the pot goes for collaborating for teachers to discuss and work on lessons on differentiated instruction. Mrs. Staszewski explained the multiple layers involved and how principals were receiving training so they can see what good quality materials should be ordered.

Vice President Roberson agreed with other directors who felt we know the problem areas. We should diagnose the situation and move forward with solutions, but it seems all we do is continue to look at the data. It was disturbing to him to see the pre-k emphasis, and yet so many children can't recognize letters when they start kindergarten. He wondered what percentage of children actually went to preschools and how many were left out. We talk about being able to identify children who will eventually drop out, and now we need to apply the data we have to solutions to change this drop out trend. He wished parents were coming to the meetings to hear about this and they would get excited about helping making things better. He was concerned about children who won't make it in the future as well as being concerned about students at the high end not being challenged enough.

Director Clewell was appreciative of the information and NCLB summary. He emphasized NCLB was not the only standard we used for measuring student success. He had questions about the growth model and how we would fair by the deadline of 2014 for NCLB. Ms. Anderson Rascher talked about the Iowa Growth Model and how it will move us along to the 2014 proficiency levels. We make assumptions students are growing more each year and if they continue, they will be proficient by 2014. Director Clewell talked about the backload metrics being used by the State and the administration noted the State of California will need to make an 11% increase each year to meet the 2014 deadline. There were additional questions from Director Clewell regarding anti-bullying efforts and expectations. Mrs. Staszewski assured the Board the buildings were having discussions about this and teachers will have more staff development.

Sixth Grade Transition: President Zamora noted due to the time schedule tonight, the topic of sixth grade transition will need to be moved to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Zamora adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM. Board members took a brief recess before the start of the Regular Meeting at 7:10 PM.

---

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary