

REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 26, 2009

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the counties of Scott and Muscatine met in open session for their Regular Board Meeting on Monday, January 26, 2009, pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, at the Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Patt Zamora called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

The following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell; Nikki DeFauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Superintendent Julio Almanza and other administrators were present. Student board members attending were Austin Laugen and Rebecca Briesmoore (Central) and Nicole Woodson (North).

RECOGNITION

I. RECOGNITION

A. **FIRST LEGO League Robotics at Williams Intermediate School – 2008-2009 Season – Jenelle Nisly, Robotics Coach TAG**

Ms. Jenelle Nisly, Robotics Coach and TAG Facilitator, introduced her students and explained the very exciting year for the Williams *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) robotics team – the Climate Cavaliers. Ms. Nisly shared how with the help from **Mentor/Coach Mike O’Keefe**, retired engineer from the US Army Corps of Engineers, eight team members learned to design a LEGO robot that would meet certain qualification for solving problems on the robot game challenge. FLL was designed to engage children ages 9-14 in real-world hands-on problem-solving in a fun, respectful atmosphere. This year’s theme was “Climate Connections” and involved conducting research, solving real world problems, and creating a presentation to show how climate affects the area in which we live. Williams’ Climate Cavaliers Team 838 won **first place** at the Rockwell Collins Regional FLL Tournament on Saturday, December 13, 2008 for scoring the most points on the table game challenge with our robot.

The team also won **first place** at the Iowa State FLL Championship in Ames on January 17, 2009 for their *Innovative Solution* to the “Climate Connections” research project challenge. Each student took time to talk about how they participated in the project and what they learned from the experience. The Climate Cavaliers researched the problem of flooding due to ice jams in our rivers. They invited **Scott Pettis** from the US Army Corps of Engineers to talk to them about this problem. As a result of their research, they built an eco-friendly solution to the ice jam problem and presented it to the judges along with a LEGO model of their solution. Team building is one of the main components of the FLL experience. As a result of learning to work as a team, the Climate Cavaliers developed the motto: “**United we succeed, divided we fail.**” *FIRST* stands for: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

Students recognized for participation in this competition were: Sixth Grade: David Tra; Seventh Grade: Caleb Kahley, Emily Huber, Cameron Pugh, Ellie Moler, AJ Petersen; Eighth Grade: Max Witcraft and Penny Schmidt. Coaches were Jenelle Nisly, TAG Facilitator and Mike O'Keefe, retired engineer from the Army Corps of Engineers. Superintendent Almanza asked the students to explain their motto. Students talked about the importance of teamwork and how one person couldn't make this project alone. Together they are successful. Director Clewell praised the students for their cooperative efforts. The students also explained how the team was like a puzzle and when one piece was missing it didn't look as good. Vice President Roberson congratulated the students and said team work was what is used in the real world. Director Krumwiede also complimented everyone and asked about how much time they put into this project. Ms. Nisly said there were various times they worked together – Monday and Tuesday after school, some Saturdays, and some out of class time was needed so they could finish. President Zamora told the students how proud everyone was of the work they did.

COMMUNICATIONS

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Monday, February 2, 6:00 PM, Committee of the Whole, Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center
- B. Wednesday, February 4, 3:45 PM, Legislative Advocacy Committee, Administration Service Center, Conference Room A
- C. Monday, February 9, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center
- D. Wednesday, February 11, 3:45 PM, Board Policy Committee, Administration Service Center, Conference Room B
- E. Wednesday, February 11, 4:15 PM, Teacher Quality Committee Meeting, Administration Service Center, Conference Room A
- F. Monday, February 16, Presidents Holiday – No School
- G. Monday, February 16 – Legislative Advocacy Bus Trip to Des Moines (Director Clewell took time to talk about the trip and anyone interested in going on the trip should contact the Board Secretary at 336-5087.)
- H. Monday, February 23, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- I. Open Forum – No requests were made to speak

CONSENT AGENDA

III. 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 Board Meeting

The minutes from the Committee of the Whole January 12 and the Regular Board Meeting on January 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM were presented for approval.

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Early Retirements, Retirements, Leaves of Absence, Etc.

APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Schmitzer, Jill	Degree: B.A. – Step 1
Preschool -- Floating	Effective: February 2, 2009
Children’s Village Sites	Salary: \$27,300.00 prorated to \$14,609.19 for 99/215 days

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Carbonneau, Mark	6%
Department Head (.5)	\$799.50
Smart Intermediate	

Estes, Turner	25%
Varsity Softball	\$6,663.00
North High	

<u>Fox, Kyle</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>Added 1/26/09</u>
<u>Track Boys’ – Varsity</u>	<u>\$3,731.00</u>	
<u>North High</u>		

Mirocha, Kenneth	7%
7 th Grade Wrestling- 2 nd Team	\$1,866.00
Sudlow Intermediate	

Olsen, James	7%
7 th Grade Wrestling	\$1,866.00 prorated to \$1,714.70 for 34/37days
Walcott Intermediate	

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Fennelly, Patty	Effective: January 22, 2009
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.79/hr
Madison Elementary	Hours: 3.0 hrs/day

Reed, Marjorie	Effective: January 26, 2009
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.79/hr
Monroe Elementary	Hours: 7.0 hrs/day

EARLY RETIREMENTS: ADMINISTRATIVE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>YRS OF SERVICE</u>
Flynn, Paul	ASC	Program Director	June 30, 2009	36 yrs 10 mos
Keester, Roger	Sudlow	Associate Principal	June 30, 2009	41 yrs 11 mos
Stoffer, Timothy	Williams	Associate Principal	June 30, 2009	36 yrs 10 mos

EARLY RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>YRS OF SERVICE</u>
Abdo, Pamela	Williams	Language Arts	end of 08-09 school year	34 yrs 10 mos
Alejo, Deborah	Harrison	Grade 3	end of 08-09 school year	37 yrs 3 mos
Anderson, Esther	Central	FCS	end of 08-09 school year	25 yrs 3 mos
Baustian, Linda	Garfield	Grade 1	end of 08-09 school year	34 yrs 2 mos
Bechert, Judith	Monroe	Grade 3	end of 08-09 school year	36 yrs 2 mos
Brunsvold, Brian	West	Science	end of 08-09 school year	39 yrs 10 mos
Ceurvorst, Linda	Monroe	Grade 5	end of 08-09 school year	35 yrs 10 mos
Ceurvorst, Joyce	Walcott Intermediate	Math/Business	end of 08-09 school year	32 yrs 7 mos
Christy, Rebecca	West	Language Arts	end of 08-09 school year	28 yrs 10 mos
Corsiglia, Diana	Adams	Grade 2	end of 08-09 school year	35 yrs 10 mos
Cross, Ann	Eisenhower	Grade 2	end of 08-09 school year	29 yrs 9 mos
Davis, Patricia	Jackson	Kindergarten	end of 08-09 school year	43 yrs 3 mos
Dreyer, Margaret	Monroe	Grade 2	end of 08-09 school year	31 yrs 10 mos
Edwards, Donald	Williams	Language Arts	end of 08-09 school year	33 yrs 10 mos
Fierce, Linda	Eisenhower	Reading Specialist	end of 08-09 school year	25 yrs 10 mos
Filson, Robert	KCAE	Industrial Tech	end of 08-09 school year	37 yrs 10 mos
Frevert, Elaine	Monroe	Kindergarten	end of 08-09 school year	28 yrs 10 mos
Gallin, William	Monroe	Grade 5	end of 08-09 school year	26 yrs 10 mos
Gesy, Nancy	CV West	Occupational Child Care	end of 08-09 school year	26 yrs 10 mos
Giles, Jean	Garfield	Special Education	end of 08-09 school year	35 yrs 2 mos
Gill, John	Central	Art	end of 08-09 school year	28 yrs 10 mos
Gleich, Thomas	North	Work Experience	end of 08-09 school year	34 yrs 5 mos
Harksen, Donna	Central	Special Education	end of 08-09 school year	35 yrs 5 mos
Harksen, Thomas	West	Language Arts	end of 08-09 school year	25 yrs 4 mos
Havercamp , Lynnell	Central	Language Arts	end of 08-09 school year	36 yrs 10 mos
Heller, Sharon	Monroe	Grade 1	end of 08-09 school year	33 yrs
Hester, Nancy	McKinley	Grade 1	end of 08-09 school year	31 yrs 6 mos
Huelsenbeck, Margaret	Blue Grass	Grade 4	end of 08-09 school year	38 yrs 10 mos
Johnson, Carol	Smart	Math	end of 08-09 school year	34 yrs 4 mos
Johnson, Mary	North	Math	end of 08-09 school year	37 yrs 10 mos
King, Aaron	West	Language Arts	end of 08-09 school year	40 yrs 10 mos
Klesack, Patricia	Walcott Intermediate	Special Education	end of 08-09 school year	26 yrs
Kniep, Carole	Jackson	Grade 1	end of 08-09 school year	28 yrs 10 mos
Kratz, Sandra	Central	Science	end of 08-09 school year	32 yrs 6 mos
Lange, Sandra	Harrison	Grade 4	end of 08-09 school year	32 yrs 10 mos
Lewis, Kathleen	Harrison	Grade 1	end of 08-09 school year	32 yrs 10 mos
Meyer, Jane	Monroe	Grade 1	end of 08-09 school year	28 yrs 6 mos
Myers, Peggy	Lincoln	Grade 3	end of 08-09 school year	33 yrs 7 mos
Rathje, Susan	West	Physical Ed	end of 08-09 school year	31 yrs 10 mos
Rockwell, Teresa	Fillmore/Washington	Facilitator	end of 08-09 school year	34 yrs 4 mos
Sly, Cheryl	Eisenhower	Grade 1	end of 08-09 school year	30 yrs 7 mos
Smit, Ruth	Adams	Grade 2	end of 08-09 school year	39 yrs 8 mos
Swaggard, Ella	Wood	Math	end of 08-09 school year	33 yrs
Thomas, Michael	Blue Grass	Grade 3	end of 08-09 school year	39 yrs 10 mos
Thompson, Linda	Harrison	Grade 3	end of 08-09 school year	29 yrs 5 mos
Toohill, Richard	West	Special Education	end of 08-09 school year	31 yrs 10 mos

Townsend, Sandra	Jackson	Reading Specialist	end of 08-09 school year	30 yrs 3 mos
Tritt, Kathleen	Wilson	4/5th Grade Lang Arts	end of 08-09 school year	32 yrs 10 mos
Walters, Linda	Adams	Kindergarten	end of 08-09 school year	33 yrs 4 mos
Wilden, Charles	Sudlow	Science	end of 08-09 school year	32 yrs 10 mos
Wood, Michael	West	Science	end of 08-09 school year	34 yrs 10 mos
Wood, Deborah	ASC/Buchanan	Facilitator	end of 08-09 school year	32 yrs 9 mos
Zalaznik, Gary	West	Business	end of 08-09 school year	36 yrs 10 mos

RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Baldes, Patricia
Nurse
Wood Intermediate

Effective: end of 08-09 school year
Years of Service: 21 yrs 11 mos

Bleich, Cynthia
Kindergarten
Adams Elementary

Effective: end of 08-09 school year
Years of Service: ~~44 yrs 10 mos~~
Corrected Years of Service: 20 yrs. 10 mos

Kraehling, Margaret
Nurse
Hayes Elementary/CV Hayes

Effective: end of 08-09 school year
Years of Service: 11 yrs 9 mos

Morden, Frederick
Orchestra
Central High

Effective: end of 08-09 school year
Years of Service: 4 yrs 10 mos

Sheridan, Suellyn
Special Education
Garfield Elementary

Effective: end of 08-09 school year
Years of Service: 24 yrs

VanDamme, MaryAnn
Grade 3
Washington

Effective: end of 08-09 school year
Years of Service: 14 yrs 7 mos

Washburn, Susan
Grade 2
Jefferson

Effective: end of 08-09 school year
Years of Service: 20 yrs 11 mos

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Estes, Turner
Sophomore Baseball
West High

10%
\$2,665.00

Mathews, David
9th Grade Volleyball
West High

8%
\$2,132.00

Wilbricht, Jennifer
Department Head (.5)
Smart Intermediates

6%
\$799.50

Wilford, Amanda
Girls' Assistant Varsity Soccer
West High

8%
\$2,132.00

EARLY RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>YRS OF SERVICE</u>
Deem, Carl	Operations	Maintenance	end of 08-09 school year	25 yrs 6 mos
Doran, Linda	Wood	Clerk III, mos	end of 08-09 school year	30 yrs 10 mos
Dugan-Daily, Myriam	ASC	Admin. Asst.	end of 08-09 school year	34 yrs 6 mos
Keegan, Charles	North	Custodian	end of 08-09 school year	36 yrs 9 mo
Lyions Sr, John	Jefferson	Custodian	end of 08-09 school year	30 yrs 2 mos
Parris, David	Operations	Maintenance	end of 08-09 school year	37 yrs 9 mos
Sheridan, Molly	KCAE	Clerk II 10 1/2 mos	end of 08-09 school year	29 yrs 7 mos
Shiple, Judy	Smart	Para	end of 08-09 school year	28 yrs 7 mos

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Moore, Khristinna
Custodian
Smart Intermediate

Effective: January 14, 2009
Years of Service: 1 yr 11 mos

Schroeder, Pamela
Para Educator
Williams Intermediate

Effective: January 13, 2009
Years of Service: 8 yrs 8 mos

Tutor, Leticia
Para Educator
Williams Intermediate

Effective: ~~January 9, 2009~~ **January 27, 2009 (corrected)**
Years of Service: 10 mos

MOTION: Director Krumwiede moved the Board accept the Consent Agenda as presented with corrections listed. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

Director Clewell remarked about all the early retirements and retirees listed in the Consent Agenda. He knows they will be recognized later at an annual dinner, but he wanted them to have the appreciation of the Board at this time for their years of service and hard work. Director Krumwiede agreed and noted he worked with many of the people listed. We will be losing a lot of expertise with our teachers and the support staff retiring. The Board expressed congratulations to all retirees.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Krumwiede, Tupper, De Fauw, Roberson, Clewell, Johanson, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The administration made a recommendation for approval of the bills.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the following: “Resolved all claims presented to the Board having been duly certified as correct by the Secretary, reviewed by the administration and board members, and they are hereby audited and allowed as just claims and warrants drawn on the Treasury for the several amounts. Further Resolved, the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented with the exception of one voided check #256506 to A-Plus Events for \$2,371.50, wrong vendor. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Roberson, Tupper, Krumwiede, De Fauw, Johanson, Clewell, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Vision Statement, Mission, and Beliefs

There was action to adopt the new vision statement, affirm the mission statement, and approve the belief statements of the Board.

MOTION: Director Clewell moved on behalf of the Board to approve our vision, affirm our mission, and approve our belief statements as follows:

OUR VISION

Education that challenges conventional thinking, prepares all students to compete in a global society, and inspires our students, parents, staff, and community to answer the question - *what if?*

OUR MISSION

To enhance each student’s abilities by providing a quality education enriched by our diverse community.

OUR BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe. . .

- All children can and will learn in the Davenport School District;
- Each child deserves respect;
- We must have high expectations for each child;
- We must never limit children;
- In the power of effective instruction;
- Effective instruction encourages students to be inquisitive and to explore and discover;
- Every child has the right to a safe environment;
- A caring environment is important for student success because relationships impact learning;
- Extracurricular activities engage students in the educational environment;
- Effective schools nurture relationships and impact learning.

Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Krumwiede asked to take this opportunity to thank the Board for spending time in development the vision and belief statements during a number of sessions. He also thanked all the groups and individuals who assisted in this process including Dr. Floyd Kilmer, students, Churches United, Rock Island Arsenal, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, Parents, Davenport Education Association, college representatives, United Neighbors, NAACP, Quad Cities Federation of Labor, and Tri City Buildings Trade, Davenport One, Four-Year Old Advocacy Council, Quad City Board of Realtors, Community Education Advisory Council, Davenport Schools Foundation, and the Davenport Schools Leadership Team. All these groups spent time with us and we appreciated their input. Now it is our responsibility to help the community understand our vision.

Director Johanson also appreciated the work of the community groups and individuals who helped with the vision statement. He asked Director De Fauw to talk about why the phrase "without limits" was taken out of the vision and the rationale behind the change. Director De Fauw explained two reasons for not using the phrase with the first being the words could easily be misunderstood. Secondly a private college in Iowa used "no limits" in their vision and has a copyright. We felt our "education without limits" was too close to this and might cause problems. Director Johanson appreciated the logic but disagreed. He didn't believe anyone had the right to copyright the words "without limits" and he would like to have the words included in the vision statement.

There was additional discussion and views expressed. People liked the expression but felt they needed to work together for what was in the best interest of the group and the district. Director Clewell felt this was a powerful process and we felt the community had been engaged in the work. We will encourage the community to work with us in the future and thank them.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Clewell, Krumwiede, De Fauw, Tupper, Johanson, Roberson, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Award #597 – Local Basic Telephone Service/Public Hearing

The administration recommended an award for local telephone service.

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation for Award #597 for basic local telephone services from Qwest with a total monthly charge of \$7,562.17. This is a five-year contract to provide district schools and facilities with basic local telephone service (POTS) comprised of a total of 217 lines and two DSS voice T1s each with 24 two-way trunk lines to the Administration Service Center (48 lines total). Director De Fauw seconded the motion.

Public Hearing: The Board conducted a public hearing on Award #597 for local basic telephone service. No one came forward to be heard. The Public Hearing was then declared closed.

Director Tupper asked for clarification on what this award covered and if this was only for the Administration Service Center. Tom Wagner addressed the concerns and explained that 217 lines were for all our buildings and we need the DSS voice T1s for the Administration Service Center building. We have had the same service for the last five years. Director Tupper had concerns that we were having trouble with this volume and calls being able to get out of the buildings. Mr. Wagner said buildings have different numbers of line coming into the schools and an elementary could have 3 or 4 while the high school had 15 or 20 lines. It was a budget item and buildings can use their budget to increase the number of lines if needed. Lines are shared and people sometimes have to wait to make a call. Director Tupper thought this was causing problems for some teachers and he wondered how we could make sure people don't have to wait a long time to use the phone lines.

Mr. Wagner said this has been steady over the last ten years and there are provisions to request additional lines if needed. Director Tupper asked for a list of the number of lines for each building. Mr. Wagner said he could provide that for the Board.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Tupper, De Fauw, Johanson, Roberson, Krumwiede, Clewell, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. April Board Meeting Date

President Zamora talked about a problem with the Regular Meeting schedule for April 13. Due to the holiday scheduled for that Monday and no school in session, the Board may want to talk about keeping the date as approved, rescheduling the Regular Board Meeting to Monday, April 6 in place of the Committee of the Whole or moving the meeting to Tuesday, April 14. The Board needs to take action on the budget amendment for 2008-09 and the projected budget for 2009-10 prior to the deadline date from the State of April 15, 2009. A public hearing needs to be planned for the April meeting date.

President Zamora asked for input from others on the Board. Several comments were made about having the Regular Meeting on Monday, April 6 in place of the Committee of the Whole and this would give them additional time to look over the proposed budget. They talked about other instances where they had to rush through making decisions and they didn't like being pushed into an immediate decision without review. They agreed April 6 would work and a motion will come back for consideration to change the date at the next scheduled meeting.

B. Financial Impact and Budget Status

CFO Marsha Tangen prepared a PowerPoint report on financial impacts and budget status to date. The Governor was making a 1.5% ATB reduction proposal. That would mean reductions for: State Foundation Aid (\$1,068,754); Instructional Support Levy (\$8,862); Teacher Quality Basic (\$97,898); Teacher Quality Prof. Development (\$10,327); Teacher Quality Core (\$4,389); Phase I (\$896) and Phase II (\$19,887). The Governor's proposal will mean a reduction to \$57.25 per pupil but nothing is final until the last day of the legislative session. The administration was recommending we use the fund balance to offset reductions in State Foundation Aid, Instructional Support Levy, Phase I and II to help with the impact on our District.

Mrs. Tangen used charts to show the impact of the reductions on financial solvency and days-net-cash ratios. The Board has set benchmarks and further reductions will result in equal budget reductions or modification of financial benchmarks. She talked about the outlook for 2009-10 where allowable growth is already set at 4%. We need to have the Governor maintain 4% even if the funding is reduced to 2% because of spending authority. This is our ability to expend funds on behalf of students. Even if schools have sufficient cash reserves, when allowable growth is lowered, we don't have permission to spend our reserves on students. She displayed examples so the Board could see how the spending authority worked and what the reductions meant. The next steps are budgeting for 2009-10 and we will proceed as usual assuming allowable growth will stay at 4%. The steps will be to determine budget priorities, review/maintain financial benchmarks; determine amount of cash reserve levy; and review staffing formulas.

President Zamora mentioned the legislators can do what they want until the end of the session. Director Johanson talked about going to Des Moines and he didn't think some of the legislators understood spending authority. He thought their general opinion was not to offer us 4% but decrease allowable growth. Is there anything we can do to get allowable growth or have it maintained at 4%? Mrs. Tangen said we can advocate for the spending authority and help people understand how this works. We levy cash reserve and have built up cash, but without spending authority, we can't spend the money. We can't overspend even with cash reserve and it is better to set allowable growth at 4% and short fund us so we can use the reserve.

Director Krumwiede said this sounds like something Legislative Advocacy should be involved with when they go to Des Moines in February. He encouraged people to consider coming with the group and riding the buses to visit our legislators. The students and people from the community will have more influence with legislators. There were questions about cuts in spending authority and the impact. Mrs. Tangen will prepare some data on the impact with allowable growth at 2%, 3%, and 4%. Director Tupper asked if they set the allowable growth at 2% what happens. Mr. Almanza explained there are a number of smaller districts without cash reserves. If they leave the allowable growth at 4%, they can raise the levy to fill in and that would be considered a tax increase to some people. We have the reserve but if the legislators lower allowable growth, we would have to cut staff and make reductions in programs

because we couldn't spend our reserves. We will have to look at the programs in place and are waiting to hear about the 1.5% across the board reductions.

Mrs. Tangen said the teacher quality funds are written in to be passed on to teachers. Mr. Almanza said the legislators can examine programs and make recommendations on what has to be cut. Mrs. Tangen said if the cuts are made in the budget, we can absorb them, but we may have reductions this year or need to lower our benchmarks. Mr. Almanza talked about the district's position and the need to be flexible depending on action by the State. President Zamora had concerns about when the legislators would end their session and the timing of our budget and amendments required by law. Mrs. Tangen said we will have to look internally and ask what modifications can be made. It was noted 80% of our dollars goes toward staff salary and benefits. Cuts therefore would have to be made in programs offered and support areas. Director Tupper talked about not filling the positions where people were retiring but the Superintendent said that wasn't possible in all cases. He expressed concerns with having to make decisions when contract negotiations aren't finished yet. The Superintendent said they will have to look at scenarios and we have to keep the deadlines. There was additional talk about options and strategies possible.

C. Early Start Date for Traditional Calendar 2009

Linda McClurg started by talking about conversations at the last Committee of the Whole when the calendar and surveys were discussed. The administration heard clearly the concerns of the Board for air conditioning and student achievement. Living in Iowa means it is hotter in August than in May and the Board wanted a unified calendar but we are not in the position to do this across the district right now. The administration was recommending a starting date for the traditional calendar schools for Thursday, August 20, 2009. Holidays and breaks are topics of bargaining but this will still allow us to end in early June. They appreciated the Board's concerns shared during the Committee of the Whole. Mrs. McClurg then outlined the process for requesting an early start date proposed for the traditional calendar schools for the 2009-2010 school year. There needs to be a notice of a public hearing for community input which would be scheduled for February 9, 2009 prior to Board action approving the early starting date. The board action on the early start day will be recorded for the State in the spring BEDS report.

Mrs. McClurg addressed questions and said this calendar was similar to what was used for a start date framework this year. We were looking at an earlier date in August if we were to finish before winter break, but our facilities would not accommodate that schedule without air conditioning. The balanced calendar schools will start around August 6 or 7 but we have to do more work on that calendar. Student board members responded that starting schools on August 10 would not be good for Central or others without air conditioning. They thought the date of August 20 was good for most of the schools and students. A public hearing will be held on February 9 @ 7 PM for input from the public before the Board votes.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS

There were no additional administrative reports or requests for information.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS

Director Johanson reported on attending the lobby day in January and what a great opportunity this was for Directors Clewell, Johanson, and the superintendent to talk with people in Des Moines. They visited with a number of committee leaders and during part of the UEN meeting some of our local legislators came to visit including Linda Miller, Jim Lykam, and Phyllis Thede. We will continue to discuss key concepts with them. The legislators this session will be talking about money and he didn't think collective bargaining would come up unless the Governor brings it forward. We got insight from local legislators and talked about spending authority. A lot of them don't understand this and a vast majority of our community will need to learn more about the spending authority and allowable growth.

Director Johanson reported local legislators asked if the Legislative Advocacy Committee could offer some type of school-finance training for them after the legislative session. IASB asked if our Vision Committee would be part of an ICN meeting at the end of March to talk about the process of going out to the community for input. This would be a program for all board members in Iowa.

Director De Fauw talked about the good things happening in the District such as the robotics team from Williams. She attended the Kimberly Center graduation last week where 17 students graduated. This was very affirming and a good time. Then North High Show Choir invitational was held and Nicole Woodson, one of our student board members, participated. Central High singers qualified for some events. Director Clewell noted Central came in third place in the competition.

Director Clewell reported on the work and enthusiasm of the Legislative Advocacy Committee. At the last couple of meetings we have had legislators visit the group and share their expertise. Cyndi Winckler who is the co-chair of education came in January and shared good ideas with us. At an earlier meeting Frank Wood also visited and was able to share his experience as a former legislator. We are preparing now for the trip to Des Moines and hope the legislators will listen to our students. It is important for them to know what they are doing to help our students improve.

Vice President Roberson shared good feelings about attending the Kimberly Center graduation ceremony. It was inspiring to see the staff helping these young people.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board adjourns. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion. By consensus the Board approved the adjournment.

President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary