

REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 28, 2008

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 28, 2008 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 7:00 PM.

The following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell; Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Absent: Director Nikki De Fauw. Student Board Member Kristi Sharp was present from West High.

BOARD GOAL, OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES 2007-2008

Director Rich Clewell read the goal: "The Davenport School Board will actively support the efforts of the superintendent, district, staff, and families to ensure continuous student achievement for all students." President Zamora mentioned the Board was working on improving the network data circuits which is part of the objective to enhance the learning environment. She also mentioned the work of the Legislative Advocacy Committee and how this fit into the objectives.

COMMUNICATIONS

I. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thursday, January 31, 3:30 PM, Teacher Quality Committee, Administration Service Center, Executive Conference Room
- B. Thursday, January 31, 7:00 PM; Kimberly Center Graduation Ceremony at North High School Auditorium
- C. Monday, February 4, 5:30 PM; Committee of the Whole, Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center
- D. Monday, February 11, 7:00 PM; Regular Board Meeting, Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center
- E. Tuesday, February 12, 3:45 PM; Board Policy Committee, Administration Service Center, Conference Room B
- F. Wednesday, February 13, 3:45 PM; Legislative Advocacy Committee; Administration Service Center, Executive Conference Room
- G. Monday, February 18; Presidents' Day Holiday – No School
- H. Monday, February 18 – "Hop on the Bus" trip to visit legislators at the Capitol; 7:00 AM leave from J. B. Young and West High; reservations required to take the bus trip
- I. Open Forum – No one asked for time to speak.

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 and Intervening Meetings

The minutes from the last Regular Board Meeting and intervening meetings were presented for approval: January 14, 2008 Regular Board Meeting and January 23, 2008 Special Call Closed Session Litigation.

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

RESIGNATIONS: NON-BARGAINING

Farley, Karen	Effective: January 31, 2008
Communications Specialist	Years of Service: 4 yrs 4 mos
ASC	

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Nemmers, Jeremy	Effective: October 15, 2007 – end of 2007-2008 school year
Special Education	
North High	

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Mulvihill, Virginia	6%
Team Leader (.5)	\$782.50
Smart Intermediate	

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Buller, Laura	6%
Team Leader (.5)	\$782.50 prorated to \$384.91 for the remaining
Smart Intermediate	91 days of the 2007-2008 school year

Harris, Ricardo	7%
Boys' 8 th Grade Basketball	\$1,826.00
Young Intermediate	

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Allen, Nancy	Effective: January 18, 2008
Language Arts	Salary: \$41,447.00 prorated to \$20,611.48 for the
North High	remaining 92 days of the 2007-2008 school year

Kintigh, David	Effective: January 18, 2008
Language Arts	Salary: \$41,447.00 prorated to \$20,611.48 for the
West High	remaining 92 days of the 2007-2008 school year

APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Brammann, Pamela
Nurse
Buchanan/Fillmore Elementary
Degree: Associate in Applied Science – Step 1
Effective: January 23, 2008
Salary: \$22,863.00 prorated to \$11,122.54 for the remaining 90 days of the 2007-2008 school year

Danker, Shalan
Preschool Teacher
Children's Village West
Degree: B.A. – Step 1
Effective: January 18, 2008
Salary: \$26,740.00 prorated to \$14,302.79 for the remaining 115 days of the 2007-2008 school year

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Gerich, Crystal
Para Educator
Children's Village Buchanan
Effective: January 16, 2008
Years of Service: 11 mos

Porter, Donna
Para Educator
Blue Grass Elementary
Effective: January 3, 2008
Years of Service: 10 yrs 4 mos

Synowicki, Ashley
Para Educator
Jackson Elementary
Effective: January 17, 2008
Years of Service: 2 mos

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Bowman, Derrick
Para Educator
Central High
Effective: January 22, 2008
Salary: \$8.09/hr
Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

Dundee, Tamra
Para Educator
Children's Village West
Effective: January 23, 2008
Salary: \$9.65/hr
Hours: 6.25 hrs/day

Fox, Bradley
Para Educator
KCAE East
Effective: January 22, 2008
Salary: \$11.50/hr
Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

Gutierrez, Marci
Para Educator
Children's Village West
Effective: January 23, 2008
Salary: \$9.65/hr
Hours: 6.25 hrs/day

Mayne, Catherine
Clerk II – 10.5 mos
Central High
Effective: January 22, 2008
Salary: \$10.85/hr
Hours: 8.0 hrs/day

McHenry, Bobby Jo
Cashier 1
North High
Effective: January 16, 2008
Salary: \$8.10/hr
Hours: 3.75 hrs/day

McWilliams, Jeffery
Custodian
Jefferson/Edison
Effective: January 10, 2008
Salary: \$11.75/hr
Hours: 4.0 hrs/day

Mirocha, Brenda Cashier I Central High	Effective: January 23, 2008 Salary: \$8.10/hr Hours: 3.25 hrs/day
Moran, Julie Para Educator McKinley Elementary	Effective: January 14, 2008 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Parr, Charles Campus Security Smart Intermediate	Effective: January 28, 2008 Salary: \$11.57/hr Hours: 7.5 hrs/day
Phillips, Katherine Para Educator Children's Village Buchanan	Effective: January 22, 2008 Salary: \$9.65/hr Hours: 6.25 hrs/day
Phillips, Raymond Custodian Monroe Elementary	Effective: February 4, 2008 Salary: \$11.57/hr Hours: 8.0 hrs/day
Proksch, Terri Para Educator Monroe Elementary	Effective: January 14, 2008 Salary: \$8.44/hr Hours: 3.25 hrs/day
Verscha, Thomas Head Custodian Smart Intermediate/ Monroe Elementary	Effective: January 28, 2008 Salary: \$14.04/hr Hours: 8.0 hrs/day

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

MOTION: Director Krumwiede moved the Board accept the resolution, "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 two voided checks #206494 and #206648. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

IV. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. RE-NAMING BARB HESS COMMUNITY ROOM @ CENTRAL HIGH

The administration made a recommendation for renaming the community room at Central.

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board accept the request presented by representatives of Central High School to rename the community room in their building in recognition of Barb Hess for her years of service to the school district. The room will be officially called the "Barb Hess Community Room". Director Tupper seconded the motion.

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

B. BID #572—BRADY STADIUM SUB-GRADE IMPROVEMENTS/ PUBLIC HEARING

The administration recommended rejecting Bid #572 on the Brady Street Stadium Sub-Grade Improvements.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation to reject Bid #572 on the Brady Street Stadium sub-grade improvements. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

Director Roberson asked why there was such a discrepancy between the budget estimate of \$187,019 and the one bid coming in at \$314,300. Donna Cooper responded a report was done which showed problems with the drainage underneath the area that would have the new turf. The best bid was too high and we now are looking at an alternative way to fill the ground under the surface to allow for the correct drainage. Director Johanson asked what stabilization of the soil meant. Mrs. Cooper answered questions about how the surface would be stabilized with rock. Director Clewell asked what the next steps were so we don't fall behind with the resurfacing project. Mrs. Cooper said based on the information they now have it should be installed by the spring and ready for the April 1 track meet. President Zamora asked if the Board had previously approved this bid. Mrs. Cooper said the Board approved a company to install the turf, but we believed we had a drainable surface at that point in time. The surface was draining correctly with the old turf surface but it won't work with the new turf. The additional cost might run up to \$150,000 for the rock filling.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Bid #572 for Brady Street Stadium Sub-Grade improvements to allow for community input on this project. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was declared closed.

The vote on the motion to reject the bid for sub-grade improvements was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Roberson, Tupper, Johanson, Clewell, Krumwiede, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously to reject the bid.

C. AWARD #573 – WAN NETWORK DATA CIRCUITS//PUBLIC HEARING

The administration made a recommendation to approve the bid for the WAN network data circuits.

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation for Award #573 for WAN Network Data Circuits to Mediacom #2, 950 Mb Fiber Network serving all 33 locations (i.e. Base + Option 1 + Option 2) 60 month term at \$25,950 per month with a one-time installation fee of \$25,950. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

Tom Wagner was asked to talk about the WAN network data circuits and explain why it was necessary to do this work. Mr. Wagner explained how this was the central hub with our buildings and schools. It was the way all systems communicated with us and we are making replacements needed to accommodate our demands. Mr. Wagner talked about costs and bandwidth needed. Without these changes we won't have adequate bandwidth in order to use the software for programs. This affects the speed of the Internet and the web base products we are using for our courses. Mr. Wagner compared the data circuits to piping to help everyone understand this request.

There was additional discussion about solutions being scaleable and flexible, consulting with Cedar Rapids which has a similar set up as our district, and the length of the contract. City and County entities are looking at something like this to meet their needs in the future. They talked about this system working with our curriculum solutions and affecting student achievement. This is a good start to what we need. A comparison showed we currently have 1.5 at elementary, 1.5 at intermediate, and 4.0 at high schools. The newer system will allow for 10 at elementary, 20 at intermediate, and 30 at high schools.

Director Roberson asked whether this change would accommodate all the needs from our teachers. Mr. Wagner responded they would have significantly more capabilities with the new data circuits installed. If we increase the bandwidth, it will be utilized by our teachers. There will be greater speed and performance possible. It will definitely be better than what we have now and each year we can scale up to meet our demands. The bid was close to what we anticipated and we can make increases with additional costs in the future. Mr. Wagner explained how this was a fiber network with structure in place. We can dedicate more fiber based on the needs we have. There were comments about this adding efficiency for our teachers, and we will be able to implement more web based solutions for curriculum. This is the infrastructure provided us and we will have the ability to invest in the system as needs arise. Mr. Almanza talked about AEA, Esis requirements, and access criteria.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Award #573 for the WAN Network Data Circuits to allow for community input on this project. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was declared closed.

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

D. BOARD POLICY REVIEWS AND REVISIONS

The Policy Committee recommended approval of policy reviews and revisions. Director Johanson asked to make one motion on these changes unless any board member wished to have a policy considered separately.

Director Clewell asked to have Board Policy #505.10 Intermediate School Band Uniforms considered as a separate item.

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the following policies be approved as presented at the January 14, 2008 board meeting with reviews or revisions:

#501.04	Entrance Requirements	Revised
#504.06	Parent's and Student's Rights	Revised
#504.08	Good Conduct Rule	Revised
#505.01	Student Government	Revised
#505.02	Student Organizations	Reviewed
#505.03	School Publications	Reviewed
#505.04	Social Events	Revised
#505.07	Crowd Control at Athletic Events	Revised
#505.09	Attendance at Events Outside of School	Revised
#505.10	Intermediate School Band Uniforms	Revised
#505.12	Student Distribution of Non-Curricular Materials	Revised
#506.03	Class or Student Gifts to School	Revised

Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Roberson expressed concerns he had with Policy #505.12 dealing with student distribution on non-curricular materials. He was worried about consistency when building principals were allowed to make the decision on whether something could be distributed. One building may allow distribution and another deny the request. Director Roberson felt this was unfair and we needed more standardized controls. He didn't know how the principals would be making their decisions to ensure fairness at all buildings. Dr. O'Melia addressed the concerns raised and how materials were reviewed at the main office and at individual buildings. If something goes out to all buildings, it is reviewed with criteria listed at the central office and stamped. This is usually done by organizations such as PTA, Scouts, or Dads' Club. Juli Staszewski talked about newsletters generated at buildings and this was the responsibility of the individual principals. Board members said this policy was actually addressing requests from students not organizations. Students may distribute materials that don't have to be approved downtown which would make it unmanageable if everything that went out in buildings had to be approved at the Central office.

AMEND: Director Johanson moved to amend the original motion to not include Policy #505.12 in the group. Director Krumwiede seconded the amendment.

Director Roberson apologized for not getting his concerns to the committee earlier.

The vote on the amendment to exclude #505.12 was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Johanson, Krumwiede, Tupper, Clewell, Roberson, and Zamora. The motion to amend carried unanimously.

ACTION: The vote on the amended motion to approve the listed policy reviews and changes but also removing Policy #505.12 was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Johanson, Krumwiede, Tupper, Clewell, Roberson, and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.

#505.10 Intermediate School Band Uniforms Revised

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board approve the revisions recommended by the Policy Committee in Board Policy #505.10 Intermediate School Band Uniforms. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Clewell talked about policy governance and how the Board should be discussing student achievement and safety matters. He felt the schools were capable of handling their own decisions regarding how students dressed for band performances and the Board should not be making these rules. He didn't feel this was the kind of policy needed and it should be an administrative regulation instead or up to each building. The Board needed to stay on track and deal with student achievement policies not management issues. President Zamora reminded the Board in order to have an administrative regulation, there needed to be a policy in place first. She commented about resources available at some schools that are not available at others. This policy is one that sets up a general standard for dress by the band members and deals with financing of the uniforms. Director Clewell responded he still felt the leaders could deal with these problems.

ACTION: The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Johanson, Krumwiede, Tupper, Roberson, and Zamora. Nay: Clewell. Motion carried.

#505.12 Student Distribution of Non-Curricular Materials Revised

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board accept the revisions made to Policy #505.12 Student Distribution of Non-Curricular Materials. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion. (The policy was read with the revisions noted as presented.)

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. BOARD POLICY #501.16 -- OPEN ENROLLMENT BETWEEN DISTRICTS

Director Johanson explained board members received drafts showing revisions made in Board Policy #501.16 -- Open Enrollment Between Districts. The Board had also received a draft of a diversity plan which would be included as a part of the policy and replace the voluntary desegregation plan. Mr. Almanza asked that a further discussion of new revisions wait to be done at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 4. Although there was a first draft of the revisions, the administration was still meeting with legal counsel to go over additional wording required.

Director Tupper asked if the administration was ready to discuss the new changes. Mr. Almanza said there were concerns which had been brought up late today; and since this was a draft at this point, they would prefer talking about the final revisions at next week's meeting. Director Tupper expressed his concerns with the time frame for discussion prior to having the Board vote on the revisions for the policy and diversity plan on February 11.

Mrs. Reynolds explained how the new ruling from the Supreme Court required certain language be included or excluded from the policy and our plans. Since we already had a voluntary desegregation plan at this time, we are allowed to make changes and develop a diversity plan by March 1. Our policy and diversity plan will need to be approved by the Department of Education and they need ten days to review our recommendations. If more changes were needed by the district, we would still have time before March 1 to get this in place. We will have the reading of the policy ready for the Committee of the Whole and time for discussion at that meeting on February 4. Then the Board will receive the final recommendation for consideration at the Regular Board Meeting on February 11. The time frame requires having this in place by March 1 and the State said we could extend the local deadline for applications until April 1 to allow for notification of parents and students.

Superintendent Almanza talked about getting notice in January about the guidelines and requirements. Director Tupper was upset with the time line because it didn't allow enough public discussion about the changes. The Board only had two weeks to discuss this and then make a decision. If the Supreme Court made their decision on June 29, why did it take so long for this to come to the Board? He asked if the administration could walk people through the open enrollment request process and approval of the diversity plan.

President Zamora said legal questions came up about the recommendations from the Policy Committee dealing with wording. We were told the Department of Education was going to assist us on the process and wording to use, but they failed to provide that help for the five districts with desegregation plans in place. Our legal counsel was making some wording changes in the draft and this would be sent to board members on Tuesday. Director Tupper talked about how our new diversity plan uses test scores and socioeconomic status for making decisions dealing with open enrollment. Director Tupper quoted a study he read from the Harvard Review and he will provide copies for the board members to look over if that would help. The report talked about segregation matters and he would like more data from the administration dealing with numbers related to our open enrollment.

Superintendent Almanza spoke about a more recent study from 2007 which was updated since the Supreme Court decision. He said the State has a minority population of 14% in Iowa and our community has a minority population which is 32%. The superintendent expressed his concerns about segregation of our schools and the importance of having a plan to use. The State Department has redefined the rules and we no longer can use race as the determining factor in our decisions on open enrollment. We are able to use student achievement/test scores and socioeconomic status with free and reduced lunches. There were comments about statistics and projections being used and the data was also being used with the Davenport Promise work.

Director Tupper said he was worried about the impact the Supreme Court

decision will have on our district. He talked about the January 2005 report on "Why Segregation Matters: Poverty and Educational Inequality" by Gary Orfield and Chungmei Lee from the Civil Rights Project done by Harvard University. He went over several references in the report and the board secretary can copy this information for board members.

Director Roberson expressed his disappointment with not having time tonight to talk about the policy and diversity plan. We need to move forward and it was not easy to get to where we have to be by the deadline. He felt the public really needed to know what was going on in these discussions about open enrollment. He asked how this information would get out to the parents. President Zamora said we needed to make sure the document with correct information was presented and we are waiting for legal counsel. The changes would be delivered to the Board on Tuesday via a special delivery.

President Zamora also noted people were welcomed to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting and the meeting on February 11 when the policy and diversity plan changes would be discussed and action taken. Director Clewell agreed with others that he thought the board members would discuss this more fully tonight. The Department of Education should have provided the five districts with more leadership and assistance in writing their diversity plans. Since the Supreme Court made their decision on June 29 that we no longer can use race as a deciding factor for open enrollment, we need to make changes in our policy. He felt our desegregation plan was a good one, and it should have been used or considered by the Supreme Court when they ruled on this matter. Our diversity is a benefit to our students and offers our children unique opportunities to learn from each other. We may use race in our diversity plan; however, it cannot be considered a determining factor for decisions. President Zamora said she felt the Board believes diversity makes for a better learning environment in our community.

Superintendent Almanza said he wanted to be fair to the Department of Education. In August the five districts got a letter from Judy Jeffery listing steps to take in meeting the new rules. They talked about monitoring our data and using equity visits, and talked about not having race as a primary factor. There are strategies and other matters involved with the open enrollment situation that need to be addressed. The DE has moved from having desegregation plans to having diversity plans allowed. This was the guidance and we needed to define minority in ways other than by race. The DE will allow us to extend to April 1 the deadline for applications, but he would advocate against this. The time period is too short and it is in the best interest of the district to continue to use March 1 to accept applications as listed on the State form for open enrollment. There is an opportunity to discuss this and make people aware through the next two meetings.

President Zamora asked board members if they wanted to discuss this matter any more this evening or to wait until the Committee of the Whole for additional dialogue with the new revisions in place. By consensus board members agreed to wait for further discussion until the next week's meeting time.

B. IASB & UEN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Director Rich Clewell highlighted details from the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) and Urban Education Network (UEN) annual Legislative Conference in Des Moines on January 22, 2008. Several other people started out on the trip but due to vehicle problems caused by inclement weather, they had to return to Davenport. Director Clewell, Julio Almanza, and Mike Garnica had an opportunity to meet with our legislators and they shared areas of concern for children in our district. They talked about common issues and how to move forward with legislative advocacy. The issues were 1) adequate allowable growth of 6% because the 4% is not adequate due to declining enrollment; 2) teacher quality – especially professional development and training that will improve student achievement; and 3) early childhood education support. We are able to provide data and information for legislators because of the programs we have in place for pre-school children. We are collaborating with other agencies in our community and believe this will have long-term benefits for children entering the school district.

Director Clewell said another point under discussion was the state-wide penny and what it means to everyone. He said one Legislator Rants felt having a state-wide initiative would take away from local control and he didn't support such a proposal. The superintendent said he talked with legislators about open enrollment matters and presented them with data from the state. There were eight pages of statistics and districts with minority students were only shown on the first page while the other seven pages showed school districts with limited minority students. This is a problem with urban school districts and only five districts had desegregation plans in place. Because of that the other school districts are not allowed to create a diversity plan at this point. We know diversity is a benefit for our students and we are concerned with the lack of assistance from the Department of Education on this matter.

President Zamora talked about the 4% allowable growth approved but said with declining enrollment we only get 3% or less of new money to use next year. This is critical for districts who are losing students and has an impact on what we can offer to our students to prepare them for the future.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS**VI. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS**

No additional reports from the administration at this time.

VII. BOARD REPORTS

President Zamora noted the wonderful artwork on display at the Administration Service Center and encouraged people to come to the building and see the art.

Director Clewell mentioned an upcoming exhibit at the Figge Museum that will use artwork from our schools.

Director Roberson remarked the Board talked a lot about open enrollment but not about the impact this has on the district when student leave. Mrs. Tangen responded that we lose \$5,000 or more per student for every child that leaves our district to attend a neighboring district. Director Roberson said this impacts all our buildings and what we can do for student achievement as we sent resources to other districts instead of keeping the dollars in Davenport. If it was just one school, then we might be able to close a building; but when it is a few from each building, it has a huge impact on our budget.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board adjourns. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

By consensus all board members agreed to adjourn.

President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary