

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 14, 2003

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in Closed, Exempt, and Regular Sessions, pursuant to law and the rules of the Board, on Monday, April 14, 2003. The meetings were held at the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa. President Susan Low called the Closed Session for Evaluation of the Superintendent to order at 5:30 PM in the Executive Conference Room. The Exempt Session for Negotiations began at 6:46 PM in the Executive Conference Room. The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM in the Jim Hester Board Room.

On roll call the following members were present: President Susan Low; Directors Richard Clewell, Alan Guard, Katie Hanson, Steve Hunter, Larry Roberson, and Dan Portes. Student Board Members present for the regular meeting were Jennifer Moore (Kimberly Center), Marie Ripslinger (North High), William Baresel and Colletta Sanchez-Warner (Central High).

5:30 PM

CLOSED SESSION

### I. CLOSED SESSION: Superintendent's Evaluation

**MOTION:** Director Clewell moved the Board hold a closed session as provided in section 21.5(1) (i) of the open meetings law to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose performance is being considered to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation, as that individual has requested a closed session. Director Portes seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: All ayes. Motion carried unanimously. The Board moved into closed session for the Superintendent's evaluation at 5:30 PM in the Executive Conference Room. By consensus the Board returned to open session at 6:46 PM.

### EXEMPT SESSION FOR NEGOTIATIONS

The Board then met in an Exempt Session for Negotiations from 6:46 PM until 7:08 PM in the Executive Conference Room. The Board took a brief recess and then returned to the board table at 7:15 PM for the start of the Regular Meeting.

## REGULAR MEETING

7:15 PM

### PUBLIC HEARING

#### I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

##### A. PUBLIC HEARING AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET 2002-2003

President Susan Low conducted a public hearing April 14, 2003 at 7:15 PM in the Jim Hester Board Room of the Administration Service Center for the purpose of receiving input on the amendment to the current school budget that changed estimates of expenditures in the areas of instruction, support services, non-instructional programs, and other areas. Residents or taxpayers were asked to present objections to, or arguments in favor of any part of the proposed amendments. A copy of the amendment to the current 2002-2003 budget appeared in the *Quad City Times* on Thursday, March 27, 2003. No one asked to speak on the amendment to the budget; the public hearing was declared closed. Action on the budget amendment took place later in the meeting in order to meet the April 15, 2003 deadline.

##### B. PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET FOR 2003-2004

President Low conducted a public hearing April 14, 2003 at 7:15 PM in the Jim Hester Board Room of the Administration Service Center for the purpose of receiving input on the proposed 2003-2004 school budget. Residents or taxpayers were asked to present objections to, or arguments in favor of any part of the proposed budget. A copy of the detailed budget appeared in the *Quad City Times* on Thursday, March 27, 2003.

Mr. Hipple, 1324 West Garfield, Davenport, asked to comment on the budget that had been published. His children went through the school system. He knew that the Board had to cut back due to the State budget problems, and they made us have to cover our shortfalls last year. He believed in the proper expenditures and proposed spending for our schools, but the schools have to be on budget. The prepared budget should be set up for unexpected things and we act very much like a family. The District's loss of funds is not unlike what happens in families. Families have losses in various funds such as with the stock market or investments, but families don't have a taxing body to go to for more money if they are short. We need to have the elected officials act as our fiduciary not our spenders. The District added the one-cent sales tax and it amounted to a lot of money. Then you bought signs at Brady Street Stadium and by West. Mr. Hipple expressed his concerns over this type of expense because he didn't think the signs needed to be run and it was expensive; it wasn't something we really needed for our educational programs. He wanted the Board to think about this more when they were raising taxes for the people in our area.

No one else requested time to speak, so the public hearing was closed. Action on the 2003-2004 budget took place later in the meeting in order to meet the April 15, 2003 deadline.

## RECOGNITIONS

### II. RECOGNITIONS

#### A. **Monroe Elementary \* *Marianne Corbin, Principal***

Principal Marianne Cordin recognized the Monroe Reading Cadre Leadership Team (**Sandy Snyder, Cindy Dunlap, Cindy Brockman, Sandy Liagre, Jane Smith, Beth Halkias, Tina Nicks** and **Marilyn Eberle**). She said this was an opportunity for ready excellence and staff development. These leaders have spent 80 hours each year for the last three years focusing on student achievement and facilitating meetings for staff development training. The cadre gave an overview of the Picture Word Inductive Model Strategy currently being implemented building wide. Students representatives from Preschool to fifth grade were introduced: Andrew Duncan, Jonathan Tyler; C. J. Morgan, Rebecca Bajori, Temple Brown, Dakea Johnson, Sophie Brown, and Alicia Ramsey. The students personally modeled components of the strategy and visited with individual board members to demonstrate what they had learned.

Ms. Corbin thanked the Board for supporting their new calendar. Sixty percent of the students have participated in balanced calendar activities. There is full building support and just a few challenges to meet. The Board was given a copy of their proposed 2003 -2004 calendar.

President Low thanked the staff and students for sharing their work and congratulated them on over 200 hours of staff development at Monroe.

#### B. **McKinley Elementary \* *Dr. Judith White, Principal***

Dr. Judith White, Principal at McKinley highlighted the achievements of three groups at her school. McKinley was pleased to welcome one of the District ESL Programs to our building this fall. **Ms. Kara Kakavas and Mrs. Patty Wells**, the ESL teachers, shared information about their program, introduced the Board to two of the ESL students and parents, and the students shared their writings. The students were 3rd Grader, **Oksana Weir**, who arrived in January from Petrozavodsk, Russia and 4th Grader, **Siavash Assadi**, who also came to McKinley in January from Tehran, Iran. Both students had very limited English skills. The students' progress has been remarkable and a reflection of how hard they have worked and how effective the ESL Program is, as well as McKinley's reading program. **Ms. Susan Weir**, Oksana's mother, and Mrs. Assadi also shared her reflections of the ESL program with the Board. They thanked the school district for their kindness and said the teachers are held in great respect. They have learned global languages and cultures and find tolerance and openness in the schools. Their children's future is going forward because of the District. The teachers have been able to create the best picture of America in their minds. They were scared at first about coming to American, but now they can speak English and have learned so much. There are 43 ESL students at McKinley: 37 from Vietnam, 1 from Cambodia, 1 from Russia, 1 from Bosnia, and 1 from Iran.

The second recognition was of the arts and how they play an important role in the lives of McKinley students. The Board was introduced to art teacher, **Mrs. Sara Graham**, and two of her students, **Dennaye and Emily**. Mrs. Graham constantly seeks innovative ways to expose our students to the art world, such as with the use of an Internet program called Artsonia. The goals of Artsonia are to integrate technology into the classroom, develop multi-cultural understanding, and increase parental involvement in children's education.

Each week in the academic year, Artsonia honors a student from K-6 grade as "K-6 Artist of the Week". **Dennaye Leonard**, a 5th grade student, was selected from hundreds of thousands of students to be the student of the week for an abstract painting. A book publishing company, who saw second grade student, **Emily Roebook's** artwork on Artsonia has requested to use her cool color chalk drawing in an upcoming art book series.

Dr. White noted McKinley Elementary stresses Life Skills daily. They have a second grade class who has extended the life skills of caring and responsibility into their neighborhood and community. **Mrs. Cheri Reynolds**, 2nd Grade Teacher, who has taken advantage of the District Service Learning Grant, shared her class community service projects and introduced her student representatives: **Michael Corsiglia**, **Devin Freeloove**, and **Carly Saveraid**. Michael talked about reading and visiting the residents at Country Manor. Carly spoke about her experiences with bells and baskets being made for elderly people. Devin talked about the bunnies with surprises inside that they brought to Country Manor and they were going to deliver May Baskets also. Mrs. Reynolds said these activities couldn't have been done without the help of volunteer **Mrs. Gerry Platterer**, known as "Grandma Gerry" to everyone at McKinley. Mr. Platterer epitomizes the life skills as she works with our students – spending 2 to 3 full mornings each week with them. She's so dedicated, she even brings her grandson to "work" at McKinley when he has a day free from his school. Mrs. Platterer said she liked the children and felt she got more from them than she gives.

C. **Davenport Reads! (April through June 2003) \* Dr. Jim Blanche, Superintendent**

The Davenport Public Library, Davenport School District, and the Davenport Parochial Schools are sponsoring a joint adventure for city-wide reading events from April 2003 through June 2003. The groups are using the book *A Long Way From Chicago* by Richard Peck. The book presents stories taking place during the Depression, has somewhat of a local connection, and is an intergenerational experience. Funding has come from "The Great Minds" project providing \$2,500 to purchase 18 copies of the title for each Davenport school. They paid for posters, brochures, and discussion guides to be used. **Marcia Jensen** from West High and **Sue Berger** from Washington Elementary were available for questions about the program. Some West High students even joined the monthly book club at CASI lead by Barb Kuttler for a discussion on the book on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

President Susan Low read a special proclamation recognizing the reading events taking place. She mentioned she would be reading parts of the book at Jackson during the week.

"WHEREAS, a community reading project can bring together citizens in one school district to read one book,

WHEREAS, the children and adults of our school district deserve opportunities to join together to share their experiences and enjoyment of reading,

WHEREAS, reading is not only educational, but can often be fun,

WHEREAS, the book "A Long Way From Chicago," written by Richard Peck is an award-winning book, filled with interesting characters, insights, and most of all humor,

WHEREAS, the Davenport School District is certainly "A Long Way From Chicago,"

Now, THEREFORE, I, Susan S. Low, Board President of the Davenport Community School District, serving the communities of Davenport, Blue Grass, Buffalo, and Walcott, Iowa, do hereby proclaim that April 2003 through June 2003 shall be designated the period DAVENPORT READS, when our school district joins to read the book "A Long Way From Chicago" and people gather together to share their reading experiences with one another.

I urge all people in the Davenport Community School District to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance."

Marcia Jensen said the work started a year ago and they were encouraged to use the school libraries. We talked about ways to work together with the branch libraries and to introduce people to the web site. Dr. Blanche was presented with another copy of the book, "A Long Way From Chicago," and was asked to share this with others. There will be a book event at Borders on May 6 at 6:30 PM and on May 22. They hoped the community would attend. Dr. Blanche commented everyone has someone like the grandma in the book in his/her own life.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### III. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thursday, April 17, Urban Education Network Drive Up Conference in Des Moines
- B. Friday, April 18 (Inservice for Staff)
- C. Monday, April 21 (No School)
- D. Monday, April 28, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- E. Sunday, May 4, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, Davenport Schools Employee Service Recognition, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- F. Monday, May 5, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, ~~Williams Intermediate School~~, (Due to scheduling this meeting will be moved to the Administration Service Center.)
- G. Monday, May 12, 6:30 PM Board and Student Board Reception; 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- H. Open Forum for Community Input

1. Brenda Jordahl Buckles, 1756 West 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Davenport, had three issues to bring before the Board. (a) She urged them not to sell Johnson school and see this as a opportunity to do something positive for that neighborhood. (b) As they plan development for J. B. Young, please give that school some of the remaining one-cent sales tax money so those students can have similar facilities to the other intermediate schools. (c) There are concerns about custodians and cuts in the budget so the elementary and intermediate schools share custodians. This causes problems with safety and cleanliness. The PTA's support the District giving back the proper amount of time for the custodians to be able to do their work. She talked about a number of safety issues and concerns with the lack of a custodian at each building. We are spending a lot of money on the new facilities, but it is a waste if there aren't enough custodians to take care of these buildings properly.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### IV. 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 Regular and Intervening Meetings**

The minutes from the following board meetings were presented for approval: Committee of the Whole March 3, 2003; Regular Meeting March 10, 2003; Regular Meeting March 17, 2003; Special Call Expulsion March 21, 2003; Board Workshop April 5, 2003; and Special Call Meeting for Retirement Approvals April 7, 2003.

**B. Financial Report**

It was recommended the Treasurer's monthly reports of receipts and disbursements of the various funds for the period ending February 28, 2003 be approved.

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

## RESIGNATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Ashcraft, Crista  
Grade 3  
Lincoln Fundamental  
Effective: End of the 2002-2003 school year  
Years of Service: 12 yrs. 10 mos.

Graller, Kris  
Special Education/MultiCat/SCI  
Central High  
Effective: End of the 2002-2003 school year  
Years of Service: 1 yr. 10 mos.

Harrison, Matthew  
Science Grade 6  
Smart Intermediate  
Effective: End of the 2002-2003 school year  
Years of Service: 9 yrs.

Spedl, Ann  
Grade 5  
Buchanan Elementary  
Effective: End of the 2002- 2003 school year  
Years of Service: 1 yr. 10 mos.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Flaherty, Sandra  
Physical Education  
Garfield Elementary  
Extended Leave of Absence without Pay  
for the 2003 – 2004 and 2004 – 2005 school years  
Effective: 8/19/2003 – 08/18/2004

Johnson, Kay  
LOA  
Adams Elementary  
Extension of Leave of Absence  
Effective: 2/18/2003 – 5/02/2003

Jones, Sara  
Science  
Smart Intermediate  
Leave of Absence without Pay  
Effective: 8/20/2003 – 06/04/2004

Maynard, Michelle  
Special Education  
Wood Intermediate  
Military Leave  
Effective: 2/24/03 – Unknown

Wier, Sheila  
Grade 4/5  
Washington Elementary  
Leave of Absence without Pay  
Effective: 03/07/03 – start of the 2003-2004 school year

Yeager, Laura  
LOA  
Wood  
Extended Leave of Absence without Pay  
Effective: 2003-2004 School year

## RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Harding, Scott	25%
Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach	\$5,959.00
North High	
Olsen, James	5%
Assistant Intermediate Track Coach	\$1,192.00
Walcott Intermediate	
Steketee, Jennifer	14%
Head Cheerleading Coach	\$3,337.00
North High	

## SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Abdo, Sara	7%
Assistant 7 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Girls Basketball	\$1,668.00
Young Intermediate	
Gay, Kandi	6%
Assistant Girls Soccer Coach	\$1,430.00
Central High	
Heller, Brian	4%
Assistant Eastside Swimming	\$953.00
Eastside (Young, Sudlow, Wood)	
Jager, Jeff	10%
Head Sophomore Baseball Coach	\$2,384.00
West High	
Mannall, Jon	8%
Head Girls' Soccer Coach	\$1,907.00
North High	
Meyer, Susan	5%
Assistant Inter. Track Coach	\$1,192.00
Walcott Intermediate	

## RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFIED

Avila, Gary	Effective: April 2, 2003
Physical Education	Salary: \$37,952.00
Lincoln/Garfield Elementary	
Kimmel, Lori	Effective: March 3, 2003
Grade 4	Salary: \$40,400.00
Fillmore Elementary	
Tabares, Michele	Effective: March 31, 2003
Spanish	Salary: \$35,503.00
West High	

## RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Allers, Michelle Para Educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: April 25, 2003 Years of Service: 6 mos.
Binkowski, Peggy Para Educator North High	Effective: April 3, 2003 Years of Service: 1 yr. 6 mos.
Baldry, Deborah Para Educator West High School	Effective: March 21, 2003 Years of Service: 6 mos.
Dorta, Caridad Para Educator Lincoln Elementary	Effective: April 11, 2003 Years of Service: 6 mos.
Hayes, Jerry Para Educator Wood Intermediate	Effective: October 2, 2002 Years of Service: 3 yrs, 11 mos.
Hood, Roberta Para Educator Harrison Elementary	Effective: March 21, 2003 Years of Service: 6 mos.
Macksey, Susan Para Educator Lincoln Elementary	Effective: March 14, 2003 Years of Service: 1 month
Myers, Joy Para Educator Madison Elementary	Effective: March 21, 2003 Years of Service: 5 mos.
Pilgrim, Jill Para Educator Smart Intermediate	Effective: March 20, 2003 Years of Service: 1 month
Stokes, Regina Para Educator Wood Intermediate	Effective: March 20, 2003 Years of Service: 5 yrs, 6 mos.
Welch, Victoria Para Educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: April 11, 2003 Years of Service: 2 yrs. 6 mos.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Ketelsen, Carlette Para Educator Hayes School	Leave of Absence without pay Effective Date: March 17, 2003--Second Semester 2003-2004
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## APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Bergthold, Angela Para Educator Lincoln Elementary	Effective Date: March 31, 2003 \$6.55 6.0 hrs/day
Burke, Wendy Para Educator Jackson Elementary	Effective Date: March 12, 2003 \$6.55 6.5 hrs/day
Calsyn, Kimberly Food Service Cashier Sudlow Intermediate	Effective Date: March 31, 2003 \$7.07 3.75 hrs/day
Campbell, Jacqueline Food Service Worker North High	Effective Date: March 18, 2003 \$6.86 2.75 hrs/day
Defoe, Debbie Custodian Adams Elementary	Effective Date: March 19, 2003 \$9.67 5 hrs/day
Farris, Carolyn Custodian Jackson Elementary	Effective Date: March 27, 2003 \$9.67 4 hrs/day
Macksey, Susan Para Educator Hayes School	Effective Date: March 31, 2003 \$6.55 8 hrs/day
Newman, Brianne Para Educator Jackson Elementary	Effective Date: April 3, 2003 \$6.70 6.5 hrs/day
Sabel, Jodi Para Educator Jackson Elementary	Effective Date: March 12, 2003 \$6.55 6.5 hrs/day
Wilson, LaVonda Para Educator Eisenhower Elementary	Effective Date: March 17, 2003 \$6.55 7.0 hrs/day

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

**MOTION:** Director Clewell moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as written. Director Guard seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was made and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Guard, Hunter, Hanson, Portes, Roberson, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

### V. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

**MOTION:** Director Guard moved the resolution: "Resolved that all claims presented to the Board having been duly certified as correct by the Secretary, and reviewed by the administration and Board Treasurer, 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 three voided checks: #133062 in the amount of \$23,428.18; #133123 in the amount of \$67; and #133233 in the amount of \$35,793.51. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was made and recorded as follows: Ayes: Guard, Roberson, Clewell, Hanson, Hunter, Portes, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

## OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

### VI. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

#### A. **Resolution for Sale of Real Estate (1730 Wilkes Avenue, Davenport--Johnson School)** **(Postponed from March 10, 2003)**

President Low stated that on March 10, 2003 a motion was made by Director Clewell and seconded by Director Portes to consider a resolution regarding the sale of Johnson School. A subsidiary motion was made by Director Hunter and seconded by Director Guard to postpone action until Monday, April 14, 2003. The subsidiary motion to postpone was adopted. (Since the motion to postpone did not make this a special order item for April 14--indicating a specific time for action--the motion can be considered during the general order for regular business in the section under "Other Items Requiring Action " as the first action item.)

President Low stated the main motion was being brought back to the table, there would be time for any continued debate related to the main question, and then a call for the vote.

#### **MAIN MOTION ON THE TABLE FROM MARCH 10, 2003**

Moved by Director Clewell, and seconded by Director Portes, the following resolution regarding the sale of Johnson School be approved:

"WHEREAS Davenport Community School District is the owner of certain real estate located at 1730 Wilkes Avenue, Davenport, Iowa and more particularly described on Exhibit "A", attached hereto; and

WHEREAS Davenport Community School District has received an Offer to Purchase said property from Dan W. Howes and Bonita L. Howes for the total sum of \$165,000.00; and WHEREAS Davenport Community School District has held a public hearing on the proposed sale of real estate pursuant to Iowa Code § 297.22.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Davenport Community School District in the County of Scott, State of Iowa hereby adopts the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that Davenport Community School District shall sell the Real Estate, above described, to Dan W. Howes and Bonita L. Howes for the total sum of \$165,000.00, pursuant to an Offer to Purchase; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and Secretary are hereby directed to execute and deliver the Purchase Agreement for the sale of the Real Estate and to take such other and further actions as are necessary or desirable to consummate the transactions contemplated thereunder."

Director Guard felt there were a lot of reasons to maintain the building and he didn't feel there had been a full discussion on the delivery of preschool services. He talked about redrawing boundaries for all buildings to allow for preschools throughout the District. He felt it would be a huge mistake to give up this land and he had concerns about elements of the No Child Left Behind act legislation. He didn't think we were in a position to be selling this building when we might need it in the future. Director Clewell talked about the closing of Grant and Johnson and he recognized the importance of these schools to the neighborhoods. However, he didn't think the physical structure of the building would serve the purposes of the District now. We wanted to find a buyer who would have a good use of the building, and we owe that to the neighborhood. The potential buyer for this school has met the criteria.

Director Hunter thought the Board had three options: (1) Sell the property as stated in the resolution; (2) Mothball the decision and do nothing to the building; (3) Raze the facility and hold onto the site for future use. He was not comfortable with doing nothing because that wasn't fair to the community. Razing the building presented problems and huge expenses. Option one showed we had a buyer with goals that were compatible to the neighborhood. We need to move forward with this decision. Director Roberson asked for more information about the possibility of using the building to house preschool programs and he had concerns about accessibility issues with the facility. Mr. Bill Good responded saying Johnson School was a multi-floored building and the stairs would prohibit its use as a preschool facility. Parents would have to carry their children up and down stairs and that would be a safety issue. There would have to be a better physical arrangement. Kathy Ericksen also talked about the need to be licensed for preschool and because of the multi-level set up, it would not be possible at Johnson. For preschool you need an outside exit for children to be able to get out. The Fire Marshall would not approve the set up for preschool use. Director Guard thought the main level could be used for preschool and the rest of the building for additional grade school classes if we redrew boundaries for the District. We could provide more services and spend less than \$3 million dollars building a new facility.

Director Hunter commented this proposal to keep Johnson would reopen having Johnson as a district school. He spoke about concerns with the high maintenance of older buildings and other aging facility issues. Director Portes asked about the feasibility of considering the reuse of this building for preschool. Mr. Good reminded the Board the use of Johnson would present program issues for preschool age children. Dr. Blanche remarked about closing Grant and Johnson for cost savings. He also talked about the changes in demographics and that we have space in other buildings for the children in our District. President Low said there had been discussion at the Committee of the Whole about possible program changes for intermediate schools or whether to use Johnson as a preschool building. The data did not support this use of the building. Holding Johnson School for possible use down the road would not be the best plan and would cost money with maintenance issues.

**ACTION:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Portes, Hanson, Hunter, Roberson, and Low. Nay: Guard. Motion carried to sell Johnson School.

8:25 PM Director Portes had to leave the board meeting following the vote on Johnson School at 8:25 PM. There were six members present for action and discussion for the remainder of the meeting.

**B. Amendment to the 2002-2003 Budget**

The administration recommended the Board amend the 2002-2003 Certified Budget in the areas of instruction, total support services, non-instructional programs, and total other expenditures as presented at the March 17, 2003 Regular Board Meeting and published in the *Quad City Times* on March 27, 2003.

**MOTION:** Director Hunter moved the Board approve the amendments to the 2002-2003 Certified Budget in the areas of instruction, total support services, non-instructional programs, and total other expenditures as presented and published. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Hunter, Clewell, Guard, Hanson, Roberson, and Low. Motion carried unanimously. [For the record: Instruction went from \$86,183,175 to \$89,108,849; Total Support Services went from \$33,906,331 to \$32,670,561; Non-instructional Programs went from \$6,580,975 to \$6,449,694; and Total Other Expenditures went from \$33,673,929 to \$41,793,380. The reasons for the amendments were (1) Increased receipts not previously budgeted as expenditures; (2) Balances on hand at close of previous year; (3) Re-estimation of expenditures by functional area.]

**C. Proposed Budget for 2003-2004**

The administration recommended adoption of a Proposed Budget Estimate and the Tax Levy rate for the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year for total requirements. A copy of the proposed budget for 2003-2004 was published in the *Quad City Times* on March 27, 2003.

**MOTION:** Director Guard moved the Board adopt the Proposed Budget Estimate and the Tax Levy rate for the 2003-2004 Fiscal Year for total requirements—not the one published, but it would include a 10 cent tax increase in the cash levy instead of the 23 cent increase that was published. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

President Low noted the recommendation was 13 cents less than what was published in the paper for the tax levy. Director Hunter explained that we published the higher increases because of requests to do it that way because of options to be considered. Director Hunter would prefer to maintain the current rate and not increase the cash levy at this time since taxes had been raised previously. He felt the budget was currently on target and we should stay with the plan. He said the State reductions and weather problems were not predicted for next year. He talked about increasing our fund balance without raising taxes. Director Guard told the Board he recommended the 10-cent increase after considerable thought. He had concerns about the surplus being assumed and until contracts are settled, the figures could swing one way or another. If the State made cost cuts again like they did last year, which would present big problems. We made a number of reductions in staff and closed buildings because of problems before. There was additional discussion about having sufficient cash balances and reserves to use for emergency matters. He felt the increase would be small and was not too much to pay for the District to be prepared. Director Guard also talked about spending authority that was not cut, but we didn't have money in the bank to spend. They talked about making adjustments in increments rather than larger amounts.

President Low commented we had a history of pushing our spending authority to the limits and that was dangerous. Cuts were made, but the spending authority hasn't increased much. There was only a slight increase because of a few additional students. The spending authority is only increased when the state legislature gives us more allowable growth. We are now into budget guarantees. The State allows the larger districts to tax at a higher rate, but it also keeps them from using the unspent balance. While the 10 cent increase would be comforting for us, everyone's tax bill would be increased, and that isn't necessary. Director Roberson spoke about maintaining the status quo. Director Clewell agreed with others who supported the small increase and the extra would allow for unexpected events. He also mentioned the concerns brought up by Mr. Hipple in open forum, but the signs were paid for not using general funds.

Director Clewell mentioned the closing of Johnson and Grant that he felt was a correct decision because of lack of funding available. We have decreased class size to help our students, but that has a cost involved. He supported the 10-cent increase and felt that the original 23-cent increase was too much of an increase.

**ACTION:** The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Guard, Clewell, Hanson, and Roberson. Nays: Hunter and Low. The motion to approve the budget for 2003-2004 with a 10-cent increase for the cash levy was carried. (A copy of the revised budget will be included with the minutes of record.)

**D. Bid #702 Installation of Concrete Parking Area at Garfield/ Public Hearing**

Recommended bid from McCubbin Construction in the amount of \$24,133.81.

**MOTION:** Director Clewell moved the Board accept Bid #702 from McCubbin Construction in the amount of \$24,133.81 for the installation on concrete parking area at Garfield. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

President Low conducted a public hearing on Bid #702 for the concrete parking area at Garfield. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was then declared closed.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Roberson, Guard, Hanson, Hunter, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

**E. Bid #703 Masonry Renewal at Lincoln Elementary/Public Hearing**

Recommended bid from TnT Tuckpointing in the amount of \$17,773.

**MOTION:** Director Roberson moved the Board accept Bid #703 from TnT Tuckpointing in the amount of \$17,773 for masonry renewal on the northwest elevation at Lincoln. . Director Guard seconded the motion.

President Low conducted a public hearing on Bid #703 for masonry renewal at Lincoln. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was then declared closed.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Roberson, Guard, Clewell, Hanson, Hunter, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

**F. Bid #704 West High School Auditorium Roof Replacement/Public Hearing**

Recommended bid from Rafoth Sheet Metal in the amount of \$57,918.

**MOTION:** Director Guard moved the Board accept the low Bid #704 for the West High auditorium roof replacement from Rafoth Sheet Metal in the amount of \$57,918. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

President Low conducted a public hearing on Bid #704 for roof replacement at the West High auditorium. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was then declared closed.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Guard, Roberson, Clewell, Hanson, Hunter, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

**G. Bid #705 Installation of New Parking Area at Children's Village at Hoover/Public Hearing**

Recommended bid from Alliance Foundations in the amount of \$82,890.50.

**MOTION:** Director Guard moved the Board accept Bid #705 for the installation of a new parking area at the Children's Village at Hoover from Alliance Foundations in the amount of \$82,890.50. Director Hanson seconded the motion.

President Low conducted a public hearing on Bid #705 for the new parking area at the Children's Village at Hoover. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was then declared closed. Director Clewell asked about the loss of green space with this project. Mr. Good explained this would be on the north end of the site and there was still sufficient green space available for the school. It will exceed the licensing requirements recommended.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Guard, Hanson, Clewell, Hunter, Roberson, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

(The detailed bid sheets will be attached to the minutes of record as presented.)

**H. Final Plans & Specifications for Children's Village at Hoover/Public Hearing**

Mr. Good reminded the Board they had seen the preliminary plans for the addition of three classrooms at the Children's Village during a Committee of the Whole meeting. Specifications from the staff and code requirements have been considered and worked into the plans. Kathy Erickson talked about the staff input and how they appreciated the Board's recognition of expanding early learning centers. Parents and the staff are very excited about the project and changes. Mr. Greg Gowey from SGGM Architects presented the detailed and scaled drawings for the construction work. He spoke about security, classrooms, storage, and bathrooms. The air conditioning will tie in with the boiler system. There are emergency doors that have access to the playground. The estimated cost of the project will be \$655,525 including new addition construction, sidewalks, sod, back flow preventer, electric panels, fire alarm, and backfill, with a 7% contingency. Board members discussed the project and had their questions answered. Director Roberson thanked Mrs. Erickson for showing him around the Children's Village and for the positive environment at the building. Mr. Good spoke about construction for modifications in the office area that would be done by our people with a cost of about \$100,000 at the high end. Mrs. Erickson told board members the classrooms would each hold 15 students and rooms will all be licensed and accredited. They try to make the best use of the space available.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Following the presentation and discussion, the Board held a public hearing for input on the final plans and specifications for construction at the Children's Village at Hoover. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was then declared closed.

Following the public hearing, a recommendation was made to approve the final plans and specifications designed for construction at the Children's Village at Hoover that previously was discussed at the Committee of the Whole.

**MOTION:** Director Clewell moved the Board approve the final plans and specifications designed for construction at the Children's Village at Hoover that were previously discussed at the Committee of the Whole and reviewed this evening. Director Hanson seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Hanson, Guard, Hunter, Roberson, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. Increasing Paid Conditional Busing Fees

Dr. Blanche explained the Board had received information on the possibility of increasing paid conditional busing fees. The fee currently charged only covers half of the actual cost for transportation. Mr. Good talked about several options that could be considered and thought the board members might want to consider some type of progression as an alternative rather than the \$150 fee increase being considered at one time. We haven't made any changes in the fees since 1990. Board members discussed the options and recommendations to consider. If the buses are running these routes anyway, the students who ride and pay a fee don't add additional expenses. Mr. Good said some times we assign a para educator to ride the bus because of the increased numbers of students. Director Hunter talked about this as being an additional revenue source for the District. He wondered if we loose students because of the fee increase, will that be offset by the increase in fees? We have guidelines for who can ride without costs and these are set by the State. The Board had concerns about operating the bus service at a cost to the District. Director Guard agreed with Director Hunter with the point that if we raise the fee \$100 and the child doesn't ride the bus, we are actually out the money which we charged before the increase. All the money does is to supplement the bus service.

Director Guard brought up the idea about having a policy guideline such as a fee that was 60% or 70% of the cost instead of having the board members approving the fees on a yearly basis. There are probably safety issues involved when students have to cross busy highways or that would benefit them for other safety reasons. Director Roberson felt that we had to make this affordable to families and keep it in line. If it costs too much, then the students will be either riding in cars or driving to school instead. The bus is the safest means of transportation for the students. Student board members also brought up the fee charged for parking at school which is about \$25/year. If students don't drive right, they forfeit their deposit and don't get a refund. Director Clewell felt that we needed to make a model for the future instead of waiting another 13 years to look at increases.

Mr. Good said this matter came to light because of other school districts that saw a potential for income from busing. President Low agreed that an incremental increase might be better and that the \$150 increase proposed was too much. When there are several children in a family, this could present a real hardship for transportation. She had parents talk to her about going to North High and needing busing because there are no sidewalks along 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. There are a number of issues to be considered. Director Guard noted that Cedar Rapids had different rates based on the number of children using the service in the family and it really only amounts to about \$2/day for transportation services.

**B. Process for Future District Planning**

Dr. Blanche commented the Board asked the administration to report on the process that may be used by the District for future planning. They had talked about this at the April retreat meeting. The timeline for dealing with various issues was shown to the Board and Director Guard thought this was a great start. Director Hunter thought it was a good plan and will need continuous development. The staff members were thanked for their work in coming up with some timelines and components in the planning process. A copy of the process response will be included for reference in the minutes of record showing schedules for addressing hot spots, data and support, community input, and final decision making plans. The plan will address two priorities: cooperation with other segments of the community and perception of the District.

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

**VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS**

There were no additional administrative or instructional reports.

**IX. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

1. Director Guard requested information. An analysis of the percent for administrative services for the eight UEN school districts. What makes this up for each district (personnel, type, programs.) What are we doing that others are not? Are grants paying for these services? What is the value we receive for these services? This is a long-term project related more to next year's budget.
2. Director Clewell talked about the UEN Job-Alike meeting scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> and reporting back after the meetings. He talked about having board members consider some new suggestions for legislative issues to have UEN discuss and maybe this could be a topic at the Committee of the Whole in May.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: All ayes.

President Low declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary