

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006**

The Board of Directors of the Davenport School District met in open session for a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, September 11, 2006 pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Media Center at Adams Elementary School, 3026 North Division Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said district. Vice President Roberson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: Vice President Larry Roberson as chair; Directors Richard Clewell, Nikki De Fauw, Katie Hanson, and Tim Tupper. Absent: Directors Ralph Johanson and Patt Zamora. Superintendent Almanza and administrators were present.

FACILITIES UPDATES

Scott Family Y: Bill Good introduced CEO Frank Klipsch and Amy Rowell from the Scott County Family Y. Mr. Klipsch explained the partnership between the Scott County Family Y and the District. They were presenting a check in the amount of \$35,390 which is part of the utility cost at West High. He talked about the operating costs for all the facilities and how the YMCA was helping absorb some of this at West and North High. Training was being provided to staff for use of defibrillators at the three Children's Village locations. The automatic defibrillators are designed for adults as well as for children. Mr. Klipsch thanked Rachael Mullins for working with the Children's Villages and the YMCA to coordinate before-and-after school programs through grant opportunities.

Update Land Transfer: There was an update by Bill Good on historic school buildings which was a request from Director Clewell. He explained the resolution and time frame needed regarding the Pershing Property Transfer by Lincoln Elementary. The process requires a public hearing which has been set for October 9. Mr. Good showed some slides to acquaint the Board with the property lines and reconfiguration by Lincoln. They saw a view of the property line from the alley, north side, south side, and fence. We will install a security camera and have additional security in this area for parking. We will close off the alley so there is only one entrance to the parking lot. The chain link fence will be installed.

Indoor Air Quality: Mr. Good talked about indoor air quality problems and we are being proactive to insure the safety of our students and staff. Some people are very chemical sensitive and we have good ventilation methods in different areas. We are working with staff to make sure everything is working properly.

Truman: Director Roberson asked about monitoring systems in place because of the vandalism at this school playground. Mr. Good said the damage could reach \$50,000 and we have a \$25,000 deductible, which we are pursuing through the courts. We installed security cameras and hope this will deter anything more. Superintendent Almanza noted that the playground was opened up last week with a lot of work from the maintenance staff. The cost for the cameras can run from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for all the exterior points and the software packages.

Other Facility Information: Additional notes were made available to the Board on a handout sheet from Mr. Good. The Jim Hester Board Room will be ready the third week in September and we can start meeting there in October.

WELLNESS POLICY IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

A special report was presented by Rachael Mullins and other administrators talked about the implementation process and plans in place for the newly adopted Wellness Policy. Ms. Mullins said there was a lot of discussion at the buildings, at the high school level, and on the policy committee about having reports on the implementation efforts. The Board had a draft of the administration regulations for the policy. Karen Farley had information about best practices, and Laurie Peyton-Crane could provide data on the school findings. There were a number of items addressed including physical activity, nutritional education, and food service and sales. We are encouraging an educational awareness and not being overly restrictive. North made a number of changes and may be a pilot program for wellness. We have a district-level support committee with Jill Cirivello helping to look at trends, successes, and replicating best practices. We have a district-level wellness committee that will continue to encourage the use of best practices for wellness. We are seeing wonderful results and they will be a resource for our food service staff. Karen Farley talked about the packet of information being provided to help with the discussion of a number of topics on health, best practices, research, feedback, LSIAC, blue-ribbon panels, focus with high schools, and a blend of other areas. People are learning about different opportunities for food service, what is in a healthy sack lunch, how to read a food label and other educational tools to use. We will have resources on the website and hard copies will be available through the principals or media specialists. There have been articles in the school newspapers and we are working with families and groups to build grass root support.

Rachael talked about information in handbooks and material for teachers. Laurie Peyton-Crane said the primary concern was with consistency and giving good answers to questions. She talked about a few examples of questions she has been able to handle and the solutions that came about because of sharing our nutritional best practices. Businesses are willing to work with us to help our students made healthy choices and are modifying their products. The students are already making changes in the beverages they are selecting and getting more plain water, diet pop and fruit juices. They are working on issues dealing with French fries at the high schools and on birthday treats for the elementary buildings. There have been requests for better structured breakfast food which is being explored.

The Board heard other conversations about nutrition, addressing health needs, different serving methods, ala carte options at the high schools, and nutritional information. Board members were pleased that the wellness policy is being implemented from an educational view and not being too prescriptive. Director Tupper asked about the number of programs that were being financed through candy sales and what will happen to them. Ms. Mullins said we are working with the accounting department on this matter. Mrs. Tangen explained there was money for the classroom instructional needs, but some times people want to do extra projects or purchase equipment that is in additional to what is needed in the class. We are addressing this at the high schools and we have to follow Iowa Code regarding fund raising for classroom instruction. The buildings are allocated budgets and the departments need to work with the principals to make sure their needs are addressed properly. There are teachers who "push the envelope" and want special enrichment materials that are outside the normal or basic curriculum. There are other ways to get funding for those extra items such as through the Great Minds Program, grants, or other outside sources.

Director De Fauw expressed concerns about the health assessment and making sure we respect the needs of privacy with our children. Director Tupper commented that the most important thing was to get the students to have more physical activity and he had questions about the high schools only having nine weeks of PE. Director Hanson talked about the block

schedule and early bird classes so we could provide a continuous stream of physical activity for students. She agreed doing 200 minutes in nine weeks was not the same as having physical activity on a daily basis. Director Roberson was appreciative of seeing the heavy emphasis on an educational plan dealing with health topics. There was additional discussion about businesses working with the schools to modify food items and to support our policy by being more creative to their approaches.

BOARD GOAL REVIEW

Board members had an opportunity to review the last draft of the Board Goal, objectives, and priorities. Individual board members commented on improvements in the format and wording. Additional suggestions were noted for consideration about the evaluation of board meetings. A recommendation to approve the Board Goal for 2006-07 emphasizing student achievement will come back to the table for final action on September 18, 2006. Other board members were "happy" about the wording and thought this looked fine.

BOARD REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brady Street Stadium Seating: Director Hanson asked about a seating change at Brady Street Stadium for the West High games and the memo sent out about this. Dr. O'Melia explained this was a preference for the school to be on the west side and they felt this was better overall.

Legislative Advocacy Update: Director Clewell mentioned Director Johanson was meeting with the Farm Bureau tonight. He talked about meeting with representatives from other school boards to discuss legislative advocacy action plans. They will look at activities such as holding a joint candidate forum or a news release together on legislative advocacy common efforts. There could be a presentation at the AEA superintendents' meeting or a lunch with school board members. The Legislative Advocacy Committee also met and talked about their vision and roles. Other school boards have talked about their relationships with the Chamber of Commerce in their cities and we might want to consider sharing time with DavenportOne regarding legislative advocacy for education and the importance of this for the children in our community. At some time we may want to have a panel to bring together state legislators to talk about goals for allowable growth, adequate and quality classroom experiences, and affordable preschool education. Director Clewell agreed with Director Roberson he preferred not being the leader for the Scott County School Board group, but to let someone else take the lead for planning. That was one reason we asked Margaret Buckton from IASB to host the meeting at the AEA for the school board representatives. Director Roberson said it will be important for the other school boards to have ownership in legislative advocacy also.

Newspaper Funding: Director Hanson asked about the newspaper funding and not being able to charge students. Mrs. Tangen said the discussion was taken out of context and she clarified how the papers were being supported with general funds. We cannot force any student to pay for the school newspaper but it is an optional fee which many people are willing to pay.

Patriot Day 2006: Director De Fauw read a proclamation by the President of the United States remembering the innocent lives taken by the attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The President directed flags be flown at half staff on Patriot Day and appropriate ceremonies, activities, and remembrances be done in observance of this time. (A copy of the proclamation will be included with the minutes of record.)

In Remembrance: Vice President Roberson mentioned sad news with the death of Frances Ann Hulsing, a retired teacher of the district. Mrs. Hulsing taught in the Davenport District for 30 years, retiring in 1994. Our condolence to her family and friends left to share her memory.

Vice President Roberson announced the School Board Election on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 and encouraged people to go out and vote.

It was announced the Organizational and Regular Board Meeting would be held on Monday, September 18 at Adams Elementary with a reception held prior to the meeting at 6:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Roberson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary