

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

October 5, 2009

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met for the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, October 5, 2009, pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa, in said District. Vice-President Clewell called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: Vice-President Richard Clewell, Directors: Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson. Superintendent Julio Almanza and other administrators were present.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Marsha Tangen reported on the preliminary School Budget Review Committee Request. One is for the excess cost of the ESL program and the second is for open enrollment students. The employee day-care fund will be an additional request. These requests will be more detailed and presented to the board at a later date.

Ms. Tangen also gave a preliminary report on construction bonds. She is getting further information on the benefit of construction bonds vs potential construction inflation costs. More information will be presented to the board at a later date. Director Johanson asked if it is possible to present the information in a mathematical equation format. She stated that would be possible. The timeframe for this information to the board will be in the near future.

Ms. Tangen reported on the preliminary budget preparation process. The budget was viewed from several viewpoints. Packet information has specific dollar amounts. Some of the budget is categorical which means it has a dedicated purpose. What is left is what we use to fund day-to-day operations. The non-categorical portion is broken into core services, district standard of services, and enhanced services. If we need to cut back the most likely area that will need to be reviewed are the enhanced services. We need to begin to look at all the services for probable budget reductions while maintaining student achievement.

OPERATIONS REPORT/FACILITIES

Scott Martin reported that the GIS Report should be coming to the Board for review soon.

Director Krumwiede asked about the Brady Street Stadium parking situation. Superintendent Almanza stated that the damage to the practice field was not acceptable due to parking. The new parking solution at Klemme Klassic Kars, is a long-term process that will be evaluated at the end of the season for future use. We are renting the space for events and provide security. They provide the lighting and the cleanup.

Director Johanson requested that more information be provided to the board concerning dehumidification when the board again looks at the air conditioning issue.

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE WEST

The most recent information provided to the board compared square footage issues and costs between building new and remodeling. Traffic flow was looked at for safety issues as was the impact to the neighborhood. The superintendent's recommendation is to use the DMA and Weiss Building for the new CVW facility. Cost was a factor, as well as the benefits to locating the facility at this particular site with the museum and Putnam. This provides an opportunity to combine the city and district in a beneficial way. Space for the Parks/Rec space is still not clear.

Director Roberson reported that on behalf of President Zamora, who is absent, that the board goes along with the Superintendent's recommendation. Director Krumwiede stated that a visit to the facility to see it as a possible relocation for CVW inspired him to believe this is a good choice. Working with the city is a huge benefit for both the city and the school district. There is still a concern about the Parks/Rec using space in the Weiss building.

Craig Malin stated that the school having the entire space in the Weiss Building is not an issue. He is confident that space can be found for the Parks/Rec offices that will not interfere with the daily school needs. The city is in full support of the CVW relocating to the DMA and Weiss Building.

Director De Fauw asked if the principal, Kathy Schulte, agrees with this idea. She wanted to again know where Parks/Rec would be located. Mr. Malin answered that there are a few possibilities that would not affect the school activities. This could include using the top floor of the Weiss Bldg, adding space onto the existing structure, or other options. Assuming the Parks/Rec are not taking up space she is generally supportive of the idea.

Director Roberson has concerns about others in the building, that the space wouldn't be fully designed for children, that being multi-level may be difficult, and his view is that new is more beneficial than remodeling.

Director Johanson generally supports the superintendent's recommendation. He asked how much of the planned remodeling budget would be used for required guidelines? We currently meet accreditation requirements and the proposed plans would include these guidelines: large motor areas, food service, restroom facilities, accessibility, etc. The Early Childhood Program is 100% categorical funded.

Vice-President Clewell is supportive of using the DMA and Weiss Building for the CVW. He asked about outdoor playgrounds. Superintendent Almanza reported that the playground facilities would be built according to state standards and would be fenced. Craig Malin also stated that the building would be ours. As we already do with some of our facilities, the facility may be rented outside of school time. The school would own the facility. During the transfer of ownership we would work through the scheduling issues and getting permission for use.

Dana Waterman, Chairman of the Putnam Museum Board, expressed support of this proposal. The title of the building would be in the hands of the school district. The architect, Bruce Harding, reported that there would have to be some changes to existing structures to maintain safety. Stairs, railings, elevators, and locations of these will all be looked at very carefully to ensure safety. They have already built safety measures into the plans that have been factored into cost estimates. He feels this is a good investment for the district. Upgrades to the utility systems have already been factored into the cost estimates.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DELIVERY SYSTEM PLAN

Packet information was reviewed by Betty Long. The AEA Director has made some changes already to the documents, those are shown in the reports. A revision of the Caseload Determination was distributed. Betty emphasized that Special Education is a service, not a place to be. The District must meet the state requirements when the delivery plan is developed.

Director Johanson asked who set the expectations (requirements) for goals. Ms. Long answered it is a District's Plan, that is then accountable to the state, and then accountable to the federal government requirements. If goals are not met, then a corrective action plan must be submitted and then follow up to show we are complying with the new actions. Are these goals supporting our position or just the states and federal government's positions? Ms. Long reported that our District does support these goals in our system already. Curriculum used to be modified for special education; they are now immersed in classrooms using the same curriculum with modified instruction. Director Roberson feels that although this may cost more, it is effective.

Director Krumwiede feels the district is moving in the right direction. He asked how do the roles of the classroom teachers and special education teachers change with this plan? Ms. Long stated the assessment process will change in identifying students. Special education will have a smaller role in this process. Placement criteria will also be changing so it is a statewide criteria. How will the change take place with teachers? The state has charged the AEA with training and there will be a statewide handbook. This will be in full effect by the beginning of next school year. The plan will be adaptive in nature based on the audit process.

This information will be on the agenda at the October 20 Local School Improvement Advisory Committee meeting to let them know about this process. Changing this plan is possible, but we wouldn't do it often with the state. It would then have to go through a formal process.

Director Johanson asked if this affects student achievement for all the students in a classroom? It broadens the range of capabilities in a classroom. It is building the capacity of special education and classroom teachers to deal with a wider range of students. It should enhance the achievement levels of all students with differentiated instruction.

OTHER INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Clewell looked into the Iowa City Curriculum Committee as discussed at the last meeting. He discovered this is a district committee not just a board committee.

Announcements were made about various activities at individual schools.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-President Clewell at 7:35PM.

Lynnette Carver, Board Secretary