

REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 12, 2004

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in an Exempt Session for Negotiations and in Regular session, pursuant to law and the rules of the Board, on Monday, January 12, 2004. The Exempt Session started at 6:00 PM in the Executive Conference Room. Board President Susan Low called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center.

On roll call the following members were present: President Susan Low, Directors Nikki DeFauw, Alan Guard, Larry Roberson, Tim Tupper, and Patt Zamora. Absent: Director Richard Clewell. Student board members present were: Lily Arbisser from Central High and Karla Bromwell from West High.

EXEMPT SESSION

6:00 PM EXEMPT SESSION: Negotiation Strategy (Closed)

Starting at 6:00 PM the Board went into a closed Exempt Session to conduct a strategy meeting of a public employer for employees covered by a bargaining agreement, as provided in the Code of Iowa, Chapter 20.17(3). The Exempt Session concluded at 6:50 PM. Board members took a brief recess and were seated at the board table for the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM.

7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

RECOGNITIONS

I. RECOGNITIONS

A. **The Children's Village @ Hoover * Kathy Erickson, Coordinator**

Mrs. Kathy Erickson explained how The Children's Village at Hoover opened a new addition housing three (3) new classrooms in November. Because of this, the school was able to accommodate more 3 and 4 year-old children into its program. One of the new parents, Lisa Britt spoke about her perspectives on the preschool. Her daughter, Karly told the Board she loved housekeeping, liked to cook, worked on computers, and played dress up. "I like my new school a lot and I am 3-years-old," quoted Karly to the Board. Mrs. Britt said this was their first year at Hoover and her fifteenth year as an educator. She found the school very inviting and the staff was friendly. After touring the school initially, she knew this was the right place for her daughter. Things were organized, items were displayed well for the children, and there was active participation by the preschoolers. Mrs. Britt said her daughter talks about her day at school and reflects on what she learned. They liked the assessment and portfolios used at the school. She thanked the Board for this opportunity to share her feelings about this successful environment being provided in our district for the early learners.

B. **WENDY'S HEISMANN AWARD (Jason Feipel) * Greg Meyer, West High Principal**

Greg Meyer explained the recognition given to **Jason Feipel**, a senior at West High School, for being one of the 12 finalists for the Wendy's Heismann Award. Mr. Meyer said Jason was honored at a surprise assembly on November 12 at West High School. There were 20 state finalists who received bronze metals for excelling in athletics, academics, and community service. Jason Feipel represented Iowa in the Upper U.S. Region, and Jason represented this region in the National awards ceremony December 12 in New

York City. This program began 10 years ago in a partnership between Wendy's International, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City. Students are honored based on their accomplishments in athletics, scholarship, and community service. Student athletes must be seniors, maintain at least a "B" grade point average, and participate in one of 32 officially sanctioned sports. They have to show an active role in community-oriented projects.

The Board learned that Mr. Jim Peel was the owner and operator of the Walcott Wendy's, and the Wendy's High School Heisman Award Program was sponsored by Wendy's International and NASSP. Each high school in the United States was allowed to nominate one female and one male who meet the criteria established. This past year there were 14,150 nominations submitted nationwide. From those nominations State Award Winners were selected and from this group of students 12 were named National Finalists. These six male and six female National Finalists participated in a special awards banquet in December. Jason Feipel was a finalist in this year's award ceremony.

It was truly an honor for this young man to be put on a national stage and appear on ESPN to show the nation the leadership, character, and abilities he possesses. After the introduction Jason said the experience was very humbling. What he enjoyed the most was getting to know all the other students who were involved. This has been a great honor for him and Jason expressed his appreciation to his coaches, teachers, and Mrs. Stark for helping him.

Dr. Blanche congratulated Jason and said how we love to talk about students like him. Dr. Blanche also recognized Jason's father for supporting his son and coming to the board meeting. Jason announced he had just accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy and hoped to be a navy fighter pilot. President Low attended the assembly at West High and said Jason was totally surprised by the event. She thanked him for his work.

C. **Bob Chapman, Community Education * Roger Fuerstenberg, Coordinator**

President Low said there was a conflict with this recognition tonight so it will be delayed until a future time.

D. **Buffalo Elementary * Jodi Hoogland, Principal**

Principal Jodi Hoogland recognized the following people for Buffalo School: Mrs. Stacey Houk, Art instructor; Students: Samantha, Goodrick, Jessica Griggs, Austin Davis, Brandon Rostenbach, Emma McCrery, and Mercedes Mendez

They explained how Buffalo Elementary had a celebration on December 2 with standing room only for approximately 250 people who attended. The audience consisted of students, parents, teachers, administrators, board members and public officials. The bright, new gym and cafeteria provided a perfect place for our visitors to enjoy a light supper of finger foods provided by a catering company and the staff at Buffalo. Visitors strolled the building to see the display of student art work. The orchestra entertained the crowd with music and fourth graders presented *Tom Sawyer's Saturday*. Since Buffalo School is a Reading First school, this was a perfect way for students to demonstrate their reading fluency. To quote the *Buffalo Shores Gazette*, "One only needed to observe the smiles on the faces and the lights in the eyes of the students participating to realize how great an impact the exposure to the fine arts has on these youngsters--on all of us." Buffalo School extended a big thank you to Mrs. Houk and her students.

Mrs. Houk shared additional information and gave details about the grants and the artists that helped to make this possible. She talked about the Quad City Arts grant, Mississippi River Mosaic, and the mural process used to create the watercolor design. Board members saw

photographs of the students hard at work creating the mural for Buffalo School. She talked about Grant Wood project and how the students planted trees. They are from a fine arts community and they have decided to only have new art hung at the school done by students and others in their community. The Board also heard about the Isabel Bloom grant that provided funding for a field trip to an art museum in Cedar Rapids. The students are working on oil pastel drawings of the Iowa landscape for the school. They all appreciated the value of the in-kind donations to all these projects also.

The Board heard about the performance of Tom Sawyer and with the help of the PTA and a \$200 grant through the Iowa Arts Council students were able to go to the IMAX Theatre to see the mystery of Egypt. Next year they plan to go to the Hoover Museum also. The staff also wished to thank the families for their support of the students.

Mrs. Hoogland also recognized the following people: Mrs. Ashley Ford: TAG instructor: Students: Chris Houser, Mercedes Mendez, Loren Reed, Emma McCrery and Brandon Rostenbach

The principal explained that on Thursday, December 4, the District TAG teachers held the **Battle of the Books** Contest at the Roosevelt Community Center. Needless to say, this year was a very special year because Buffalo School won first place in the District. Battle of the Books was organized by stations where students go to compete with students at one other school in answering questions about books they read. All students went to ten (10) different stations. Students read 8-10 books. Not only did our students answer the questions correctly, but they also demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship. Principal Jodi Hoogland received e-mails from teachers in other schools complimenting the Buffalo students on their behavior. The school's thank you was extended to Mrs. Ford and the students for their fine work. The Buffalo staff was very proud of you. Several student representatives were introduced and shared something special about their favorite book.

Dr. Blanche congratulated the staff and students. This was a true community event and he was very impressed with how the students worked together to come in first place out of 19 other schools. They really displayed teamwork and should be congratulated. President Low also commented the Board enjoyed hearing about all the things going on and being done by our student body.

COMMUNICATIONS

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thursday, January 15, 6:15 AM, Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast @ Sudlow Intermediate cafeteria; 6:45 PM program in gymnasium
- ~~B. Thursday, January 15, 7:00 PM, Kimberly Center Graduation Ceremony @ West High~~
Cancelled event
- C. Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – No School
- D. Monday, January 26, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- E. Tuesday, January 27, 9:45 to 2:30, Urban Education Network Lobby Day in Des Moines
- F. Wednesday, January 28, 4:00 PM, Policy Committee, Administration Service Center
- G. Monday, February 2, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- H. Monday, February 9, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- I. Monday, February 16, Presidents' Day, No School
- J. Monday, February 23, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center,

- Jim Hester Board Room
 K. Open Forum – No one asked to speak at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

III. CONSENT AGENDA

To conserve time and focus attention on non-routine matters on the agenda, the Board considered a number of items grouped together as a Consent Agenda, all items to be approved in one motion.

A. Reading of the Minutes of the Last Regular and Intervening Meetings

The minutes from the last regular board meeting and intervening meetings were presented for approval as follows: Regular Meeting December 8, 2003; Committee of the Whole January 5, 2004; and Special Call Meeting with Legislators January 7, 2004

B. Secretary/Treasurer's Financial Report

It was recommended the Secretary's monthly reports of receipts and disbursements of the various funds for the period ending November 30, 2003 be approved.

C. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Hayek, Eunice Language Arts Harrison Elementary	FMLA with pay Effective: October 7, 2003 – December 19, 2003
Hunter, Jennifer Health Williams Intermediate	FMLA with pay Effective: October 22, 2003 – December 18, 2003
Johnson, Kathleen LOA	Extension of Health Leave Effective: January 5, 2004 – June 3, 2004
Kellenberger, Heidi Preschool Hayes Elementary	FMLA with pay Effective: September 18, 2003 – November 12, 2003 FMLA without pay Effective: November 13, 2003 – December 9, 2003
Sissel, Charlotte Grade 3 Hayes Elementary	FMLA with pay Effective: October 15, 2003 – December 5, 2003

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTALS

Argo, William 8 th Grade Boys' Basketball, If Needed Smart Intermediate	7% \$1,689.00
Denney, Charles Swimming Intermediate Co-Ed Coach Central High	6% \$1,448.00

Rodl, Larry 8%
 Assistant 9th Grade Football Coach \$1,931.00
 North High

Salthun, Scott 7%
 Assistant Sophomore Baseball Coach \$1,689.00
 North High

Valant, Richard 12%
 Assistant Varsity Football Coach \$2,896.00
 Central High

Valant, Richard 10%
 Assistant Varsity Boys' Track Coach \$2,414.00
 Central High

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTALS

Argo, William 7%
 7th Grade Boys' Wrestling, If Needed \$1,689.00
 Smart Intermediate

Daniels, Lynn 7%
 7th Grade Girls' Basketball \$1,689.00
 Smart Intermediate

Hanna, Shawn 10%
 Head Sophomore Baseball Coach \$2,414.00
 North High

Johnson, Theresa 4%
 Intermediate Orchestra \$965.00
 Young Intermediate

Meaney, Brian 7%
 8th Grade Boys' Basketball, If Needed \$1,689.00
 Smart Intermediate

Medema, Steven 7%
 7th Grade Wrestling \$1,689.00
 Williams Intermediate

Parks, Fred 10%
 Assistant Boys' Varsity Track Coach \$2,414.00
 North High

Peterson, Christopher 7%
 8th Grade Boys' Basketball \$1,689.00
 Smart Intermediate

Porter, James 7%
 7th Grade Boys' Basketball; if needed \$1,689.00 prorated to \$844.50 for half
 Sudlow Intermediate of the season

Saldivar, Patricia Pom Pon Advisor North High	7% \$1,689.00 prorated to \$1,126.00 for the remaining season
Schlichting, Mark 8 th Grade Wrestling, if needed Smart Intermediate	7% \$1,689.00 prorated to \$844.50 for half of the season

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFIED

Hayek, Eunice Language Arts Harrison Elementary	Effective: January 5, 2004 Salary: \$50,809.00
Hunter, Jennifer Health Williams Intermediate	Effective: December 19, 2003 Salary: \$30,981.00
Kellenberger, Heidi Preschool Hayes Elementary	Effective: December 10, 2003 Salary: \$27,264.00 prorated to \$24,906.03 for 169 days of the 2003-04 school year
Sissel, Charlotte Grade 3 Hayes Elementary	Effective: December 8, 2003 Salary: \$40,895.00

APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Behr, Carole Special Education/BD Jackson Elementary	Effective: January 5, 2004 Salary: \$27,264.00 prorated to \$14,737.30 for the remaining 100 days of the 2003-04 school year.
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RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Bryant, Freida Food Service J. B. Young	Effective: December 20, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 2 mos.
Cronkleton, Emily Para Educator Washington Elementary	Effective: January 9, 2004 Yrs. of Service: 1 mo.
Dohrmann, Julie Food Service Eisenhower and Sudlow	Effective: December 20, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 1 yr., 10 mos.
Dunker, Ronald Lead Custodian Garfield Elementary	Effective: January 12, 2004 Yrs. of Service: 16 yrs., 5 mos.
Gooch, Benita Campus Security Supervisor West High School	Effective: January 10, 2004 Yrs. of Service: 9 yrs.

Muller, Michelle A. Para Educator Buchanan Elementary	Effective: December 10, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 3 days
Osborne, Kristin Para Educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: January 4, 2004 Yrs. of Service: 6 yrs., 4 mos.
Robertson, Linda Clerk II Clerical KCAE	Effective: December 20, 2003 Yrs. Of Service: 15 yrs., 4 mos.
Shumaker, Jeanie Para Educator McKinley Elementary	Effective: December 3, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 1 yr., 1 mo.
Warner, Ronald Lead Custodian Williams Intermediate	Effective: December 12, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 14 yrs., 9 mos.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Gooch, Ira Para Educator North High	Extended Leave of Absence Without Pay Effective: December 12, 2003 to Start of year 2004-05
Robinson, Kim Custodian Central High School	Extended Leave of Absence Without Pay Effective: December 9, 2003 to January 29, 2004

RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Larew, Lois Food Service Garfield Elementary	Effective: December 20, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 1 yr., 2 mos.
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APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Aardahl, Kimberly Para Educator McKinley Elementary	Effective: December 10, 2003 Salary: \$6.80 Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Anderson, Theresa Para Educator KCAE	Effective: December 10, 2003 Salary: \$6.80 Hours: 6.0 hrs/day
Cole, Karen Food Service Jefferson Elementary	Effective: December 17, 2003 Salary: \$7.60 Hours: 6.25 hrs/day
Essary, Wendy Para Educator Jackson Elementary	Effective: December 9, 2003 Salary: \$6.80 Hours: 3.0 hrs/day

Lambert, Corey Para Educator Eisenhower Elementary	Effective: January 5, 2004 Salary: \$11.25 Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Muller, Michelle A. Para Educator Buchanan Elementary	Effective: December 8, 2003 Salary: \$6.80 Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Riehl, Rebecca Para Educator Buchanan Elementary	Effective: December 8, 2003 Salary: \$6.80 Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Taylor, Amber Para Educator Children's Village at Hoover	Effective: December 8, 2003 Salary: \$10.25 Hours: 7.45 hrs/day
Tunis, Deborah Para Educator Walcott	Effective: December 16, 2003 Salary: \$6.80 Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

* Not a Teacher ** Guest Teacher *** Not a Replacement

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Roberson, Zamora, DeFauw, Guard, Tupper, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The administration recommended a resolution for approval of the bills.

MOTION: Director Guard 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 two voided checks, #145684 in the amount of \$63,798 and #145856 in the amount of \$44,877.96. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Guard, Zamora, DeFauw, Roberson, Tupper, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Final Plans & Specifications for Harrison Elementary School/Public Hearing

Principal Scott McKissick thanked the Board and Dr. Blanche on behalf of the families at Harrison for considering the remodeling work at their school. He also expressed appreciation to the voters in our community for having the local option sales tax that could support the construction and improvements. This is an opportunity for students and families to take advantage of becoming life-long learners.

They had significant input from the public on this project and thanked people for their time and involvement. Mr. Greg Larrison, architect for the project, was introduced. He presented the final plans and specifications for construction work being recommended at Harrison Elementary School. Preliminary design plans were reviewed by the Board at the Committee of the Whole on January 5, 2004 and additional work and recommendations were worked into the final plans.

The Board looked at the new overall site and saw pictures of the original site which was very confining. There will be increased parking and drop off spots. The pickup area will be safer and there will be less congestion. There were drawings of the existing site and proposed site changes in the parking areas, bus area, new face on the front of the building, and other improvements. They saw existing floor plans and heard about expansion of the rooms to meet recommended guidelines. There were safety concerns with the office area for lack of management, and those problems have been addressed.

The kitchen had been designed for preparation work, but that was no longer needed. The new floor plan was shown and the reconfigured areas highlighted including extra classrooms, adding technology to the rooms, and having more flexibility. A change from the original plans was made with the kitchen and now there would be more storage area for other parts of the building. They heard about problems with the existing gym and lunch area, and adding a multipurpose room that will free up the gym for PE classes. We are doing a smaller stage and auditorium area for some activities. The walls can be opened in the multipurpose room so there will be additional seating and it adds to the flexibility of this room. There will be portable risers for events.

The main entry door will be locked and people will be buzzed into the building once school starts. This will be a safety feature and the staff will have better control over who enters the building. The new entry has an open area with glass block and common areas. The Board learned about the three classrooms in the media center and how the old office will be made into two classrooms. The boiler remains as it presently exists. The cost of the total project will be \$2,662,000 and there will be audio enhancements in the classrooms. Mr. Good explained the audio enhancements help in the rooms because not all children hear the same in all parts of a classroom. This provides wireless access for the teacher so he/she can speak in lower tones and the words are heard evenly.

Director Zamora asked about the costs. Mr. Larrison said they had looked at a second floor as an option, but that was over \$4 million to construct. Mr. Good said through the help of Rachael Mullins and Donna Cooper, they secured \$400,000 in state construction grants to help decrease our cost obligations on these projects.

Public Hearing

The Board conducted a public hearing for community input on the construction plans at Harrison Elementary School.

Two people came forward to show support of the remodeling and construction at Harrison Elementary. (1) Glenn Leach, 4705 Ripley, was pleased with information received about the work. (2) Belinda Holbrook, 2734 E. 53rd Street Court, was excited about improvements and safety features with the new media center. When there were no more comments, President Low declared the public hearing closed.

Action on Final Plans and Specifications

Following the presentation, the Board was asked to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the final plans and specifications for the remodeling work at Harrison Elementary School.

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board accept the final plans and specifications for improvements at Harrison Elementary School as presented (with the addition of the office door added to the drawing.) Director Roberson seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Zamora, Roberson, DeFauw, Guard, Tupper, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Final Plans and Specifications for J. B. Young Intermediate/Public Hearing

Principal Clancy Simmons expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to present the plans for remodeling at J. B. Young. He also thanked the voters in our community for their continued support through the local option sales tax money. This work will help bring a face lift to the school, and it will dispel the notion concerning the fate of J. B. Young. This will be a viable building and we will bring up student achievement. The Board and District has made a commitment to our school and this will help make changes in the attitudes of students. Mr. Simmons talked about progress on standardized tests and learning skills. The staff and students are developing their focus. Mr. Simmons gave special thanks to several members of his staff for their dedication and hard work in planning.

Mark Miller, architect for this project, went through the plans and specifications for work being done at J. B. Young. He talked about the site plan, parking lot constrains, new entry for the building on Main Street, and other parking changes being proposed. Several issues were addressed in the final plan including safety, new entry to the building, enhancing the look around the building for the central city corridor. They are changing the appearance of the building with a new look and there will be new fencing. The Board looked at the plans for the first floor, new main entry, expansion of the gym with bleachers, and a larger floor area. There will be renovation of the keyboard room and cafeteria area for a better image. Restroom changes will be made to meet ADA requirements.

The second floor plans showed modular technology classrooms like out at Walcott, a renovated art room, six-grade science rooms with lab aspects, a new media center with computer labs, plus renovation to the music center. The Board learned a new elevator was added to the building. The third floor will have improvements in the science labs for 28 stations and a multipurpose room for meetings. The Board saw drawings of the changes in the existing gym and additional seating with bleachers. The new entrance will have the same color brick as the present building, and areas will be enlarged. There was information about Locust Street, illuminated signs, and new light fixtures on the street scope. The cost of the renovations would be about \$6,482,400. The fencing will be a chain link fence. Preliminary design plans had been reviewed by the Board at the Committee of the Whole on January 5, 2004 and the suggestions made had been incorporated into the final plans and specifications.

Public Hearing

The Board conducted a public hearing for community input on the construction plans at J. B. Young Intermediate School.

Four people spoke in support of the remodeling and construction at J. B. Young: (1) Pam Cole (parent) spoke in support of the building improvements and was impressed with the positive influence the school had on her children. (2) Mr. Tom Gray (computer keyboard teacher) was delighted to see the students at J. B. having similar improvements done that were provided at other schools. (3) Isabella Hamby (6th grade student) liked the curb appeal and how the building would look. It will be easier for students to get around to classes. It will feel more at home instead of how it is now. (4) Jalen America (6th grade student) looked forward to the new improvements. His little sister will be going here and it will seem like a better school. It will have a better gym and classes. When there were no more comments, President Low declared the public hearing closed.

Action on Final Plans and Specifications

Following the presentation, the Board was asked to accept the administration's recommendation to approve the final plans and specifications for the remodeling work at J. B. Young Intermediate School.

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation for the final plans and specifications for the remodeling work at J. B. Young Intermediate School. Director DeFauw seconded the motion.

Director Guard wanted the public to understand the Board had serious discussions about the future of J. B. Young last year. This Board was courageous and made a commitment to the community by investing in the school. Director Guard told how he personally made a commitment with his family and his daughter will be attending J. B. Young. He felt this was a commitment to the entire community. Director Guard also thanked the staff, students, and parents for their involvement. He was looking forward to a really exciting change at this school. Director Roberson said he was proud to be part of the Board and truly appreciated the input from parents and the staff in this process. He felt strongly about students going to their neighborhood school. Director Zamora thanked the adults and young people who spoke at the public hearings tonight sharing their thoughts about these projects.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Guard, DeFauw, Roberson, Tupper, Zamora, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Board Policy Revisions

The Policy Committee recommended revisions in policies discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 5, 2004.

Board Policy 302.07—Leases and Rentals of Property

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board approve the changes to Board Policy 302.07—Leases and Rentals of Property. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Guard, Roberson, DeFauw, Tupper, Zamora, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 304.05--Publication of Salaries

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee for revisions in Board Policy 304.05—Publication of Salaries. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Zamora, Tupper, DeFauw, Guard, Roberson, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Local School Improvement Advisory Committee

The Board received an update from Dr. Blanche on the on-line application process being used for LSIAC membership. Dr. Blanche said an application had been placed on our website to give people an opportunity to apply for the LSIAC. It was very well done and we will be following up with a message to every household about applying. There will be other reminders about this opportunity, and articles in the newspaper. We have 24 individuals from the existing group that want to serve again. Some people have called in stating an interest. We will close the application process on January 23 and have information in Board packets before the next meeting. President Low asked about having a few members of the Board participate on the committee. We allowed two board members in the past to be involved and they can report back to us. Director Guard and Director Tupper were interested in serving on the committee. Director DeFauw thought she might like to observe at some of the meetings, to gain a sense of where the committee was going. President Low reminded board members that if four board members were at these meetings, we would need an Official Notification and it would be considered a board meeting.

Director DeFauw also wondered if parents had been sent information home from the schools about applying. Dr. Blanche said that a mass distribution was not done, and not every school had a weekly newsletter. But he sent out a phone message that was routed to families in the district who had children in our schools. There had been several articles in the paper and the LSIAC members had been discussed at board meetings several times. Director DeFauw wondered about the status of the auto-dial message. Dr. Blanche said he sent it out Thursday and it takes a few days to complete. Rachael Mullins added that applications were also available in the buildings for people if they don't want to apply on-line. Director DeFauw had concerns that only three on-line applications had come through and reflected a low interest in serving. Ms. Mullins said the auto-dial message had run throughout the weekend and we can look for other ways to inform the public. They will also be informing people at a DavenportOne meeting. Director Guard asked about the deadline change which was originally January 28th. It was explained the date was moved to Friday, January 23 in order to have the board members consider the applications and vote on the membership list on January 26 if at all possible. Director Guard urged board members to contact people personally and do some recruiting. Ms. Mullins said they were also presenting information to the PTA Council on January 20. Student board member Karla Bromwell suggested that the high schools be notified and select the name of some student to serve on this committee. Dr. Blanche agreed this could be done.

B. Committee of the Whole Philosophy

President Low started the conversation about the philosophy and purpose of having the Committee of the Whole meetings. She said in the past couple of years, the Board had some of its Committee of the Whole meetings in various buildings. This gave board members an opportunity to visit renovated sites and have more community members present at the meetings. This year we haven't done this due to several reasons and President Low had asked to have the meetings at the Administration Service Center because of her health. There have been some requests from board members to resume having the meetings in our other buildings. Another thing brought up was the Committee of the Whole meetings provided an opportunity to have concentrated time to discuss issues. President Low asked if we should return to using ad hoc committees where two board members were assigned and then report back to the full board at regular meetings. A number of years ago we dissolved all the ad hoc committees, except the Policy Committee, and we had other matters brought up to the full board at the Committee of the Whole. That gave everyone a higher degree of concentrated time for discussion. We now get financial reports from Mrs. Tangen, facility reports from Mr. Good, and administrators present reports to Board for informational purposes. There were suggestions we have community input at the Committee of the Whole, but there were concerns if this happens, we will have less time to take care of scheduled business. We encourage people now to call us, write letters, or come to the Open Forum at the two Regular Meetings.

Director Guard agreed the Committee of the Whole meeting should remain in its current format. It was a good working meeting, and the Board gets overviews of district business. It was a useful meeting and informative for the board members. His concern was not with the community having input at the meetings, but with having community members attending the meetings. Director Guard talked about having an exchange during open forum, but there were restrictions about having board members respond. He was not sure that a response to the open forum questions was really out of line. Director Guard offered some ideas about accommodating the public and maybe having a time at 5:15 for a structured report on something of importance to the Board and then have input from the public until 6:00 PM. We could call it a town-hall meeting and then have the Committee of the Whole following. The public could hear about issues such as boundaries or the work of the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee. They could learn about the schools' Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIP) or No Child Left Behind. People would be informed ahead of time regarding the topic of the report and they would want to come to learn about these important issues. Staff members and the board members could be there but it would be informal and no action taken. Director Guard felt people didn't attend the board meetings because they find them scary and don't feel they can talk. He didn't want to change the structure, but he wanted to create new venues for community input. We could get immediate feedback on issues and hear their questions.

Director Zamora appreciated a good part of Director Guard's ideas. However, she wanted the Committee of the Whole meetings the same way as they are now. It was more efficient than having smaller committees and everyone stayed informed. She would like to move out into the community for some meetings. If legal council says we are not to respond to the Open Forum questions, we should check this out. She likes having community input, but the time should be limited and non-confrontational. We want people's ideas, but not the same ones over and over again. No matter what we do, we rarely have members of the community show up unless it is an issue of particular interest or having an impact on them. Director Zamora recommended retaining the Committee of the Whole structure, having limited community input, and being very careful about responding to questions that might come up. Sometimes we need time to investigate the questions first and then we can provide them with answers instead of responding immediately. She was not sure that asking our administrators to do added presentations before the Committee of the Whole was a good use of their time or energy.

Director Tupper responded that the more we can get out in the community and the more we see parents, students, and staff, the better we will be. The actual mechanism can be through meetings at various buildings, keeping them more informal, and having a couple board members at a time go out to talk with people in buildings. One of his concerns was how to get parents to early meetings when many work until 5:00 PM. We could try to get feedback on what meeting times are good for parents and reach out to meet their needs.

Director Roberson agreed we should go to different buildings and see the public. If there would be a request from the community on an issue, then we should address that, but there needs to be structure. The parents are busy and there are homework issues to deal with during the week. If a group at a school makes a request for a meeting with board members, then we should accommodate them. Director DeFauw would like to see the Committee of the Whole structure remain as it exists. There were benefits to visiting different sites and hosting the meetings at buildings. We don't have a perfect plan, but maybe could work with the PTA and time meetings around their schedules. Maybe a PTA meeting could follow our Committee of the Whole. That was somewhat the structure at McKinley in the fall when a few of us attended meetings. If we spin it right, we could get an audience there on a topic of interest to them. We should at least give it a shot.

Director Zamora appreciated going to different sites and it thought it made the meetings more real. However, she liked scheduling board meetings on Monday night and it helped clear up her calendar for the month. Director Guard said the community meetings don't have to be tied to the Committee of the Whole and could be on off-nights to address specific concerns. Director Zamora said at the Committee of the Whole we have certain business we have to get done which takes time. Director Guard didn't feel one extra meeting a month for the community was a problem but it showed how much we appreciated families and their concerns. Director Zamora said she wished she could believe by having a community meeting, public input would really happen. President Low will get together some information and also get feedback from Director Clewell about his suggestions for the meetings.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Blanche did not have anything further to report at this time.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Director Guard reported on the IASB ABLE training session held on January 8 at Central High. There was an excellent turnout with 34 people there. The session was very enlightening and they learned about professional development. We were well represented and the more we can do to showcase our buildings, the better. People were very interested in seeing Central High and how the local option sales tax money was being spent. Director Roberson added the guest thought it was strange to have talking garbage cans in the cafeteria but liked the concept.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board adjourn. Director Zamora seconded the motion. By consensus all board members agreed.

President Low declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary