

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
JANUARY 12, 2009**

The Board of the Davenport Community School District met for the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, January 12, 2009, pursuant to law. The meeting was in the Jim Hester Board Room at the Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Zamora called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell, Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Other people present were Superintendent Julio Almanza and administrators from the District. Student board member, Nicole Woodson, arrived around 6:15 PM for the committee meeting.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Procedures for Construction Work and Public Hearings: CFO, Marsha Tangen, updated the Board on procedures being used for public hearings for the construction projects. She recalled talking with Bill Good previously and discussed how the code had changed. Scott Martin was informed about the new procedures which needed to be followed. 1) Approve the architect for major work; 2) present final plans and specifications; 3) hold a public hearing; 4) ask for approval of the recommendation; 5) plans out for bid; and 6) recommendation made for the award of contract. We are no longer required to have a public hearing at the time of the bid recommendation. Anyone who wants to speak to the bid is able to talk during the open forum earlier in the meeting agenda.

Financial Report for October/November: Mrs. Tangen asked if the Board had any questions on the reports presented for October and November. At the February Committee of the Whole meeting, they will discuss across-the-board budget increases from the State and the impact on the district. Mrs. Tangen attended an IASB audio conference and is still learning more information about the budget implications for next year. President Zamora commented that she was glad to see we have a fund balance at this time especially with the potential cuts from the State in our allocations. Director Johanson asked about the safety of our investments and Mrs. Tangen explained the regulations in place for school district investments. ISJET and ISCAP provide us with information on investments and she can share additional comments with the Board.

OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

Long Range Planning Priorities: Mr. Scott Martin provided packets of information to the board members showing essential functions for elementary, intermediate, and high school buildings. He included what should be in classrooms, technology requirements, lighting, and furniture items. The breakdown included teacher work space, acoustics, and idea learning environment data. Director Tupper had questions about whether current projects approved met these guidelines. There was discussion about previous projects, dollars spent, and justification. Superintendent Almanza talked about looking at the next list of priorities for spending the local option sales tax dollars and using these guidelines. Hopefully the lists will help board members in their decision making process as they look at essential functions.

President Zamora noted with the first ten years of local option sales tax money, the Board's emphasis was on safety and technology improvements. Mr. Martin said they are still working on securing entrances to buildings and traffic safety. Vice President Roberson asked about the principals and staff having opportunities to submit ideas and if the students were part of the input process. There was discussion about work at Harrison, safety needs, expansion at schools, gross square footage needed, and code requirements. There were questions about work needed with actual justification rather than doing something because of a good sales pitch from companies. Director Johanson would like to know what things are required by law and what things would just be nice additions to the buildings. Director De Fauw had questions about square footage and meeting criteria. Mr. Martin talked about sharing information with principals and visiting buildings to make comparisons. Mr. Almanza talked about looking at capacity and

instructional space being used. Next the Board talked about climate control and air quality in buildings. They will need to come up with a district philosophy on these matters and know what data shows the best environment for the students to learn and teachers to teach. They talked about temperatures of the classroom, filtration, comfort, and air quality. Mr. Almanza noted that some of these items can't be compared because the building structures vary. They are looking at essential items to help students learn and they will bring back recommendations to the Board.

Mr. Martin talked about resources available to help them with making recommendations for changes. There are guidelines and standards which the District uses. Director Clewell and Krumwiede felt the information was very helpful. Director Krumwiede would still like to know about things required as part of the recommendations. Mr. Martin talked about presentations planned at the high schools to get community input into the priorities at buildings. They will tell people about what has been accomplished and give examples of how the money was spent for improving buildings. They will have a process where citizens can give input into further planning. They will continue to look at safety and security, environment, and technology as priorities. Mr. Almanza said they will have a gap analysis on the buildings and then will bring recommendations to the Board. Director Tupper felt it was premature to address these ideas with the public before the Board has looked at the data first. Director De Fauw said we ask people to tell us what they value and if we get an analysis that contradicts what the Board thinks we need, then we need to look at the opinion of the community. She felt the Board makes better decisions when they have engaged the public.

President Zamora asked about the next Davenport Promise meeting and that might have an impact on the needs of our district. Mr. Almanza said they will be meeting and getting information out to the citizens so they will be informed before the March 3 vote.

#### SPECIAL REPORTS

Preliminary Calendar Options: Mrs. Ethel Reynolds asked the Board for their direction in setting the calendar. They outlined the community survey and this helped the administration to develop some frameworks. The Board was shown calendars under different scenarios and it was explained the calendar schedule effects negotiations. The packet talked about criteria, advantages, and challenges for possible calendars with early start dates. The administrative recommendation was to work toward a unified calendar (other than Villages and Jefferson/Edison) that was similar to examples 1-3. If not possible, then we need one calendar similar to the traditional one we have now. (A copy of the update will be included with the minutes of record.) Board members talked about the calendars and building temperatures whether they start early in August or go later in June. They also looked at starting early and finishing the first semester prior to winter break. There would still need to be the required number of days (180 days or our equivalent 178 longer days). They talked about professional development and how this fits into the schedule. The Board asked if there was actual data showing extra professional development helps with student achievement. Mrs. Reynolds said the research is there about staff development and there was an emphasis at the State level.

The Board asked Nicole to give her opinion on the schedule and she said there was a preference to end the semester before winter break because it was difficult to come back for a few days and take tests after the days off from school. She also felt the students get sloppy with their study habits over the break and don't have the right attitude when they return in January to take finals. Mrs. Reynolds again went over the possible scenarios for calendars and how each one would work. She shared their final recommendation for the unified calendar. Director Johanson had questions about air quality in buildings and Vice President Roberson commented he didn't believe one calendar worked for everyone. He hears all sorts of opinions on what calendar is the best and felt people needed to have a choice. He also wants more information on what calendar has the best advantage for student achievement to be realized. We may have selfish reasons for wanting air conditioning for all our buildings, but if that helps kids achieve, we need to move forward and find out the costs. We also need to find out what the teachers and parents want for their schools.

Director Clewell agreed we need to look at the issue of student achievement and find out if the calendar has a correlation to improved performance by students. He talked about the dignity of the staff and comfort levels for the children in non-air conditioned buildings. Most of our homes are air conditioned and was it

practical to expect the same people to learn without air conditioning in their schools? He felt we needed to keep our traditional calendar until all our buildings were air conditioned. He would like an earlier start date, but without air conditioning, it wasn't practical. There was additional talk about balanced and traditional calendars and meeting the needs of the community. Director Krumwiede asked how we could have an early start time without air conditioning in all our schools. We need to deal with the matter of air conditioning before changing the common calendar. Director De Fauw appreciated having a unified calendar and felt people want it, but some of them wanted a traditional calendar and others wanted the balanced calendar for all. Mrs. McClurg addressed additional questions about the full balanced calendar and time frames. They talked about having a shorter break for balanced calendars in the fall but it still didn't work out just right to finish by a certain time.

Superintendent Almanza asked for guidance from the Board in setting up the calendar for next year. Director Tupper felt the administration wasn't hearing the Board. The balanced calendar schools have an investment in their schedule and have air conditioning. Until we resolve the question about having air conditioning in all the buildings, we will need to continue with two calendars. The superintendent said the community has indicated they wanted a common calendar and we have to look at equity what is conducive to learning. Director De Fauw felt we needed two calendars for next year and the balanced calendar needed to remain in place. She supported a unified calendar in the long term but didn't want to give up the balanced calendar in the interest of having only one calendar. Director Tupper supported a unified calendar but we are not ready now. President Zamora felt there was no data showing the balanced calendar was better for student achievement and having two calendars was difficult. She also hasn't gotten anything showing middle schools are making a difference in achievement or whether balanced calendar are better.

Equity in Class Offerings: Dr. Leslie O'Melia presented information on equity in class offerings at the comprehensive high schools. The report talked about district-wide programs, AP classes and other classes not available at all schools. She went through problem areas and talked about additional costs to provide courses at all the high schools. She shared information about having certified teachers available and enrollment in courses. The Board received copies of the high school course guide so they could see the classes being offered. Mrs. Tangen added to have all the courses offered at each high school could add about \$750,000 to the budget for staff. Dr. O'Melia also noted that not all the courses had adequate enrollment to hold a class in one building. Director De Fauw was glad to hear about the AP limitations and knowing the administration was working on some alternatives. She was hopeful there was a solution to accommodate the students. Director Krumwiede asked about the offerings at Kimberly Center. Dr. O'Melia said some students go from the Kimberly Center to other schools for classes like ROTC or vocational courses. Principal Bosco was included in the discussions and has input into the course work offered. There are also on-line classes for students at the Kimberly Center.

Director Clewell appreciated the report and noted the vision says our district wants to exceed expectations and go beyond brick and mortar. Dr. O'Melia said she might be able to come up with some statistics showing trends for AP course work and completion rates. The administration needs to know about the AP courses because that has an affect on staffing based on requests by students. If we have staff assigned and then the enrollment is down, it has an impact on the budget. Director Tupper would like more data on the success rates for students taking college credit courses. Dr. O'Melia said they would like to have a baseline available. Director Johanson had questions about the block schedule and opportunities for students to take AP classes. Dr. O'Melia felt there were significant numbers of classes for students and she didn't think the block schedule had a negative impact. Director De Fauw made comments about the term courses and how students some times don't take their tests until the fourth term which can affect scores.

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Zamora adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM. Board members took a brief recess before the start of the Regular Meeting at 7:05 PM.

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Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary