

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 15, 2004

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met on March 15, 2004, in pursuant to law and the rules of said Board. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room at the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said district. President Susan Low called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Susan Low; Directors Richard Clewell, Nikki DeFauw, Alan Guard, Larry Roberson, Timothy Tupper, and Patt Zamora. Student board members Micah Melton (West High) and Byron Stokes (North High) were present for the meeting.

RECOGNITIONS

I. RECOGNITIONS

A. ADAMS ELEMENTARY * *Principal Mary McMeekin*

Principal Mary McMeekin told the Board that this was the second year of the Adams and St. Ambrose Education Department connection. **Belinda Willett**, Reading Specialist and **Deanna Stoube**, Assistant Professor of Reading have worked together to provide an after-school reading clinic with the Reading Practicum students at St. Ambrose. To date, 49 students from 1st through 5th Grades have been tutored for one semester, twice a week, for 30 minutes in a one-to-one setting. This partnership has benefited both our elementary students and the college students. Reading skills have improved, the elementary students have built relationships with their tutors, and parents are pleased. Mrs. McMeekin introduced teacher **Belinda Willett** and parent **Cheryl Kroeger**. Teacher **Deanna Stoube** was unable to be at the meeting but was recognized. Ms. Willett and Ms. Kroeger shared their ideas and perceptions with the Board. Ms. Willett said it was wonderful to have this partnership and Adams was very fortunate to have this type of program. They are able to reach students who can benefit from this tutoring and it gives the college students experience that expands their knowledge. These college students are positive role models for the young students. Mrs. Kroeger talked about her child's success because of the tutoring sessions. The student was assessed and they could see how much she progressed in reading and comprehension through the program. She thanked the Board for helping these children become successful learners at an early age.

B. JACKSON ELEMENTARY * *Principal Jim O'Brien*

Principal Jim O'Brien talked about the art display currently in the Jim Hester Board Room which was the accomplishment of the **fourth grade students** at Jackson School under the direction of teacher **Sherry Weede**. This collaborative acrylic on metal artwork was inspired by a story entitled "Martin's Big Words." Martin Luther King spread his message of equality and his love for all mankind. The 4th grade students listened to his words and worked cooperatively to create the pieces of art. The students presented Mr. O'Brien with a framed art work in honor of his support.

The second recognition was for students who participated in "**Invent, Iowa.**" The event was opened up to all of the Jackson fourth and fifth graders. Twelve students persevered through the difficult process of inventing and presenting their inventions in the district-wide Invention Convention on January 22. Two of these inventors, **Skye Jimenez** and **Jenna Dibbern** shared their invention, *Hook Helper*. The Board saw a short commercial video the students produced to market their invention. The students were praised for their creativity and marketing skills.

Mrs. Englund introduced members of the Student Council at Jackson School, **Chassidy Allen, Alicia Leal, Kayla White, and Amber Yaddof**. Under the direction of teachers **Anne Flynn, Una Englund, and Ed Reagan**, these students were involved in a number of different activities this year. The students shared stories about some of the projects they held such as a food drive collection, holiday meal for 140, hosting a meeting for *Quad City Times* reporters, supporting troops in Iraq through letter writing, celebrating Dr. Suess' birthday, and tutoring second grade students. These are busy students who help other students and the community. President Low thanked the students, principal, teachers, and families for all their efforts.

C. **MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY * *Principal Lisa Baxter***

Principal Lisa Baxter was proud to recognize students and staff at McKinley. They started with a slide show, prepared by kindergarten teacher, **Dan Dickens** and media specialist, **Rosanne Krubsack**. This show will be viewed at Kindergarten Round Up as a way of welcoming new families to "Life at McKinley". They are working hard to make "Round Up" a warm and inviting experience for parents and children. Plans include refreshments, classroom visits, gift packs for the children, and an emphasis on building strong relationships with our stakeholders. As they say, "You only have one chance to make a first impression." Everyone at the school wants the first impression of McKinley to be "world class!"

Board members were entertained by fifth graders **Sally Stringham, Allyson Lowe, Beth Mueller, Ruth Mueller, and Chelsea Wagschal**. These students and teacher, **Terry Kautz**, performed part of a skit presented at McKinley's Sixth Annual Family Reading Night. This project was designed to promote more reading at home and school. This year's theme was tied in to the "Grand Excursion". Students had been challenged to read 14,000 books in five weeks. Each week our Paddlewheeler traveled down the Mississippi (via a display board) documenting our progress at various ports along the way. The challenge culminated on February 26 when families came to watch a program, "Adventures of Tom McNificat" and to read with their children. McKinley students read over 17,000 books during this initiative. President Low congratulated the students on their initiative and creative endeavors.

Director Guard also applauded the parents for bringing the students to the board meeting to share their experiences. We are able to see how learning can be fun and the Board loves to hear about these positive methods being used to help students develop and improve their skills.

COMMUNICATIONS

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Tuesday, March 16, 6:00 PM, (LSIAC) Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, at Wilson Elementary School, 2002 North Clark, IMC/Library
- B. Spring Break March 22 through March 26, 2004
- C. Wednesday, March 24, 4:00 PM, Policy Committee, Kimberly Center Community Room
- D. Monday, April 5, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, Kimberly Center, IMC
- E. Tuesday, April 6, Kindergarten Roundup Day
- F. Monday, April 12, Holiday – No School
- G. Tuesday, April 13, 7:00 PM, Public Hearing on Budget Amendment for 2003-2004 and Budget Estimate for 2004-05; and the Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- H. Monday, April 26, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- I. Sunday, May 2, 1-2:30 PM, Open House for District Service Awards, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- J. Monday, May 3, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, McKinley Elementary, IMC

K. Open Forum for Community Input

1. Lorelei Pfautz, 2853 Forest Road, Davenport, spoke in support of the Jefferson Edison School and renewing the contract with Edison. Mrs. Pfautz shared stories of the business partnerships and seeing the changes happening at Jefferson School. There have been such wonderful improvements in culture, climate, and character during these past six years. It was a huge undertaking to embark on the partnership with Edison. There is a big emphasis on accountability and knowing how things work. The quality of the curriculum is outstanding, and the climate at the building has improved. The neighborhood is much more positive and involved with the school also. It is the place to live and go to school. The students have a remarkable character building emphasis on honesty, responsibility, caring, and integrity. On behalf of the 15 business partners, we really feel the Board made the right choice when deciding to work with Edison. We are all looking forward to a renewal of the contract.
2. Brian Burton, 11555 61st Avenue – President Low said Brian had requested time to speak during Open Forum, but he had to leave for work. He submitted a letter which was read by President Low. Brian is a senior at Central High and Editor in Chief of the *Blackhawk*. His concerns were about hiring new administrators in the District and the need for commitment to their work. “What can be done to stop the revolving door of administrative change?” Mr. Burton expressed concerns with hiring outside people who don’t understand the District’s heritage, tradition, and culture. He suggested looking at dedicated employees within the district who have shown commitment. “It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to know that if you have ties to a community, it is more difficult to leave.” He also suggested asking the community to construct a draft of dedicated people within the district to fill vacancies.

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 Board Meeting March 8, 2004 and Special Call Meeting—Search Team Interviews March 9 and 10, 2004.

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Bilkey, Barry	Effective: March 31, 2004
Special Education/MultiCat/SCI	Years of Service: 2 yrs 6 mos
West High	

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Comstock, Sara	FMLA Leave of Absence with pay
Kindergarten	Effective: February 9, 2004 – April 2, 2004
Buffalo Elementary	

Johnson, Mauri	Leave of Absence without pay
Social Studies, Grade 6	Effective: March 29, 2004 – end of 2003-2004
Wood Intermediate	school year

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTALS

Estes, Turner \$6,034.00
 Interim Head Girls' Basketball Coach 25%
 West High

Underwood, Bryan \$1,931.00
 Head Freshman Girls' 8%
 Basketball Coach
 West High

SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Ehrecke, Carissa \$1,689.00
 7th Grade Girls Basketball, 2nd Team 7%
 Wood Intermediate

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SCHOOL	STEP	FROM	TO	SALARY
Kundel	Mary Ann	Truman	13	M.S.	M.S.+15	\$49,570.00

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFIED

Buttleman Malcolm, Deborah Effective: February 2, 2004
 Language Arts Salary: \$47,092.00
 Central High

APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Dennison, Craig Degree: M.A. – Step 1
 Spanish Effective: March 10, 2004
 Smart Intermediate Salary: \$28,503.00 prorated to \$8,627.94 for the
 Remaining 56 days of the 2003-2004 school year

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Farnum, Sarah Effective: February 27, 2004
 Para Educator Years of Service: 7 yrs 3 mos
 KCAE

Ranes, Jeffrey Effective: March 13, 2004
 Custodian Years of Service: 1 mo
 Central High School

Ristow, Josh Effective: February 23, 2004
 Para Educator Years of Service: 9 mos
 Smart Intermediate

Schurke, Jennifer Effective: February 27, 2004
 Food Service Yrs. of Service: 6 mos
 Washington Elementary

Wiese, Therese Effective: March 19, 2004

Food Service
Smart Intermediate

Years of Service: 8 yrs 7 mos

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Frericks, Donald
Custodian
Sudlow Intermediate

Leave of Absence without pay
Effective: February 5, 2004 - March 1, 2004

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Hadley, Kelley
Para Educator
Washington Elementary

Effective: April 5, 2004
Rate of Pay: \$6.80
Hours: 6.0 hrs/day

Klein, Angela
Para Educator
Fillmore Elementary

Effective: March 29, 2004
Rate of Pay: \$6.80
Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

Porter, Tami
Para Educator
Eisenhower Elementary

Effective: March 10, 2004
Rate of Pay: \$6.80
Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

Slack, Tamiaka
Para Educator
Monroe Elementary

Effective: March 4, 2004
Rate of Pay: \$6.80
Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

MOTION: Director Guard moved that be it 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 one check voided #149004 in the amount of \$1,662.90. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. North High Performing Arts Center Named After Paul J. Holzworth

The administration recommended approval of the request presented by Principal Jim Andrews and staff members at North High to name the Performing Arts Center at North High School after Paul J. Holzworth in honor of his 33 years in education and service to the District. The request was initially presented to the Board for discussion on March 8, 2004.

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board approve the request from Jim Andrews and the staff at North High to name the Performing Arts Center at North High School after Paul J. Holzworth in honor of his 33 years in education and service to the District. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

Director Guard was in favor of this motion, but thought the Board should also look at the policy concerning naming facilities. He felt the Board needed to be sensitive about honoring other people who have been long-term employees of the District. Director Tupper talked about his experiences with Mr. Holzworth and can attest to the fact that this honor is very well deserved for the many accomplishments during his 33 years of teaching.

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

Dr. Blanche congratulated Mr. Holzworth and said he had heard nothing but superlative comments about his work and dedication to young people. Mr. Holzworth spoke and said he was extremely honored to have the auditorium at North High named after him. He praised the administration and his co-workers for their wonderful support through the years. He felt indebted to many people for helping him with his work. He hoped he was worthy of having the auditorium named after him and said this was something he had never dreamed of happening. Mr. Holzworth said he was so happy to have been associated with the District and with the work of people on the Board. The auditorium will be there for another 100 years, and he found this to be a very humbling but proud moment in his life. He knows there are many teachers who are also outstanding and deserving employees. He was very humbled for being given this great honor and he thanked the Board for their support.

B. Budget Guarantee Resolution 2004-2005

The administration recommended a resolution be adopted regarding the budget guarantee as discussed at the Committee of the Whole on March 1, 2004.

MOTION: Director Guard moved approval of the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Davenport Community School District, consistent with Iowa Code section 257.14, will levy property tax for the fiscal year in order that the district's 2004-05 regular program district cost will be 101% of the 2003-04 regular program district cost plus any moneys received under section 257.14 as a budget adjustment for 2003-04 minus 2004-05 regular program cost, whichever is greater. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

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

C. Additional Name for the LSIAC Membership

The administration recommended adding the name of Vince George to the membership list for the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee for the 2003-2004 year.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation to add the name of Vince George to the membership list for the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee for the 2003-2004 year. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

President Low thanked people for their continuing interest to serve as members of this important committee and for helping the Board make vital decisions.

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

D. Jefferson-Edison Contract Renewal

The administration made a recommendation to renew the Jefferson-Edison contract starting with the 2004-2005 school year as discussed at the Committee of the Whole and with adjustments in the contract as outlined.

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board accept the recommendation from the administration to renew the Jefferson-Edison contract starting with the 2004-2005 school year with the adjustments in the contract as outlined. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

Dr. Blanche commented that this has been an effective school effort to engage the entire community and progress is going on at Jefferson-Edison. He congratulated the staff, business partners, parents, students, and administration for their hard work. The bar will be up and expectations will be high; and Jefferson-Edison is up to the task. Director Roberson said when he visited, the enthusiasm was overwhelming. People are sincere and he was in support of the renewal of the contract. Director Zamora said she was a supporter from the beginning and thanked Mr. McGarry and Mrs. McShane for sticking it out through these years.

Director Guard talked about receiving anonymous letters stating concerns about costs of this program. The Board has asked careful questions about financial matters and this program has gotten us results. This costs us no more than it would cost for us to run the program ourselves. We are getting good value and the program has gotten us the results we wanted. Director Clewell said three years ago he had serious reservations about education for profit. But after visiting Jefferson-Edison, he can sense an essence of something positive happening that was not there before. It is not only the school that has been affected, but there is now a real sense of community. That is what is driving up the test scores and the hard work of the teachers. He has turned the corner and is in full support of the program. President Low said when she visited the school last week, she saw first hand what happens to the children and staff. When the children talked about renovations with the news channels, they were well spoken and informed. We had a wall breaking ceremony and this shows the commitment of the Board to our neighborhood schools and community efforts.

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

Following the vote, parents, teachers, students, and other community members applauded the affirmative decision made by the Board to renew the contract with Edison.

E. Cooperative Sharing Agreements 2004-2005

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation for the 2004-2005 Cooperative Sharing Agreement for Swimming and Diving with the participating schools of Davenport Central, North, and West as the host schools, and Davenport Assumption, required by the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

Director Zamora said she wanted people to know why she would not support this recommendation. She wasn't in disagreement with the arrangement between our District and Assumption, but we have not kept our promises with the Metro Swim Team and they are charged for using the facilities. So she would vote no on this motion.

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

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation for the 2004-2005 Cooperative Sharing Agreement for boys and girls swimming with participating schools to be Davenport Assumption and the Davenport High Schools of Central, North, and West, required by the Iowa High School Athletic Association. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

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

F. Superintendent Search Team Selection

The Board made a recommendation regarding the selection of one of the companies interviewed on March 9 and March 10 to conduct the superintendent search for our school district.

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board select the company of McPherson & Jacobson as the lead search team to conduct the superintendent search for the District. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

Board members talked about the selection process. Director Roberson said he felt after hearing the comments read from the student's letter in Open Forum and interviewing the representatives, he felt we could have done this without outside help. Director Zamora said she also agreed. Director Tupper said he agreed also but would support the recommendation. Director Clewell agreed but thought the Board had made a decision to hire a firm to help them move on with this process. He questioned why this particular company was selected since there was a lower price from another firm.

Director Guard asked to address some of the concerns. The organization selected outlined the process they would use and it was extremely clear what they could offer. It was easy to follow and there were other elements that were impressive. He liked the opportunities offered for input from the community and people in the District. With the community sessions, we will be able to address the concerns from citizens such as Brian Burton. There will be focus groups of teachers, administrators, staff, parents, students, and business leaders. We want to hear what they have to say and he hoped people would take advantage of this opportunity. There was a second element to the process where a group of stakeholders will help with interviews and get a sense of what the community wants. The Board will receive this information after they have a chance to interview potential candidates to see if their decision matches the community. Another critical element was the video taped interview sessions. Rather than just getting a written report, we will have a better impression of the candidates using this method. The final element offered was Phase V for a cost of \$750 which would give an opportunity to have a professional development process in place to help us transition as a Board with the new superintendent.

Director Guard stated he appreciated the comments of other board members, but he didn't think the Board could do a major search and get this type of thorough work done on their own. We need a professional group to help us and the firm of McPherson & Jacobson had the right approach. Director Zamora said she agreed although thought all the firms had the community focus sessions. She really liked the layers of investigation done on the candidates and the representatives were very professional in their approach. She still wasn't sure we couldn't do this ourselves and save a little money.

Director Roberson said he would support moving this process forward since the Board has decided we should use a search firm for this selection. Director DeFauw concurred with Director Guard and felt McPherson & Jacobson were the best firm to give us a good product. She was not certain that as board members they had the time or energy to investigate all the candidates on their own. She appreciated having the association with the IASB with this company, and felt they have connections with our community and state people who will be of value to us. President Low said the Board owes this community the opportunity to get the best person for the job. We don't have the time or resources to do this on our own. Whoever the next superintendent is, we owe it to the community and Dr. Blanche, to see a wide variety of people and see who they will work with us. We have to answer to the community and we have to work together for the best interest of the District. President Low also noted that board members had received a letter from McPherson & Jacobson about making an offer of comparable fees for comparable services. If they are selected, she would discuss the fee with them and see about this matter.

Director Clewell brought up the concerns from Open Forum and looking at dedicated employees first in the interview process. President Low said we would look at this and make sure that our local employees would be considered in the process. In order to be fair, we need to invite the local people to apply as well as those on a regional and national level. We will look at this and as Jim Hester said, "You need to be here for awhile."

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

G. Authorization of Payment of March Bills

MOTION: Director Guard moved to recommend that after the bills have been reviewed by the Board Treasurer, the President of the Board be authorized to approve payment of claims and warrants drawn on the Treasury for the several amounts including payment of claims and salaries, following the March 15th board meeting. (This will cover bill payments incurred from March 11, 2004 through March 24, 2004.) Director Clewell seconded the motion.

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

H. Bid #742 Harrison Elementary Addition and Remodeling/Public Hearing

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board approve the low Bid #742 in the amount of \$2,178,442 from Hillebrand Construction for the addition and remodeling of Harrison Elementary School. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing regarding Bid #742 for addition and remodeling of Harrison Elementary. 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: Zamora, Tupper, Clewell, DeFauw, Guard, Roberson, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Bid #743 Wood Intermediate School Flooring Replacement/Public Hearing

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation for low Bid #743 from Northwest Carpets in the amount of \$61,368 for the replacement of carpeting and floor tile in classrooms at Wood Intermediate School. Director DeFauw seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing regarding Bid #743 for replacement of carpeting and floor tile at Wood Intermediate. 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: Tupper, DeFauw, Clewell, Guard, Roberson, Zamora, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Budget Amendment for 2003-2004**

Marsha Tangen, CFO, explained reasons for making a recommendation to amend the 2003-2004 Budget at this time of the year. There are four function areas listed but this time only one area would be changed which would be "Total Other Expenditures." The amount amended would go from \$21,084,106 to \$26,248,661. Mrs. Tangen talked about a projected \$2 million fund balance and \$3.7 million unspent balance. We were able to maintain our spending authority and this has helped us.

A notice will be published for a public hearing on the amendments to the budget that will be held on April 13, 2004. Final approval of the amendments to the 2003-2004 Budget must be made by April 15, 2004.

B. **Budget Estimate for 2004-2005**

Marsha Tangen, CFO, next presented the proposed budget estimate for 2004-2005. Mrs. Tangen talked about general operating funds, management funds, PPEL, activity funds, capital projects, debt service, food & nutrition funds, and child care funds. She further explained the budget process for the year and clarified questions for the Board. They had an overview of the aid and levy worksheet and were informed that the general fund was pupil driven. Mrs. Tangen highlighted elements to be reviewed in the budget for 2004-2005 which included material on budget guarantee, cash reserve balances, history of cash reserve levy, determining the components of the aid & levy projections, and other notes about the state aid formula. She went through the breakdown of the tax levy in the general operating fund. There are four areas: general operating funds, management funds, PPEL voted funds, and PPEL regular funds. The rate is \$17.08. There was a comparison to last year with more in the management fund and less in the general fund. Mrs. Tangen went through the history of the levy which showed how we were able to get out of our deficit. Compared to other neighboring districts, we are the highest. With tax rate vs. assessed value per pupil, Pleasant Valley is the highest per pupil. When there is a levy comparison with UEN, it shows that Des Moines is higher than us. Levy rate vs. assessed value per pupil shows Iowa City to be the highest.

Mrs. Tangen did a final review of the budget for 2004-2005 and explained the next steps to be taken. A notice will be published for a public hearing on the budget to be held on April 13, 2004. Final approval of the 2004-2005 Budget Estimate needs to be done by April 15, 2004. She answered some questions from the Board about grants and projections. Director Guard asked can we make people understand the assessment issues? Director Guard talked about the mid-year cuts and how people had to cut back on programs. He would like to have a general summary of what we have had to do without because of state cuts of \$1.5 million. He wanted people to know the cuts are affecting our classrooms and students. Director Guard also said in November the Board did an exercise on budget priorities. He would like to see how the new budget addresses the top six priorities of the Board or how does it not address these items.

C. **Harrison Street Intermediate Intervention Program**

Deputy Superintendent Howard Hunigan introduced staff members at the Harrison Street Intervention Program as: Jennifer Rushton, Program Manager; Kennon Neal, Coordinator of the Harrison Street Program—replacement for Steve Bunn; Breanna Fitzpatrick, Prevention Specialist; Sally Lake, Prevention Specialist; Debbie Teague, Intermediate Alternative to

Expulsion Teacher; Jeanene Keller, High School Alternative to Expulsion Teacher; and Derrick Nix, Intermediate Academy Teacher. Mr. Hunigan discussed the program and progress of students in the intermediate intervention program saying it has been a busy year. He invited the Board to visit the center and see the students learning. Students come and go from this program so the numbers change all the time. There are 34 students in the program but up to 41/42 students at a time. There has been remodeling but with so many students in that size facility, a lot of positioning has occurred. We have had 2 sixth graders, 10 seventh graders, 13 eighth graders, 9 ninth graders, 3 tenth graders, 3 eleventh graders, and 4 twelfth graders. Mrs. Teague and Ms. Keller have been with the program for a number of years. Mrs. Teague said it is amazing the number of “graduates” that come back to the building and visit. They have a positive experience in this program and it makes a difference in their lives. Ms. Keller said the students are creative and respond to individualized education. They have goals, dreams, and aspirations. They are sensitive and we practice their leadership skills.

Mr. Hunigan explained that the Board years ago felt it was important to address the needs of the students with some type of intervention program. We saw referrals and grades slipping, and the Board asked what we could do to intervene earlier. We are doing earlier intervention with students and we have a process where the parents and students come down to the administration building to discuss behavior concerns and making changes. Mr. Hunigan said he had 156 discipline conferences this year and Mrs. Reynolds is also involved in many of these meetings. We had made 156 interventions to see how we can turn these kids around so they are successful. Some times the students go back to the building with solution focus programs and some times they come to Harrison Street or go to the Kimberly Center. For some high school students, because of credits they have, we use the partnership program and GED program because of their age. Lots of things are occurring on the positive level. Mr. Hunigan has been impressed with the parental involvement. They often are frustrated with the child and these programs also help parents learn to be successful. What we are doing is positive and something that we should be proud of in our District.

Director Zamora said it was her pleasure to recognize all of the staff for being involved in this preparation for students. As a lawyer, she appreciated not having to see these students in court because of the work you are doing to help them become successful and stay out of trouble. Director Clewell asked what type of events trigger an intervention at school. Mr. Hunigan answered the building personnel see behavior that they feel they can't turn around. They have tried a number of interventions but are not successful at changing behavior patterns. It might be fighting, referrals to the office, or problems with staff or students. We look at ways to change their behavior before it gets out of hand. Director Roberson said students have come before the Board in hearings, and then they go to Harrison Street. Those students change their views and it is wonderful to see them with positive attitudes after being in the program. Keep up the good work. Director Guard felt the staff members were miracle workers. It is so great we have this program in place and you are being recognized. We really appreciated what you are doing.

Dr. Blanche agreed and felt we were fortunate to have this program and qualified teachers working with our young people. It takes special people to work with these kids. This program was a board-driven initiative. We should request making a presentation to the NASB about what we do for children in need. So many things are happening in this District that are not happening across the nation to positively affect student behavior. President Low said in the nine years on the Board, she has attended a lot of meetings and saw children who were troubled. It is wonderful to see them receive help; the staff has really saved the lives of a lot of kids.

D. Superintendent Search Progress Update

President Low asked if anyone had questions about the superintendent search process or needed an update on the next steps. There were no questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Blanche didn't have any additional reports at this time.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

1. Director Guard congratulated students who participated in the Show Choir competitions in Cedar Rapids. North took first place; Central third place; and West fourth place in the semi finals. It was a grand opportunity for everyone involved.
2. Director Clewell expressed appreciation for the student board members who continue to attend our board meetings.
3. Director Roberson asked student board member Byron Stokes to comment about the school trip to Minnesota. Bryon said the group went up to the contest and came back with a trophy for North.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board adjourn. Director Zamora seconded the motion. By acclamation the Board consented to adjourn.

President Low declared the meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary