

REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 26, 2004

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met for a Regular Board Meeting on April 26, 2004, 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. The Board met for an Exempt Session on Negotiation Strategies from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM in the Executive Conference Room.

Vice President Alan Guard called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:20 PM. On roll call the following members were present: Vice President Alan Guard (chair); Directors DeFauw, Roberson, Tupper, and Zamora. Absent: President Susan Low and Director Richard Clewell. Two student board members attended the Regular Meeting: Micah Melton (West High), and Lily Arbisser (Central High).

6:00 PM EXEMPT SESSION NEGOTIATION STRATEGY

The Board held a closed exempt session to conduct negotiation strategies of a public employer for employee groups covered by bargaining agreements, as provided in Chapter 20.17(3), Code of Iowa. The meeting was held in the Executive Conference Room from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM. Board members took a five-minute break and were then seated at the board table in the Jim Hester Board Room at 7:20 PM for the Regular Meeting. Directors Low and Clewell were absent.

7:20 PM REGULAR MEETING

RECOGNITIONS

I. RECOGNITIONS

A. In Memory of Joe Hong * *Kathy Erickson, Early Childhood Coordinator, Program Administrator for the Children's Village at Hoover*

Program Administrator Kathy Erickson spoke in memory of Joe Hong. She said that Joe Hong's work was known to many Davenport Community School District students and staff. He passed away on February 28, 2004 in Merced, CA. Mr. Hong drew all of our Life Skills posters and our graphics for "Read with Me" story hours and our early childhood programs. His latest art project for us was the outside sign at the Children's Village at Hoover. Mrs. Erickson said she first spoke to Joe Hong eight years ago after seeing the posters he designed for his sister, Jeanne Beenk, a teacher at Harrison Elementary School. These posters were his portrayal of the seven elementary life skills. Mrs. Erickson said she asked Joe's permission to purchase the rights to these posters so we could mass-produce them for our classrooms. Joe gave us the rights to these posters to be used by our District.

Mrs. Erickson said she spoke to Joe with other requests for artwork, and during these conversations she learned more about Mr. Hong:

- ❖ She was not aware he was a designer of high fashion.
- ❖ She was not aware he designed the bridesmaid dresses for Grace Kelly's wedding.
- ❖ She was not aware he designed posters for the San Francisco Zoo.

Mrs. Erickson said she was aware Joe Hong was a kind and caring man that loved to do portraits of children. Joe Hong has left a legacy to our school district and we will miss him.

A. **Kimberly Center * Dr. Paul E. Johnson, Building Administrator**

Dr. Paul Johnson introduced and recognized the work of staff members at the Kimberly Center: **Cathy Bosco**, the Program Administrator for Kimberly Center East; **Mike Scannell**, the Program Administrator for Kimberly Center West; and **Janet Latchaw**, the Building Facilitator. Dr. Johnson was proud to talk about the success of the Kimberly Building as they worked on criteria for No Child Left Behind laws. Students who stayed at the Kimberly Center made significant improvements at the 11th grade in reading scores. Last year these students only had a 28.57% proficiency level; the same students this year reached a 77.78% proficiency score. There were also improvements in math for these students.

Dr. Johnson recognized the Kimberly Center's involvement and community relationship with Ridgecrest Center. The Board saw a Powerpoint presentation by **Rebecca Menard** and **JoAnne McAleer**. Ms. Menard worked with the Kimberly Center activities and Ms. McAleer supervised the Student Council efforts from Kimberly Center East. The staff members shared information about using the Skills for Life themes to serve the community and how students integrated their skills through service projects. Additional community centered activities were highlighted including projects such as participation in the national fund drive for Leukemia research – "Pennies for Patients"; student highway cleanup efforts; building-wide recycling program; and Feeding the Homeless Project. Ms. McAleer recognized other people involved with this relationship with Ridgecrest and presented a certificate to Pat Westendorf from Ridgecrest for being an outstanding business partner with the school. Ms. Westendorf said they appreciated having the students make regular visits to Ridgecrest to help the residents with special activities. She presented a plaque to the Kimberly Center recognizing their volunteer efforts.

Dr. Johnson continued with recognitions for the Kimberly Center to honor students who had their Writings published in *The Mandala*, a booklet published by an alternative high school Education Options Program in New Hampton. Under the direction of **Dawn Brown** three of our writers from Kimberly Center East were recognized. These three students were in several class sections of English (Writing Today, American Literature, and Contemporary Ideas). The names of our newly published writers are: **Jessica Webb**, "Career Song" (written in the style of a Native American chant), and **Alana Deters** and **Courtney Reimolds** who were

jointly honored as reviewers of a book, *Like Sisters on the Homefront*. Teacher **Roberta Cochran-Zavitz** was instrumental in helping students publish their works; and she read “Career Song” by Jessica Webb and “Gayle’s Changing Attitude” by Alana Deters and Courtney Reimolds.

Dr. Johnson explained that each year, the Quad City Arts Council hosts an area wide art show. All of the Quad City schools participate, as well as schools from many surrounding communities, in this very competitive show. Each art teacher is allowed to submit five pieces of student work. Each teacher is required to submit a piece of art work. The Kimberly Center was proud to recognize their art teacher, **Mr. Chrys Ott**, whose work was selected from all teacher submissions as “Best of Show”. Mr. Ott’s pencil drawing entitled “World Strike” had been on display at the Quad City Arts Council in the District of Rock Island.

Director Roberson thanked the students, staff, business partners from Ridgecrest and families for all the good things happening at the Kimberly Center. He said there was a long list of volunteers who have helped our students and who were working at making them successful. This shows that there is not one size that fits all students. He wished everyone at the Kimberly Center continued success. Vice President Guard thanked Dr. Johnson for this volunteer opportunity with Ridgecrest and the Kimberly Center students. The children will learn they get back ten times what they give through volunteer efforts. He thanked Mr. Ott for his outstanding contribution to the district and his students.

COMMUNICATIONS

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thursday, April 29, 10:00 AM, Tree Planting Ceremony at the Children’s Village at Hoover, in anticipation of receiving the FINE award
- B. Thursday, April 29, 6:00 PM, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, West High School
- C. Saturday, May 1, 2:30 PM, FINE Award Ceremony honoring the Children’s Village at Hoover, held at Terrace Hill in Des Moines
- D. Sunday, May 2, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, Davenport Schools Employee Service Award Recognition, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- E. Monday, May 3, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, McKinley Elementary School, Media Center; [Tour of facilities at 5:00 PM for anyone interested.]
- F. Wednesday, May 5, 4:00 PM, Policy Committee, Administration Service Center; Jim Hester Board Room
- G. Monday, May 10, 6:30 PM, Reception Honoring Board Members; and 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room

- H. Tuesday, May 11, 6:00 PM, Special Call Meeting (Closed Session Evaluations); Board Room
- I. May 16—22; Educational Bosses Week
- J. Monday, May 24, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- K. Open Forum
 - 1. Karen Hean, 2108 East Locust Street, represented KinderCare Learning Center, and she expressed their objections to a board policy dealing with distributions of flyers in our buildings. She felt it was unfair that non-profit companies could distribute information about their programs, but a for-profit company couldn't pass out their fliers. She asked the Board to review the policy and make it fair for everyone. She asked them to consider a policy that was equitable to all people. Ms. Hean said KinderCare provided excellent care and services for many of our students. They have helped the District in finding children and keeping them safe before and after school. Ms. Hean said the policy states the Board can overturn the Superintendent's decision. She hoped this would happen to allow KinderCare an opportunity to distribute fliers about the choices they can provide for parents and children. Board members received a copy of the flyer and letter from Ms. Hean.

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 April 13, 2004 and Special Call Meeting with Search Consultants April 14, 2004.

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, LOA, Etc.

CORRECTION TO MARCH 15, 2004 MINUTES

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 \$44,613.00

RETIREMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE

McLain, Larry Principal Buchanan Elementary	Effective: End of 2003-2004 School Year Years of Service: 5 yrs, 8 mos.
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RESIGNATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Aguilar, Maria Spanish (.5) Wood Intermediate	Effective: End of 2003-2004 school year Years of Service: 10 mos
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Dighton, Keven Reading Specialist Harrison Elementary	Effective: End of 2003-2004 school year Years of Service: 32 yrs 10 mos
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Fischer, Kristine Kindergarten Harrison Elementary	Effective: End of 2003-2004 school year Years of Service: 6 yrs 10 mos
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Goodwin, Kerry Orchestra West High, Williams Intermediate Buchanan Elementary	Effective: End of 2003-2004 school year Year of Service: 9 yrs 1 mo <u>Years of Service: 18 yrs. 10 mos (corrected)</u>
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Underwood, Bryan Special Education West High	Effective: End of 2003-2004 school year Years of Service: 4 yrs 1 mo
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LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Argo, Kathleen Reading Specialist (.5) Madison Elementary	FMLA with pay Effective: February 9, 2004 – March 19, 2004 FMLA without pay Effective: March 22, 2004 – April 16, 2004
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Grothusen, Elizabeth Social Studies Sudlow Intermediate	FMLA with pay Effective: February 19, 2004 – April 16, 2004
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Swanson, Lynda LOA	Extension of Leave of Absence with pay Effective: April 13, 2004 – June 3, 2004
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Swope, Kristine Special Education Harrison Elementary	FMLA with pay Effective: September 4, 2003 – November 26, 2003 Leave of Absence with pay Effective: November 27, 2003 – April 30, 2004
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RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Bates, Kimberly Team Leader (.5) Smart Intermediate	Effective: April 14, 2004 \$724.00 (6%) prorated to \$583.11 for 149 days of the 2003-2004 school year
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Lucas, Kathryn Assistant Varsity Girls' Basketball Coach North High	\$2,896.00 12%
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SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Meyers, Lynn Team Leader (.5) Williams Intermediate	Effective: April 15, 2004 \$724.00 (6%) prorated to \$140.89 for 36 days of the 2003-2004 school year
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Verdon, Michelle Intermediate Track CoEd Assistant Smart Intermediate	\$1,207.00 5%
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RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Argo, Kathleen Reading Specialist (.5) Madison Elementary	Effective: April 19, 2004 Salary: \$19,208.50 prorated to \$17,754.89 for 171 days of the 2003-2004 school year
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Grothusen, Elizabeth Social Studies Sudlow Intermediate	Effective: April 19, 2004 Salary: \$29,742.00
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RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Herod, Felicia Para Educator Eisenhower	Effective: April 16, 2004 Years of Service: 6 mos
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Porter, Tami Para Educator Eisenhower Elementary	Effective: April 8, 2004 Years of Service: 1 mo
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APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Munn, Debra Custodian Walcott Elementary	Effective: April 13, 2004 Salary: \$9.77 Hours: 8 hrs/day
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Schmidt, James	Effective: April 14, 2004
Custodian	Salary: \$9.77
Sudlow Intermediate	Hours: 4 hrs/day

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

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The administration recommended approval of the bills as presented to the Board.

MOTION: Director DeFauw moved approval of the resolution: “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.” Director Roberson seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Early Childhood Learning Center

The administration made a recommendation regarding approval of the Early Childhood Learning Center.

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board accept the recommendation for approval of a new Early Childhood Learning Center, to allow the leasing requirements for such a facility and the costs to be negotiated by the administration, and this will be funded with Title 1, Special Education, and other miscellaneous funding sources, as outlined and discussed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 5, 2004. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

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

B. Additional Name for the LSIAC Membership

There was a recommendation for Duane Nunnally to be added to the LSIAC.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board accept the recommendation to add Duane Nunnally to the membership list of the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee for the 2003-2004 school year. Director DeFauw seconded the motion.

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

C. Bid #478 – Harrison Parking Lot/Public Hearing

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board accept the low bid #478 from Beert Construction in the amount of \$67,800 to provide for the installation of a parking area at Harrison Elementary School. Director DeFauw seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing concerning this construction bid #478 for additional parking at Harrison Elementary. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was then declared closed.

Director Roberson asked about the large range of prices for this bid from \$67,800 to \$105,933. Mr. Bill Good said the market was competitive and the need for work impacted these bids. They were pleased with the bid and Beert Construction has done other construction at Eisenhower already, so they were familiar with the site and knew what needed to be done.

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

D. Bid #479 – Food Service Supplies & Related Services/Public Hearing

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board accept the low bid #479 in the amount of \$1,106,283.14 from Reinhart Foodservice, Cedar Rapids for food, non-food expendable supplies, storage, technological support, and distribution services. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing concerning this bid for food service supplies and related services for our Food & Nutrition Services Department. 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, DeFauw, Roberson, and Guard. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Innovative Program Calendar Waiver for Madison, Monroe, & Jefferson**

Linda McClurg talked about the process for making a request for an early start waiver for 2004-05. Three schools (Madison, Monroe, and Jefferson/Edison) run balanced calendars with “intercessions”. These buildings will start school prior to the first week in September. Even though the entire district is not involved with the balanced calendars, the District is still required to make the waiver request for these three buildings.

In October 2003 we applied for a District-wide waiver with a starting date of Monday, August 30, 2004. But these three schools start prior to August 30 so the waiver request has to be filed and reported in the Spring BEDS report (Basic Educational Data Survey) with the date of a hearing and the first school’s start date. The BEDS report does not provide a place to designate early start at the building level. We must consider communicating the difference between the early start waiver request for 2004-05 and other schools on the list, per Jeannette McGreevy, Chief of the Bureau of Administration & School Improvement Services.

The Board will be required to hold a public hearing on the early start calendar waiver request for 2004-05 prior to spring BEDS to provide stakeholders in these three buildings the opportunity to speak to the issue. The Board must determine a starting date on or after the earliest starting date specified in Iowa Code section 279.10 subsection 1 will have a significant negative educational impact. Action has to be done prior to submitting the waiver request to the Department of Education. The public hearing on the early start calendar waiver will be held on May 10, 2004 at 7:00 PM at the beginning of the board meeting. This is another example of why one size doesn’t fit all in our district.

B. **Board Policy #201.01 Superintendent**

Director DeFauw spoke on behalf of members of the Policy Committee and presented information about making minor changes in Board Policy #201.01 Superintendent. Under desired qualifications, it lists an earned doctorate degree. The change at this point in time would say the degree “is preferred”. There was also a minor change in the last sentence noting “Board” instead of “Board of Directors.” Director DeFauw said there may be other changes in the future for this policy, but this is all that is recommended for change right now.

Director Zamora said she felt the degree was a “must” and it was her preference that our superintendent should have the earned doctorate degree, but she understood the need for a language change at this point. Director Tupper said this was a follow up from a discussion with the search firm who said there may be

some qualified candidates for our superintendent who have not earned the specific degree. Director Roberson asked if the Board felt that in order for the superintendent to be successful the person needed to have this type of degree. Director Guard said the degree shows commitment and an ability to achieve something important in education. The change will open up opportunities for people who might be good candidates, but would be excluded because of the wording in our policy. The search team felt there may be someone who was very capable and would fit our needs, but who did not have the doctorate degree. Dr. Blanche agreed with the recommendation, and said he worked with other superintendents who were very successful without having their doctorate degree. Having this flexibility would be a good thing for our district. The student board members didn't have anything specific to add to the discussion. The recommendation should be brought forward for approval at the next meeting.

C. **Textbook Adoptions (K-5 Math)**

Juli Staszewski who represented the administration talked about how the textbook selections were done and shared the recommendations being made for adoption of new books and materials for the district K-5 Math programs. Copies of the materials to be adopted were available for viewing. Mrs. Staszewski had set up a display in the Jim Hester Board Room for everyone to see and examine. Some materials were also in the buildings if parents wanted to look at the adoption recommendations. The committee members were Theresa Rockwell, Cindy Minard, Bruce Bates, Nancy French, and Merna Miller. There were others who were unable to attend the meeting, but also work on the review.

Mrs. Staszewski talked about the process using a Powerpoint presentation. She talked about having traditional books and standards based books that were reviewed. Criteria and rubrics were created and the committee decided to use the standards based models. There were meetings in January and the committee got feedback which narrowed the selection down to two choices. In February kits were delivered to buildings and evaluation forms. In March they compared evaluations for Growing with Mathematics and Trail Blazers. There were formal proposals submitted by the two companies. Both reviews were similar, but after reviewing the teachers' evaluation and analyzing materials further, the committee was recommending we adopt the Growing with Mathematics series.

There are teacher resource files, assessments, blank masters, resource kits, and leadership activities with math used from many cultures and math manipulation. There is professional development offered with year one including pre-planning meetings, initial teacher training, special services, parent information, support training, and follow up teacher training. In year two there are planning meetings, teacher training, and follow up. In years 3-5, staff development will be determined to implement training. There was a parent component providing training for parents, and parents were invited to come in to review the materials.

Director Tupper asked about criteria that will be used to evaluate if we are successful with this material. Mrs. Staszewski said the ITBS scores need to go up and there is also assessment in the program. We are looking at getting our monies worth with this material. The Board learned that the math material hadn't been replaced for ten years and that the resource materials are an added plus to the textbooks. There are a lot of teacher materials and hands-on activities. Director Guard asked about this being researched based material and if this addressed our achievement gap. Mrs. Juli said research was being developed and it addressed our needs through the multicultural materials. Student board member Lily Arbisser asked whether the materials stressed the metric skills. Mrs. Staszewski said at certain levels there are materials on the metric system and it was a dual system for the students.

Director Guard asked about the impact of this on schools that have accelerated programs. It was explained the textbooks used 60 minutes per day to teach the lessons and the administration was requesting that this plan be honored. If accelerated math wants to continue, then they can go further, but 60 minutes has to be implemented first. Director Roberson asked about the math books changing the perception of students. Mrs. Staszewski said she thought the books would do this because it engaged students in a lot of activities that were fun. The activities challenge the students and they will like the assignments.

Dr. Blanche thanked the committee, Juli Staszewski, and Bill Thiessen for their leadership and for coming to the meeting tonight. It takes a lot of effort to work on this committee and he appreciated their willingness to take the extra steps. Director Guard encouraged parents to stop by the elementary buildings and ask about seeing the new textbooks that the Board would be adopting.

D. Superintendent Search Update

Board members asked if there was any new information concerning the superintendent search process or updates on meetings in May. Director Roberson asked if the Board had a number that would be acceptable for receiving applications. Director Zamora felt it was the quality of the applicants not the quantity of applications we would receive. Director Roberson said he felt only qualified applicants would apply but with a school district of this size, and there should be a lot more applicants for the position. Director Guard said this was only the end of the second week and if we don't get the numbers we want with a good applicant pool, we will look at other steps to take to get this done.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS

There were no additional administrative or instructional reports at this time.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Vice President Guard announced the celebration at the Children's Village at Hoover on Thursday, April 29 at 10:00 AM. There would be a tree planting in honor of the school receiving the FINE award from the governor on Saturday, May 1 in Des Moines. People were encouraged to go over to the school on April 29th.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Zamora moved the Board adjourn. Director Tupper seconded the motion. The board members adjourned by acclamation.

Vice President Guard declared the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary