

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MAY 7, 2007**

The Board of Directors of the Davenport School District met in open session for a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, May 7, 2007 pursuant to law. The meeting was held 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 5:00 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell, Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson, and Tim Tupper. Absent: Directors Ken Krumwiede and Larry Roberson. Superintendent Almanza and administrators were present.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Principal Tom Green and Jill Vogt spoke on behalf of the Harrison Elementary staff and community requesting their wish to rename the computer room at Harrison to be called the "Kris Swope Learning Lab". Ms. Vogt said Kris was a special education teacher for 30 years and passed away last fall. She made a huge difference to the school, students, and staff at Harrison. Working with computers was her great interest and she was responsible for getting more technology into Harrison School. Ms. Swope provided training, created staff development opportunities, and set up the computer lab at Harrison. They would like to honor Kris by naming the computer room in her memory. Mr. Almanza agreed with the recommendation to acknowledge the work of Kris Swope by showing appreciation for her years of service.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Bill Good handed out an Operations Update and updated board members on facility items. He addressed questions from the board members related to the items listed. Mr. Good explained the District closed on the new parking lot north of Central and there was additional talk other parking. There have been conversations about having small plaques hung on the monument pillars at J. B. Young showing appreciation to the RDA for their funding. There has been progress on the Lincoln project and work should be finished before August. The construction window is important in the summer months. Mr. Good talked about the commercial corridor revitalization, and he provided the Board with more information. He invited the Board to the May 14 science wall breaking at West High in room 119 at 10 AM. Director Tupper asked about funding available for improvements from the commercial businesses. Director Clewell asked what happened to old hardware from buildings when there was new construction and remodeling. Mr. Good explained how items are salvaged if they have any value and are incorporated into our designs. Otherwise some items go to Project Restore with Habitat.

President Zamora asked about safety concerns for the girls with the softball field by Jefferson. Mr. Good said safety was very important and they were comfortable with the neighborhood. The community is supportive and believes in the investment of this softball field. Director Tupper had questions about the time frame for the lease at the Children's Village West facility and if there was some long-range planning for proposals. There was additional conversation about the facility and input into plans for the future. Mr. Almanza added we needed to look at the State and their proposals for funding preschools in the years to come.

## SPECIAL REPORTS

### **Teacher Quality Legislative Pot 2 Dollars**

Juli Staszewski talked about three topics during this report. (1) Collective Efficacy; (2) Funding Pot 2 Dollars; (3) Professional Development – Senate File 277. Ms. Staszewski explained elements of the Collective Efficacy efforts, shared perceptions, outline research findings, and showed how we are building collective efficacy in our district. Next Ms. Staszewski outlined opportunities to provide additional professional development for our teachers using money set aside by legislative action for this purpose. The dollars can be used for professional development, teacher salaries, or both. The third part of the report dealt with Senate File 277 which said the school district was eligible to receive money, if the Board applies to the Department to participate in the student achievement and teacher quality program. We will need to create quality professional development opportunities and a teacher quality committee.

Board members had some questions on equal representation for teachers and administrators on the committee, the size of the group, guidelines, funding in the future. It was mentioned that this funding is subjective to the congress and we don't want expectations by teachers they will get this year after year. The superintendent talked about the judicial review of the Clarion-Goldfield Community School District case and the recommendations. Mr. Almanza said the administration would bring our Board a resolution for consideration on the use of the dollars being allocated and that a joint committee should be formed to get started on the work. We understand the strong benefits from quality teacher professional development programs and we want to get the gains into student achievement. Ms. Staszewski noted a committee would be created to look at professional development and monitor the program. We will measure our progress through student achievement outcomes. They will look at new initiatives and advanced studies to ensure we are impacting our students. The dollars would not be used for salaries but would be a stipend for staff development participation. The resolution would be reviewed by our legal council and action would be coming back to the Board for consideration. Director Tupper wanted something included to require the committee to report back to the Board on what they were doing and the impact on the students.

### **Market Factor Pay Legislation**

Mrs. Linda McClurg reviewed the Market Factor Pay Legislation and explained the Board would need to make a resolution concerning the way the incentive would be used with guidelines for distribution. The money could be allocated for recruitment or to fill vacancies in shortage areas. The legislation was passed to appropriate money to supplement but not supplant current salaries for teachers, including early childhood teachers if deemed a shortage area. Davenport received \$115,862 for 2006-07. Mrs. McClurg spoke about the money being used in addition to salaries for teacher incentive bonuses, repayment of student loans, or moving expenses. The money could be used for tuition reimbursements for teachers obtaining new endorsements or degrees to meet highly qualified teacher requirements. There are targeted areas dealing with recruitment, retention, and shortages.

The Board has the sole discretion to determine use of the money for salaries of teachers, and they will need to adopt a resolution subject to annual renewal outlining their criteria for allocation. It is recommended the superintendent be given discretion regarding distribution of the funds. Mrs. McClurg reviewed the legislation with legal council and the district should not

use the dollars for additional payments based on ethnicity. If the district was challenged, we would have to provide documentation and it is better to use the incentive for teachers in shortage areas or for receiving course work for certification to teach certain subjects. We could allocated \$2,000 for someone with certification in a certain area; and \$1,500 for a candidate to get a license in a shortage area. Mrs. McClurg talked about the assignment pool of teachers for last year and the number of new teachers who were hired to fill positions. She answered questions from board members about other recruitment areas and experiences. Director Tupper talked about attracting teachers with more experience to work in buildings that needed more help with student achievement levels. Mrs. McClurg talked about looking for candidates who have had background experience working with minority situations. The discussion continued about priorities, recruitment, maintaining teachers, and related matters.

At 6:00 PM Director De Fauw left the meeting for another commitment.

### FINANCIALS DISCUSSION

**Monthly Financials for March 31, 2007:** Claudia Wood reviewed information in the Monthly Financial Report for March. The Board learned about the general fund financial statements, investment portfolio, and self insurance fund statements. Marsha Tangen went over the budget to actual comparisons for revenues and expenditures. She also talked about the special education funding statements and the Board had questions about this area. Mr. Almanza noted we were cited for overrepresentation in special education and have to set aside 15% of next year's allocation, which will have a negative impact on the Special Education deficit. There was additional review by Mrs. Wood of the grants and investment portfolio. (A copy of the report will be included in the minutes of record.)

**Auditing Firm RFP:** Mrs. Wood talked about the request for proposal that went out for auditing our records. Eide Baily has been auditing our records for the past nine fiscal years but they didn't do a proposal. We have been their only school district to audit and they have had staff changes. Ten firms had the information sent out and to the State Auditor's Office. Two proposals were received and two declined because they were doing other audits requiring a lot of time. The two who responded were Nolte, Cornman, & Johnson; and McGladrey & Pullen. We had bids for one-year contracts or three-year contracts. The amounts were very close but we are making a recommendation for the company with a higher score measurement on services, rather than the lowest bidding firm.

**Five-Year Financial Plan:** President Zamora asked if board members would be willing to put off the discussion on the five-year financial plan until everyone had more time to read the materials provided. Mrs. Tangen indicated this was a draft form and gave background information. She wanted to know if this is what the Board wanted with benchmarks and other areas highlighted. She would be willing to submit other details depending on the needs of the Board. Mr. Almanza asked if the Board understood the benchmarks included and they did. He said it was very important they comprehend the benchmarks, fund balances, and other areas of the plan; so it would be better to wait for discussion until they reviewed the information more thoroughly. The five-year plan is comprehensive with the board goals. Mrs. Tangen developed the outline and the Board was willing to wait until the June Committee of the Whole to discuss further. Director Tupper would like information on the overall goals of 100% proficiency and what resources will we need to accomplish this goal. Mrs. Tangen said she met with Dr. O'Melia, Mrs. Reynolds, and Bill Good to talk about how this ties into the five-year plan dealing with programs and facilities. They have talked about how this fits together with the financial goals. There are many pieces that need to work together and the five-year plan will be a guide.

**Tax Anticipatory Warrant:** Mrs. Tangen mentioned there would be a need to look at going out for a tax anticipatory warrant in June. They are working on budget figures now to see if we will have a cash deficit at any point during the summer or fall which would allow us to do the warrants. More information will be provided to the board members in a memo.

#### OTHER ITEMS & ADJOURNMENT

Director Clewell mentioned appreciating having an opportunity to visit with students in a high school to talk about advocacy matters.

President Zamora stated we received information from the State: Governor Chet Culver has signed a proclamation ordering Iowa State and United States flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of U.S. Army Private First Class Brian A. Botello, 19, of Alta who died April 29th, 2007, while serving in Iraq. Governor Culver today ordered that flags at all public buildings, grounds, and facilities be flown at half staff on Wednesday, May 9th, 2007, from 8 a.m. (CST) until sunset. President Zamora also asked the Superintendent to see about the flags being flown half-staff in honor of Pfc. Katie Soenksen who died on May 2 in Iraq. Katie was a North High class of 2005 graduate and we would like to do something to remember her also. The Superintendent said he would contact the Governor's office on this matter on Tuesday.

Director Johanson talked about attending the Join Hand's Day activity at Luther Crest on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> where 22 ROTC students from North High worked at planting flowers as part of the event. This is an intergenerational event throughout out Nation where students, adults, seniors, and children join together on community projects to improve our world. Thank you to the students and everyone who participated in the morning event.

President Zamora adjourned the meeting at 6:25 PM.

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Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary