

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
DAVENPORT SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION SERVICE CENTER  
JIM HESTER BOARD ROOM  
1606 BRADY STREET  
DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010  
**SPECIAL CALL BOARD MEETING**  
12:00 PM

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the counties of Scott and Muscatine met in open session for a Special Call Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 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 Patt Zamora called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

The following board members were present: President Patt Zamora: Directors Richard Clewell (by phone), Larry Roberson, Tim Tupper, Nikki De Fauw, Ralph Johanson and Ken Krumwiede. Other administrators were present for the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** Director Tupper moved to accept the recommendation for approval for the Board President to sign the partnership letter with the City of Davenport in support of the Investing in Innovation Grant application. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** Director Krumwiede asked what the differences were between the proposal the board received earlier in the day and the one that was presented to them for this meeting. Mr. Craig Malin explained that he had met with school administrators and they agreed to make two substantive changes. The first is to include DCSD staff person, Dawn Anderson-Rascher, as a CO-PI for the grant. The second is the addition of funding AP and ACT tests in the grant budget. Mr. Almanza stated that the management structure of the grant is still a concern to him and the board. Advisory groups have been created for the different efforts in the grant that will involve the stake-holders in that effort. People such as DSCD parents, staff, teachers, leadership and U of I grant writers and evaluators would be part of these advisory groups.

Director Tupper expressed his concern that we still do not have a final draft of the document to approve. Mr. Almanza explained that there is going to have to be a leap of faith in this effort.

Director Krumwiede wanted to know if we can opt-out of this if things do not go as planned. Mr. Almanza stated that it would be an option.

Director De Fauw wanted clarification from Mr. Almanza that he was recommending that we support this application. Mr. Almanza stated this proposal is

in line with the board's direction. He shares his frustration in not having the time to get the board the details he is accustomed to giving. He is only 65-70% comfortable in supporting this, but given the short timeframe he has been given it is the best recommendation he can make at this time.

Director De Fauw wondered if there were things in the grant that would be difficult to sustain down the road and if our own carefully budgeted goals would suffer because of the elements required in this grant. Mr. Almanza cannot guarantee that as a District we will be able to generate the same funding that will be provided by the grant. Race To the Top could help if it is funded. We should use the money to create models that will benefit our kids, but that we do not have to go back to our community at the end of this funding cycle to ask for money to sustain the programs. It will be difficult, but will have to be done and may mean changing the use of our funding sources. Director De Fauw is concerned not only with the years down the road, but effects from this to our current budget issues. Mr. Almanza stated that if a program cannot be funded from this grant, it won't happen. There may even be opportunities to shift funding from our general funds to be included in the grant if appropriate.

Director Roberson is aware of the needs of our district and he is looking at this opportunity as a way to help our kids. He believes the components of this that encourage college courses will be helpful for our students. He thinks we should move forward to make this work.

Director Clewell stated that during the visioning process it was clear that the community wanted involvement in the DCSD. This proposal seems to do that from Pre-K through high school. He has some concerns and has not been able to review the latest proposal. He also feels we cannot afford to jeopardize existing programs. He asked who will provide the leadership for the proposal. Mr. Almanza said that for the district it will be the superintendent and the administrators who will be expected to meet the requirements. Mr. Malin talked about other leadership councils that will be formed for the city side of the proposal.

Director Johanson asked if there are specific requirements of the fiscal agent. Mr. Almanza said that normally the role is to make sure that all of the funds are spent appropriately and in accordance with state or federal regulations. Director Johanson asked about the resources that would be needed for this grant. Mr. Almanza said that there will be significant staff/administrator time involved and that the monetary resources should be supplied by the grant. He wanted to verify that if the activities cannot be funded out of the grant or the programs cannot be implemented that we would be able to opt-out. Mr. Almanza verified that was true. He wishes the process had been different and that there was a better collaboration.

Director Tupper's hope was that more detailed information would have been provided before this meeting. With the recommendation of the Superintendent he feels we should move forward with this for the benefit of the district. This board has been very active in Early Childhood programs and dual enrollment for high school, so those components are in line with the direction of the board and provide some good opportunities.

President Zamora congratulated the board members on dealing with their willingness to remain open to ideas and what is best for our children. She has some severe reservations, however the ultimate purpose is to help children and so she suggests we take the leap of faith and try to make this partnership work. The history of how hard the city worked on the Davenport Promise gives her hopes that this can work out, with the caveat that there is an opt-out.

Mr. Almanza says this process has violated his own integrity. He believes in working collaboratively, but also working honestly. He will make the process work as best he can. Although this process was done with good intent, it was done without a lot of communication.

Director Tupper expressed his appreciation to all those involved to get to this point. Director Roberson also stated his gratitude for all the hard work put into this effort, but hopes that if we collaborate like this again that there will be more information available before a decision must be made. Director Krumwiede thanked the city and the DCSD superintendent/staff for putting this together and that this is a first step to continue working together. President Zamora summed up that as a board they are not happy with the process, but that they may be making a leap of faith to make this happen. She asked that the city become our cheerleaders and to remind the public that DCSD is an awesome district and that we will be their collaborators as well. Director Clewell feels that this day is a validation of our vision statement....what if?

**Vote:** Tupper, Krumwiede, De Fauw, Johanson, Clewell, Roberson, and Zamora. The vote carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Director Roberson moved the Board adjourn. Director Johanson seconded the motion. By consensus all board members agreed. President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

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Lynnette Carver, Board Secretary/Treasurer