

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 30, 2010

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met for a Special Call Meeting and Committee of the Whole Meeting on Monday, August 30, 2010, pursuant to law. The meetings were held in the Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Zamora called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President: Patt Zamora, Directors: Ken Krumwiede, Nikki De Fauw, Tim Tupper, Rich Clewell and Larry Roberson. Ralph Johanson called in by conference call to participate. Other administrators were present.

Special Call Meeting

Superintendent Search

President Zamora stated that the board needed to outline the process for hiring a new superintendent and setting a timeline. Director Tupper asked if in the last search there was some community input in what the public thought were important criteria in selecting a superintendent. He feels that would be beneficial to do again. Director Krumwiede asked for more information on how those types of meetings were held. President Zamora stated that the search firm put out information to invite the public to discuss their ideas and feelings on selecting a superintendent. The firm then used that information, along with the board's information, to select appropriate applicants to interview. The consensus was that it would be beneficial to have community input again in this search.

President Zamora asked whether the board felt it is appropriate to hire a search firm or if we want to do our own initial screening of applicants. Director De Fauw stated she feels it would be beneficial to hire a search firm. Director Krumwiede also feels that especially with a district this size a search firm could better assist us in a list of candidates than doing it by ourselves. Director Tupper stated if we do use a firm we need to get started fairly quickly. Director Clewell feels the efficiency of using a search firm would be well worth the cost. Director Roberson also feels we should hire a firm, but have some guidelines early on in the process. Director Johanson would support hiring a search firm. By consensus the board agreed to hire a search firm.

Proposed timeline:

1. August 31, 2010: RFP letter sent to selected firms
2. September 15, 2010: Deadline for RFP returns
3. September 16, 2010 5:00 PM: Special Call Meeting to review RFP's and choose which firms the board would like to interview. Develop final interview questions for firms and look at a rating scale to use at the interviews

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4. September 20, 2010 5:00 PM: Special Call Meeting to interview selected search firms and make final selection
5. September 27, 2010 5:30 PM: Regular Board Meeting, Discussion Item will be initial planning meeting with chosen search firm.
6. February 1, 2011: Initial goal to have superintendent hired

President Zamora stated the board members should be reviewing their criteria for a qualified superintendent, review interview questions for a search firm, and bring their own ideas for candidates. Director Clewell brought up the fact that we do need to be specific with the search firm about our requirements so the applicants qualify for all certifications/licensures. Other factors may include someone with a background in a diverse community, has had experience in a larger district, and has financial experience.

By consensus the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM and reconvened at 6:05 PM.

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Geographic Information System (GIS)

Mr. Almanza reported that the data has been compiled and now it is at the discretion of the board to choose the options and next steps to take. All dedicated spaces are included in capacity. He recommended 85% capacity as a target. 90% would be a recommended cap. He would never recommend 100% capacity. Director Krumwiede, a former principal, suggested 80-85% as a target. He always wanted a bit extra space to work with as things developed throughout the year.

Director Tupper asked why the administration allows transfers to attending schools outside of attendance areas. Mr. Almanza stated that the board has not given a clear direction on limiting the current standards for those options. With paid-conditional busing services it has opened up the options for families. Paid-conditional busing is used by those children that live within the walk zone that pay to ride the bus if there are additional seats available. In addition siblings, day-care issues, new students and grandfathered children use that busing option to attend schools outside their attendance center. Director Tupper asked that if we do not continue to allow transfers into buildings that are at capacity what impact that would have. His understanding was that opting in was a year at a time. Director Krumwiede stated that more than one child in a family and not wanting to split schools makes that difficult. Ms. Reynolds stated that the year to year option is not currently used. Child care in particular is a huge issue that families have to request transfers. This is a very emotional topic for families and it is difficult to keep our families happy and still strictly enforce transfers. She noted several specific instances to describe reasons for transfer requests. Director De Fauw noted that the last time the board discussed the transfer issue that the responsibility was taken out of the hands of the principals and put into the hands of the administration. There was also direction of limiting transfers, but not eliminating them. Mr. Almanza stated that it is possible to set limits and the administration will follow through with it if that is the board's decision. Dr. O'Melia stated that she feels whatever the board decides that it should be made known to the public.

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Specific options were discussed as outlined. Each was discussed individually and then a consensus was determined.

A. Utilization/Capacity Option:

1. Limit capacity to 85-90%
2. Capacity should not be the only factor in closing under capacity schools
3. Relocating programs is not preferable
4. Board absolutely does not want to raise class size.

B. Change of Policy/Procedures Option: The consensus of the board is that if we institute limiting transfers based on caps these options are not relevant. However in discussions the board agreed that:

1. 3-4 sections should be the max
2. No, we should not discontinue the sibling rule
3. No, we should not discontinue the 5th grade rule
4. We should be as arduous as possible in the registration process
5. No, we should not do away with transfers altogether
6. Yes, we should have capping

C. Boundaries Option: The board's consensus is that we do not redraw boundaries

D. Expansions Option:

1. We do not need to consider additions to building that are at or above 80% if we adopt 85% capacity with 4 sections
2. The options of adding to buildings under 80% capacity would need to be reviewed if limiting to 4 sections
3. Combinations of expansions and other options:
 - a. Not in a position now for new construction but need to consider for long range planning, no to redrawing boundaries and would have to evaluate closing schools
 - b. No to redrawing Harrison boundary, the board would consider recapturing internal space at Truman, no to additions to Truman, Fillmore, Buchanan
 - c. More information needed on making Young a K-8 building incorporating Lincoln but something to consider
 - d. More information would be needed to consider combining Buffalo and Blue Grass to restructure Buffalo to a K-2 building and Blue Grass to a 3-5 building
4. Acquiring property: The board may want to explore acquiring property now while land is affordable in areas of growth. Additional information from the administration would be needed to be considered.
5. Magnet Schools: The board would consider this with additional information and considering how a magnet school fits in with student achievement.

Mr. Almanza stated that with this information the administration will look at the building levels for capacity, class sections, and use of current space. If the board is serious about a magnet school he suggests further investigation by the board now to see how to be successful in instigating this type of school. The board needs to consider whether these issues need community input and will discuss this at a later time.

The meeting was adjourned by President Zamora at 8:10 PM.

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Lynnette Carver, Board Secretary