

REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2002

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in Special Call Session on Monday, November 11, 2002, pursuant to law and the rules of said Board, at the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said school district in the Board Room. President Susan Low called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM after a brief recess following the adjournment of a Special Call Meeting earlier.

On roll call the following members were present: President Susan Low; Directors Richard Clewell, Alan Guard, Steve Hunter, Anne Losasso, and Dan Portes. Absent: Director Jim Hester. Student board members present for the regular meeting were William Baresel and Coletta Sanchez-Warner from Central High; Amanda Strittmater and Kim Koranda from West High.

RECOGNITIONS

I. RECOGNITIONS

A. **Scott County Community Empowerment Board * *Rachael Mullins, Grants Facilitator***

Rachael Mullins, Grants Facilitator, recognized the Scott County Community Empowerment Board and Pricilla Smith for supporting our District. The individuals in this organization are dedicated to assisting our district with early childhood education efforts. They have worked with professional development, preschool equipment expansion, and funding seed money for the "Read With Me" program. Board members received materials about the wonderful partnership. Rachel Mullins and President Low presented a plaque to Pricilla Smith who was representing the Empowerment Board this evening. The Board expressed their thanks also.

B. **Hayes Elementary * *Sheri Day, Principal***

Hayes School Principal, Sheri Day, recognized the **preschool programs** that were new to the building and the district. She introduced and recognized staff members who were involved. Audrey Watemburg shared information about the preschool programs and seven "Instructional Domains" that dealt with areas such as language, science, arts, physical needs, health, math, and social development. The Hayes Preschool 2 to 5 year-old students ended the presentation by singing a little song they learned this year, "Toes are tapping." Dr. Blanche thanked everyone and said they did a wonderful job. The parents of the students were recognized for their participation with the preschool efforts.

C. **Walcott Elementary and Intermediate **Dr. Erica Goldstone, Principal***

Dr. Goldstone and Mr. Fox introduced staff members, **Julie Champ** and **Edward Quartell**, along with student representatives who worked on a tree planting event done to symbolize the fallen Twin Towers of September 11, 2001 and would serve as a living remembrance of the people who lost their lives. The school and Walcott community held a special ceremony to honor the lives of these people and to offer hope to students for the future. Several students had the opportunity to read letters they wrote about the tragedy. They shared feelings and thoughts about safety, freedom, lives being changed, the people lost, and how the trees were a good way to remember September 11th.

Mrs. Jenell Nisly (TAG) and her students who received honors at various competitions were recognized. **Kelsey Breure** received a \$500 scholarship to the school of Engineering at both the University of Iowa and Iowa State University for the best invention at the Invent Iowa State Invention Convention. Kelsey competed with more than 3,000 students in the State of Iowa. The Board listened to Kelsey explain her project, journal, and a display brought showing the EZ Hauler. She also answered questions from the Board.

Kevin Dolan, scored in the top 1% of students nationwide and was honored at the end of last year at an awards ceremony at the University of Iowa for his accomplishment on the Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search EXPLORE Assessment test. The test measured academic development in English, mathematics, reading, and science. Students in grades 4-6 who scored in the 95th percentile or above on the ITBS were eligible to take the test which takes approximately 2 hours to complete. The EXPLORE measured how these students did on a test developed for 8th graders and was used to assist educators in advancing a student curriculum.

The Mock Trial Regional 2nd Place Winners recognized were **Alisha Heisterkamp, Bobby Sheeder, Lisa Wallace** (nominated for outstanding attorney), **Kevin Dolan** (nominated for outstanding attorney), **Anna Stolley, Sarah Penny, Taylor Nees, Josh Thurston, Jessie Langston, and Courtney Weise** (nominated for outstanding witness). Walcott's Mock Trial Team will compete in the State Mock Trial Competition on November 22, 2002 in Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. Goldstone said these students represented but a small number of the many Walcott students who possess talents across the curricular spectrum. She was proud of her entire student body for their good works inside and outside of the classroom.

Dr. Blanche congratulated the students and expressed his thanks to the staff for bringing out the best in these students. President Low added her appreciation from the Board.

D. **Wood Intermediate * Tim Wernentin, Principal**

Principal Tim Wernentin said that Wood Intermediate School was very proud to recognize their reading teacher **Kelly Dunn-Schulz** for her efforts in improving the Degrees of Reading Power scores of her students. They applauded Ms. Dunn-Schulz for the extra time she spends volunteering with the Drama Club, creating "inspirational" songs to encourage students to do their best on ITBS test, and for countless other contributions she makes for the students. She shows innovation, builds relationships, and she allows students to demonstrate success. Mr. Wernentin also mentioned that Mrs. Dunn-Schulz even created the ITBS rap song this year.

Mr. Wernentin also said Wood Intermediate School wanted to recognize an 8th grade student, **Dane Atkins**, for his academic success, as well as for his volunteering on weekends to work with greyhound dogs. Dane shared a little about what this experience has meant for him and what he does to help with this cause in our community. Dane and his mother volunteer to help with the greyhound dogs, do sales, and write stories for the newsletter. They have made donations, and if anyone wants to contact them for help, they can call Janet at 793-4578. Dr. Blanche thanked Dane and also recognized Dane's mother for her help. Dr. Blanche congratulated Mrs. Dunn-Schulz for her outstanding contributions to the children at Wood Intermediate.

E. American Education Week, * Dr. Jim Blanche, Superintendent

Dr. Blanche noted **November 17 to 23, 2002** will be the celebration of the 81st annual observance of **American Education Week**. The District and the Board of Education recognized the contributions made by our educational employees who work tirelessly to serve our children and our community with care and professionalism. The district employees equip our young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities. They give students hope and access to a productive future. They provide students with the tools needed to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality. Dr. Blanche thanked all the people who serve in our public schools including educators, support and service staff, volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials. Together you are the backbone of our democracy.

COMMUNICATIONS

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thursday, November 14, 11:00 AM, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Smart Intermediate
- B. Thursday, November 14, 3:30 PM, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, North High School
- C. Thursday, November 14, 5:00 PM, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, North High Family YMCA Multipurpose Room A.
- D. Tuesday, November 19, 5:00 PM, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, Williams Intermediate School
- E. November 20-22, IASB Delegate Assembly & Conference in Des Moines; Show & Tell Exhibits on Friday from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Polk County Convention Center
- F. Monday, November 25, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Board Room
- G. November 27-29: Thanksgiving Holiday for students & teachers
- H. Monday, December 2, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, at Fillmore Elementary School in the Media Center (Tour of facilities starts at 5:00 PM.)
- I. Monday, December 9, 6:00 PM, Exempt Session Negotiations (closed); and at 7:00 PM Regular Meeting, DSASC, Board Room
- J. Thursday, December 12, 5:00 PM, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee
- K. December 23, 2002 to January 3, 2003: Winter Break for students and teachers; Classes resume on Monday, January 6, 2003
- L. Open Forum for Community Input
 - 1. Wayne Kratz, 1335 W. 60th Street, spoke as the President of the DEA and expressed support of the Board trying to stem the flow of students out of our district. The ISEA and the DEA approved passing of an act to repeal the open enrollment laws. Mr. Kratz felt the Davenport District offered education that was second to none. People needed to be a part of our diverse community, and we have to encourage students to stay in our district. We must take steps to stop the flow of students leaving our schools. The DEA hoped the Board would pass a new policy at the earliest time.
 - 2. Phillip Hofinga, 2418 Myrtle Street, was in favor of finding a way to reduce open enrollment but discouraged the superintendent's proposal to restrict open enrollment by race. He expressed concerns about what the diversity issues were saying about our community and abilities of students of color. He thought there was a correlation with low economics that was a problem, not just diversity. He felt students of color would be denied their rights to open enroll, and we should avoid this type of prejudice.

3. Mary Piki, 2717 W. Central Park Avenue, was a parent of a special education student at West High. She talked about concerns dealing with her son at the school and threats being made to him. She was afraid for his safety and accused people of negligence. President Low asked Mrs. Piki not to make personal attacks on individuals during the open forum time, but to keep comments general. Mrs. Piki felt that people were ignoring her complaints and the school should expel the kids that were causing problems and not ask her child to move.

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 Meeting October 28, 2002 and the Committee of the Whole meeting November 4, 2002.

B. Secretary/Treasurer's Financial Report

It was recommended the Secretary's monthly reports of receipts and disbursements of the various funds for the period ending September 30, 2002 be approved.

C. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

RESIGNATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Effield, Robert	Effective: November 4, 2002
Spanish	Yrs. of Service: 12 days
Central High/Wood Intermediate	

RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Weibel, Ida	Effective: November 20, 2002
Grade 3	Yrs. of Service: 23 yrs.
Fillmore Elementary	

RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Benisch, Richard	14%
Boys' Swimming Varsity Coach	\$3,337.00
Central High	
Sinksen, Renee	7%
Flag Line Instructor	\$1,668.00
North High	

**ADDENDUM TO THE AGENDA
RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS**

Swetalla, Ray	25%
Head Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach	\$5,959.00
Central High	

SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Ahrens, Mike	7%
Girls Basketball Gr. 8 2 nd coach	\$1,668.00
Wood Intermediate	

Bunch, William	7%
Boys Basketball Gr. 7 2 nd coach	\$1,668.00
Wood Intermediate	

Holzworth, Paul	5%
Musical Technical Director	\$1,192.00
North High	

Striegel, Scott	7%
Girls Basketball Gr. 8 2 nd coach	\$1,668.00
Sudlow Intermediate	

APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Hurst, Mary	Degree: M.A.+30 – Step 11
Special Education/BD	Effective: 10/30/02
Jefferson/Edison	Salary: \$42,849.00 prorated to \$31,268.19 for the remaining 135 days left in the 2002-2003 school year.

Tollefson, Robert	Degree: B.A. – Step 4
Social Studies (.5)	Effective: 10/29/02
Williams Intermediate	Salary: \$28,158.00 prorated to \$10,349.97 for the remaining 136 days left in the 2002-2003 school year.

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

O'Brien, Kelly	Effective: October 4, 2002
Para-educator	Yrs. of Service: 1 yr.
Jefferson-Edison Elementary	

Moore, Sevann	Effective: October 29, 2002
Food Service Worker	Yrs. of Service 2 mos
Monroe Elementary	

Morgan, Rita	Effective: October 30, 2002
Food Service Cook	Yrs. of Service: 1 yr, 1 mos
West High	

Shepherd, Joan Food Service Worker Central High	Effective: October 31, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 2 mos
Sheridan, Amy Food Service Worker Buffalo Elementary	Effective: November 13, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 1 yr, 7 mos
Spies, Corey R. Para-educator West High	Effective: October 16, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 1 yr
Terrell, Loretta Para-educator Central High	Effective: October 25, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 8 yrs, 7 mos.

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Albers, Dan Para-educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 6 hrs/day
Allers, Michelle Para-educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 6.5 hrs/day
Bartleson, Catherine Para-educator Garfield Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 4.5 hrs/day
Beck, Michael Clerk II (12 Months) KCAE (21 st Century Grant)	Effective: October 29, 2002 Salary: \$9.40 8 hrs/day
Bryant, Frieda Food Service Worker Madison Elementary	Effective: October 7, 2002 Salary: \$6.86 4 hrs/day
Cooper, Craig Ryan Para Educator Washington Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 7 hrs/day
Hodges, Angela Para-educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 5.25 hrs/day
Knisley, Carol Food Service Cashier Smart Intermediate	Effective: October 7, 2002 Salary: \$7.07 2.25 hrs/day
Jackson, Carla Para-educatory (Bi-lingual) West High	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$8.25 7 hrs/day

Jones, Beatrice Para-educator Lincoln Elementary	Effective: November 4, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 3.17 hrs/day
Larew, Lois Food Service Worker Garfield Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.86 2 hrs/day
Murray, Tracy Para-educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 6 hrs/day
O'Connor, Catherine Positive Behavior Support Liaison Walcott Intermediate	Effective: November 11, 2002 Salary: \$20,000 prorated to \$13,729.73 8 hrs/day 185 days
Ormsby, June Clerk II (10-1/2 Months) North High	Effective: October 7, 2002 Salary: \$9.40 6 hrs/day
Patrick, Kathleen Para-educator Garfield Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 4 hrs/day
Pearl, Jennifer Food Service Cashier Central High	Effective: October 7, 2002 Salary: \$7.07 2.75 hrs/day
Rauch, Maureen Para-educator Wilson Elementary	Effective: November 1, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 6 hrs/day
Saldivar, Rikki Food Service Worker Garfield Elementary	Effective: November 4, 2002 Salary: \$6.86 2.5 hrs/day
Shumaker, Jeanie Para-educator McKinley Elementary	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 7 hrs/day
Sothmann, Patty Para-educator Wood Intermediate	Effective: October 31, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 6.5 hrs/day
Tompkins, Patricia Para-educator KCAE	Effective: October 28, 2002 Salary: \$6.55 6 hrs/day

Wachtel, Francis	Effective: October 29, 2002
Food Service Van Driver	Salary: \$8.71
Operation Ctr.	7 hrs/day (2 days/week)

Williams-Wilkinson, Carolyn	Effective: October 8, 2002
Food Service Worker	Salary: \$6.86
McKinley Elementary	1.75 hrs/day

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

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board accept the Consent Agenda as written, with the addition of the addendum item placed at the board member's places for a personnel resignation. Director Guard seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Clewell, Guard, Hunter, Losasso, Portes, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

MOTION: Director Guard moved it be 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, with the exception of two checks that were voided #125758 and #125792. Further Resolved, that the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented. Director Portes seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Guard, Portes, Clewell, Hunter, Losasso, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Textbook Adoption & Expenditure of Service Book Funds

The administration made recommendations for adoption of textbooks and expenditure of service book funds for American Studies II and Contemporary American History courses, which were outlined and discussed at a previous meeting. The textbook and reasons for expenditure of funds were reviewed at the October 14, 2002 board meeting. If we place our order and payment is received at Prentice Hall by December 31, 2002, there will be no shipping and handling (10%).

MOTION: Director Portes moved the administration's request be approved to expend 2002-2003 service book funds in the amount of \$38,980.50 to adopt studies for Contemporary American History, which is titled *America: Pathways to the Present; Modern American History*, and is published by Prentice Hall, Author Clayton, et al, Copyright 2003. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Portes, Clewell, Guard, Hunter, Losasso, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Director Portes moved the administration's request be approved to expend 2002-2003 service books funds in the amount of \$86,557.94 to adopt studies for American Studies II, which is titled *America: Pathways to the Present; Modern American History*, and is published by Prentice Hall, Author Clayton, et al, Copyright 2003. Director Losasso seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Portes, Losasso, Clewell, Guard, Hunter, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Shive-Hattery Engineer for North High Project

The administration recommended the firm of Shive-Hattery be approved to engineer the scheduled year four PPEL designated project at North High School to replace the roof-top air-handling units, as discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

MOTION: Director Hunter moved the administration's recommendation to approve the firm of Shive-Hattery to engineer the scheduled year four PPEL designated project at North High School to replace the roof-top air-handling units, as discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Director Portes seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Hunter, Portes, Clewell, Guard, Losasso, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Drivers Education Fees for 2003-2004

The administration recommended that the fee for driver education classes remain at the current figure of \$250 with no cost increase at this time.

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation that the fee for driver education classes remain at the current figure of \$250 with no cost increase at this time. Director Losasso seconded the motion.

Director Guard asked about policy for acceptance of someone taking driver education some place other than the school district and if they receive credit. Dr. Blanche said if it was through an accredited institution in summer school it would be accepted but with no credit for graduation. Director Guard asked about classes through the AEA. Mr. Schrader said there would not be graduation credit. Director Guard wondered why we didn't accept this. Mr. Schrader suggested this be put under advisement, but we do not recognize this for graduation at the current time.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Losasso, Guard, Hunter, Portes, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Board Policy and By-Law Revisions

The administration recommended revisions made in one board policy and two By-Laws that were discussed at the Committee of the Whole on November 4, 2002.

Board Policy #603.02 Field Trips

MOTION: Director Losasso moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation for revisions made in Board Policy #603.02 Field Trips (Study Trips) as discussed at the Committee of the Whole November 4, 2002. Director Portes seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Losasso, Portes, Clewell, Guard, Hunter, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

By-Law #903.05 Special Meetings

MOTION: Director Losasso moved the Board approve the revisions of the administration in By-Law #903.05 Special Meetings as discussed at the Committee of the Whole November 4, 2002. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Losasso, Clewell, Guard, Hunter, Portes, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

By-Law #903.06 Closed/Exempt Sessions

MOTION: Director Losasso moved the Board approve the recommendation of the administration for the revisions made in By-Law #903.06 Closed/Exempt Sessions as discussed at the Committee of the Whole November 4, 2002. Director Guard seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Losasso, Guard, Clewell, Hunter, Portes, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Bid #677 West High Kimberly Complex Asphalt Paving/Public Hearing

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board approve Bid #677 for West High Kimberly Complex asphalt paving installation to the low bid from General Asphalt in the amount of \$77,861. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Bid #677 for installation of an asphalt parking lot at the West High Kimberly Complex. No one came forth to be heard. The public hearing was declared closed.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Guard, Clewell, Hunter, Losasso, Portes, and Low. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Bid #677 West High Kimberly Complex Asphalt Paving/Public Hearing

Bids and Quotations

RE: Bid No. 677
For Board Meeting 11/11/2002

1. Item, material or service being bid, with a brief description:

Installation of an asphalt parking lot at the West High Kimberly Complex.

2. Rationale:

To provide parking for the athletic events.

3. Department and person responsible for the expenditure of the budget:

<u>Support Services</u>	<u>Bill Good</u>	<u>\$80,000</u>	<u>Local Option Sales & Services</u>	
Department	Administrator	Budget or Estimate	Fund	Req. Number

4. Number of bids sent to vendors: 5 **Date:** October 16th 2002

5. Number of bids received from vendors: 2 **Date:** October 30th 2002

6. Listing of Vendors:

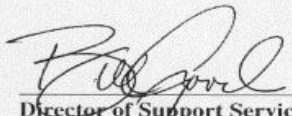
General Asphalt - Davenport, IA. – Total bid: \$77,861.00

Tri City Blacktop – Bettendorf, IA. – Total Bid: \$79,594.00

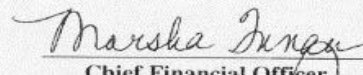
7. Recommended Bid:

The low bid from General Asphalt in the amount of **\$77,861.00**

8. Other Comments:



Director of Support Services



Chief Financial Officer

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. **Preschool Classrooms Update**

Kathy Erickson, Coordinator/Program Administrator, provided information on the seven new preschool classrooms through a PowerPoint presentation. She explained the opportunities being provided in classrooms for two-year-old children at Hayes, Lincoln, and Wilson schools. There are also three- and four-year-old classrooms at Hayes, Lincoln, Madison, and Wilson schools. Board members learned there were 96 new students and about 133 on the waiting list at this time. She talked about quality care, comprehensive curriculum, and model assessment being provided. Ms. Erickson emphasized the various activities that were happening at the preschools including having drama centers, sensory tables, large motor activities, large group activities, family-style lunch, health and math activities. Community meetings for parents are happening and there are things done to assess the students. Children also learn concepts such as directions or colors, and they have language skills development. There is a wrap around before and after the core day and some children come as early as 7 AM and can stay until 5:30 PM. The core day for preschool is five hours. When the children stay longer, then there is a nap time included. Board members asked questions about selecting students, additional rooms needed to fill the waiting list demands, life skills program for preschool children, tracking students after preschool, tuition, free and reduce lunch guidelines, and title funding.

B. **District Wide Early Start Date & Innovate Calendar**

Ethel Reynolds talked about the early start date (before September 1) for our buildings, and a request for a district wide waiver for our innovative calendar that is equivalent to the State requirement of 180 school days. Mrs. Reynolds said that since 1998/99 we have requested a waiver for 176 days, plus 2 conference days. Our 176 days are equal to the requirements to meet the hours needed because we have a longer day than other school districts and we have staff development days to use. We have had the 176 days for the last five years, and we hope to continue this practice. The administration explained the need for approval of a request to the Department of Education to commence classes for regularly established elementary and secondary schools prior to the earliest starting date specified in subsection 1. The district has determined 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. A public hearing will be held on November 25 for community input on the starting date for school which would be before August 29 and for having a district wide innovative calendar. Over 90 percent of the school districts start before the first week in September. We want to remain consistent and start early in case we have to make up time because of weather conditions. This allows our teachers and students time prior to taking college classes in the summer and for their professional development.

C. **Athletic Study Tables Update**

Randy Schrader, along with the high school and intermediate school athletic directors, had an opportunity to report on the Athletic Study Tables. The Board heard updates on the work being done by the staff and the progress being made to improve the academic records of students. D'Anne Gross, Larry Swanson, Gary Long, John Lee, and Jim Caparula shared information and statistics about their schools and study tables available for students. They outlined services provided to students at the intermediate buildings and high schools and how the athletes and others have raised grade point averages. They shared conclusions about how the new policy was helping students academically and keeping them active in extra curricular events. Board members expressed their approval of the innovative ideas

they were seeing to help students. There were suggestions that maybe there could be a list of best practices that could be shared with all the schools. Board members commented on the staff helping students achieve their goals and getting off to a good start. They talked about motivation and helping students be successful in the classrooms. The students seem to be experiencing academic success and this is having a positive effect. Mr. Schrader also mentioned how they have been able to address some of the needs of students with exceptional needs. There was discussion about the role of parents, and how the schools have been asked to step in to take over this responsibility. Mr. Schrader commented that this is what has evolved in education and these are the expectations of our society today. We should be able to transfer this back to the parents, but right now we have to accept things as they are for many students. The discussion continued about competition for students and how students want to be involved with winning teams. Dr. Blanche thanked the staff members and leaders for their work and invited them to return with updates later.

D. Desegregation Update in the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan

Bob Mata provided a PowerPoint presentation that outlined information from our desegregation plan included in the District's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. He presented background reference information regarding the voluntary desegregation plan and the three generally accepted rationales for adopting a voluntary desegregation plan. The Board learned who approves or denies open enrollment requests and what the interscholastic athletic eligibility rules are for high school students who open enroll. There was information about attendance centers, denials of requests, and appeals. If the resident district has a desegregation plan, they act on the applications no later than February 1. If the plan does not exist, the receiving district acts on the application by March 1. If the resident district denies the application, the parent/guardian must be notified and a copy of the denial sent to the Department of Education.

Mr. Mata talked about the extensive plans and historical background, the transition for the district, ACE becoming our equity plan, and now the Comprehensive School Improvement Plans for the buildings gives a broader view of issues. He talked about disparities and how we must be deliberate and multi-dimensional in our practices and procedures and with the distribution of money. We can make a difference and it is up to us to make the dream come true through teaching tolerance. The Board is dealing with a multi-dimensional issue, and we are aligning the board policy and the desegregation plan. Student board members asked some questions and commented about the open enrollment policy limitations. Mr. Mata said special consideration should be given to the equity plan when making the decisions. The Board has a plan in effect now with the Open Enrollment policy regarding transfers in and out. Director Hunter mentioned under the existing policy transfers will not be allowed if they have an adverse impact, but this is not being enforced or interpreted. Mr. Mata said the policy is not specific and unclear about what it means. Discussion continued about what needs to be done regarding student achievement and impacts of demographics. The Board wants more information to look at and a total document presented of the desegregation plan. They talked about differences in transfers within the district verses between districts. Dr. Blanche mentioned experiences of other districts that had instituted policies and desegregation plans. The Board is obligated to look at the open enrollment policy at this time and to redefine what we are saying. There are several pieces involved with the policy, procedures, and a desegregation plan. Dialogue continued about marketing and the competitions between districts for students. President Low said the Board wasn't limiting open enrollment, but they are defining the different terms needed. Mr. Mata said there are district people and agencies that would be happy to assist the Board in this process.

Director Guard talked about the data he has collected on other districts that have implemented policies and desegregation plans. He expressed his concerns about those districts becoming more isolated and how he felt their plans have not been effective. Director Clewell said they were being challenged to make this multi-dimensional plan, and we need to pull together the components into one desegregation plan. Bob Mata will work on making this document for the board members to use. They talked about the richness of our community because of diversity and the dynamics of changes that impact our district. There were comments about state and federal mandates, guidelines, and compliance. They talked about the broader picture and the investment in our community that needs to be made. Our tax dollars going to other communities are adversely affecting our district. The Board will have to weigh what appropriate action they need to take, and there are a number of areas to be addressed. We have moved forward in so many ways and now have to ask what do we value or believe. President Low thanked Mr. Mata for covering an enormous amount of data and she expressed appreciation to staff members, including the Board Secretary, for helping prepare the information needed. There is a lot for everyone to think about on this topic. Director Portes asked about the focus group report. The administration is working with a company to get the focus group involvement that is a true cross section of our school district. There should be information soon on the work being done. Dr. Blanche talked about meetings and pulling together the focus group. A report will be made to the Board.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS -- No reports

VIII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

1. Director Guard requested an agenda item for consideration of a proposal to direct the administration to conduct an evaluation of the 2002 school closings.
2. Director Losasso made an information request about the contract for usage of Brady Stadium between the Davenport Schools and Assumption High and between the Davenport Schools and St. Ambrose University.
3. Director Clewell asked for an agenda item at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Are there schools that were titled "In Need of Improvement" under the No Child Left Behind Act that will exceed that category by the end of this school year? Is there any likelihood that any additional schools will be listed in the 2003-2004 school year?

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board adjourn. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: All ayes.

President Low declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Linda M. Smith, Board Secretary