

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL CALL SESSION (OPEN)
January 15, 2010**

The Board of the Davenport Community School District met for a Special Call Open Session on Friday, January 15, 2010, pursuant to law. The meeting was 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 4:30 PM.

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

I. ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Race To The Top Application and Memorandum of Understanding

Motion: Director Clewell moved the Board rescind the motion on the Race To The Top Program approved at the January 11, 2010 Regular Board Meeting due to the lack of full information on the IASB's concerns and the full implications of the impact of the MOU to the District and to the State. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

“January 11, 2010 Motion: Director Clewell moved the Board approve the Board President sign the Application and Memorandum of Understanding with the Iowa Department of Education to receive funding through the Race to the Top Program, but to hold the submission until the concerns expressed by the IASB on January 11, 2010 are addressed. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

January 11, 2010 Vote: The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Krumwiede, De Fauw, Johanson, Roberson, Tupper and Zamora. The motion carried unanimously.”

Discussion:

Director Roberson asked what had changed from the last meeting to warrant reconsidering the decision that had been made. The Superintendent stated that there were still concerns relating to a number of the issues that IASB had expressed. On January 13, 2010 the Department of Education changed the MOU language to make it easier for schools to opt out, but it did not change any of the other concerns regarding the legislation that was proposed and in fact passed today. Many districts have the same concerns. The Teacher's Association also opted not to sign the MOU. The legislature is saying that in the event this is not funded, they will go back and look at the legislation to see how it could be revised. He believes the RTTT proposal would be best if everyone fully understands what they will be getting into. The Department contacted the

Superintendent on whether or not the District would reconsider applying since the legislature has passed. All school districts would need to be given the option to submit late if the offer is made to even one district. He indicated that he still did not feel it appropriate to recommend the Board approve submission. If the opportunity becomes available again, he would welcome the chance to start the process early and with full cooperation.

Director Roberson asked if the requirements will apply to all districts eventually. The Superintendent stated that those changes will not apply to us, only to the identified 35 persistently lowest achieving schools.

Director Tupper asked if the Superintendent is asking the Board to not apply for the money because he disagrees with the provision that boards negotiate with teacher unions on issues that do not even affect us at this time. The Superintendent stated we already have a close working relationship with the union and this was not the only issue of concern.

Director Tupper feels that the uncertainties from the motion have been addressed. Mr. Almanza pointed out that the IASB stated that they are not recommending Districts to sign the MOU.

Director Johanson asked about the essence of the two bills that were passed and why the urgency to pass them. The Superintendent reiterated the concerns. Director Johanson asked if our local legislators contacted the Superintendent. He said he was contacted after the bills were introduced. The sense of urgency in the legislature was due to the fact that it required changes in the Iowa law prior to submittal of the RTTT application.

Director De Fauw questioned why we would not submit with the option to opt-out at a later time. She feels we will be required to do these things anyway. She asked if we will be able to sign up on a second round? The Superintendent answered that we would.

Director Krumwiede stated that it is his understanding that the DEA also did not want to sign the MOU. It has been a confusing process and he originally agreed to sign if we could back out. But with additional information he feels that we need to be careful about our decision. It was his understanding that the UEN was going to stand together on this, but now 1 or 2 districts have signed. If we can sign up during round two it would be wise to wait until more information is provided and clarified.

Director Clewell was very excited about the possibilities of RTTT to move into positive territory. However, it would not be prudent to risk the accountability of the District to sign off on an agreement that is not clear to everyone involved. He feels our students are better off by withholding the MOU at this point.

President Zamora stated that she has concerns about signing agreements that we do not fully understand. She also expressed a concern that she did not like the aspect of using student tests as part of teacher evaluations and that teachers did not necessarily like this either. The opt-out language is still not clear. She does not agree with school boards negotiating with their local unions the specific interventions being implemented to turn around a school. For years we have relied on the IASB and UEN, why would we not listen to them now? We have no solid information on the amount of money we would get. These were all concerns she expressed at the last meeting.

Director Tupper stated the \$5.6 million amount was provided by the Department of Education as our portion that they were applying for. Director Tupper read a portion of the 2033 bill that was proposed pertaining to money lost if negotiations were unable to come to an agreement.

Vote: The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Krumwiede, Johanson, Zamora
Nays: De Fauw, Roberson, Tupper. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Director Clewell moved the Board adjourn. Director Johanson seconded the motion. By consensus all board members agreed. President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Lynnette Carver, Board Secretary/Treasurer