

**DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
JANUARY 22, 2007**

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District met for an additional Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, January 22, 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 5:05 PM.

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT (Part 2)

Ethel Reynolds introduced individuals who would be making a second report on the topic of early childhood education. The overview included history and background information, funding sources, and preview of the next session. Betty Long gave the historical perspective which presented information on stand-alone, school-based model development. The Board learned about the at-risk students and "Shared Visions" program which allowed the district to expand pre-school programming. She talked about Children's Village at Hoover, blended classrooms and growth of the Children's Village. Snapshot outlines of the preschools explained the stand-alone, school-based programs at Blue Grass, Monroe, and Truman; Headstart at Blue Grass, Jefferson-Edison, and Kimberly Center; Children's Villages at Hayes, Hoover, and Children's Village West. The Board learned about enrollment at the various facilities and waiting lists. Kathy Schulte presented data about funding streams and eligibility criteria for children. Each building showed an outlined with percentages and funding sources that were reviewed so the Board could see the income streams as well as the expenditures side. There will be long-range considerations for early childhood to be addressed such as facilities, unmet needs, delivery structure, funding implications, and sustainability.

Board members had a number of questions about meeting the needs in Northwest Davenport at Buchanan and Fillmore Schools, Americana Park, and other areas. Director Tupper asked for data demonstrating how the efforts of preschool education were making a difference in learning later on in children's lives. Ms. Mullins said they were working on review of data to see if this was providing a foundation of success and trying to draw conclusions. Director Tupper said the legislators needed to understand how important this was on long-term basis. If we provide data to them, it will certainly help. Ms. Mullins said they feel we are seeing results but need more empirical data. Director Roberson asked about having 300 children on waiting lists, and wondered if we don't get to those students early enough, how can they get caught up when they start school? This was a critical issue with so many children needing help.

Director Clewell asked about the impact of new classrooms. Mrs. Schulte talked about children who would benefit from special education areas, Headstart, and with tuition spots. Director Clewell noted legislators have asked us about collaborating with other groups. It looks like we are doing this with preschool programs. Director Krumwiede had questions on the number of students and percentages of children not served. Mrs. Reynolds said the figures would be overwhelming and they were talking about using a survey to get information on the needs in our community. President Zamora expressed concerns for providing enough before and after school care programs. Mrs. Schulte talked about collaborative efforts with the YMCA through the wrap-around program which was an extension of our preschool day.

AUDIT REPORT FOR 2006

Mrs. Tangen introduced Dave Cahill from EideBailly who gave the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2006. This was a comprehensive report explained by sections with an Introductory Section with charts, mission, officials, letter of transmittal, and certificates. The Financial Section with the independent Auditor's Report, management discussion and analysis, and basic financial statements. There was required supplementary information in this section, as well as schedules, non-major governmental funds, and statements. The third part was the Statistical Section (unaudited) which included information on assets, expenses, levy, debt, and other statistical data. The last part was a Compliance Section and reported on internal controls in the district. There were additional notes, schedules of finding, and questions.

Following the presentation board members had an opportunity for questions. They talked about the audit adjustment, government funds, reportable conditions, auditing of bills, support systems, and other concerns. Mr. Cahill talked about the legal requirement to have a board member review the bills and present the recommendation. There will be additional follow up on the process to be used and interpretation of the auditing method involving the rotation of board members. Board members also asked about random review of the claims or requiring a full review of every payment made. The Board would like more clarification on this and the board involvement or having to hire a CPA. This will be a topic of discussion at a later time with information on what was required, levels of review, documentation of transactions, time, and follow up. The Board wanted to make sure we were in alignment with the code but needed an additional opinion to make changes in the current review system used.

PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR NORTH HIGH REMODELING

Bill Good presented the preliminary plans for remodeling at North High School designed by Bracke, Hayes, Miller, and Mahon, architects. He talked about the history of the building back in 1984, the addition of an auditorium, pool, and other changes. There were still a number of challenges because originally this was a middle school changed over to a high school. The improvements presented were the #1 priority for North High. The Board looked at the existing floor plans and areas to be remodeled. Areas impacted would include the boys' locker rooms to better adapt them for PE and athletic needs. There would be a new training room, access to the playing field, changes in the PE area, and team locker room amenities. There were major challenges with storage and being creative. The pictures also looked at the girls' side team lockers, coaches office and work areas with more storage. They looked at conceptual floor plans involving locker and training rooms, storage, new addition, accessible rest rooms, major renovations, weight room, woods and metals shops, hallways and minor renovations. The plan included site improvements, student activity areas, utilities work, and landscaping. The project cost was estimated at \$3,969,400.

Principal Jane Artman-Andrews talked about the history of the building and how much everyone appreciated the upgrades and partnership with the YMCA. The building had some limitations but with these improvements it will be more comparable to other high school facilities. Our students will benefit from this work and we will have better supervision and safer accommodations. This will give us adequate training space to serve our students and better storage for our expensive equipment. The storage addresses safety issues, injuries, and repair or replacement of items left out in the open at the present time. These changes will positively affect the attitude of our students and give them a sense of pride.

Mrs. Artman-Andrews talked about common space in hallways, rehearsal areas, and accommodating larger numbers of students. There will be more hours for preparation and practice time; an emphasis on the “bigger, faster, strong” philosophy so more students can participate, and school based activities such as “Project Lead the Way” will be positively impacted. Parents, students, staff, and community have waited patiently for the changes for ten years. We believe this construction work will benefit our students and help with achievement.

Board members talked about safety, improved academics, moving forward in support of our students, and expectations. They also had questions on space for the ROTC program, rehearsal space, and ventilation. Mrs. Artman-Andrews said there are many scenarios that could be used for extra space. They will do what was best for the staff and students. Bill Good answered questions and showed drawings to help the board conceptualized the design plans.

ADJOURNMENT

President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. Board members took a recess prior to the Regular Meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary