

REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 27, 2003

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in Regular Session on Monday, January 27, 2003, pursuant to law and the rules of said Board. The meeting was held at the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in the Board Room. President Susan Low called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Susan Low; Directors Richard Clewell, Alan Guard, Steve Hunter, Anne Losasso, Dan Portes, and Larry Roberson. Student board members attending were William Baresel and Colletta Sanchez-Warner (Central); Amanda Strittmater and Kim Koranda (West).

(Prior to the meeting a reception was held in the Board Room from 6:30 to 7:00 PM for the community, staff and friends of the family of Jim Hester.)

PUBLIC HEARING

I. PUBLIC HEARING -- Sale of District Property

A. 329 Dodge Street, Buffalo Iowa (Old Buffalo School)

The Board conducted a public hearing for the purpose of considering the sale of the property known as 329 Dodge Street (the old Buffalo School), Buffalo Iowa. President Low stated the Notice of the public hearing was published in the *Quad City Times* on Thursday, January 16, 2003. Written or oral comments with regard to the sale of the real estate described may be made at the public hearing or filed in writing with the Board Secretary. There were no requests to speak during the public hearing. President Low declared the public hearing closed. The Board considered action regarding the sale of this real estate pursuant to the terms and conditions of an Offer to Purchase later in the meeting.

RECOGNITIONS

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. HARRISON ELEMENTARY * *Micheal Lake, Principal*

Mr. Lake explained that thanks to the **Harrison School Site Committee, Mr. Cliff Coussens** (art instructor), the **Iowa Arts Council**, and "**Great Minds**" (Davenport Schools Foundation), a special learning experience occurred at Harrison School this fall. We were able to engage the internationally known Eulenspiegel Puppeteers for a two-week residency beginning October 21, 2002. Facilitator **Chelle Mannhardt** talked about the puppet program and explained what the students did. The use of puppets in teaching makes learning more exciting and effective. Puppetry as an art form lends itself to interdisciplinary activities with an emphasis in theatre, visual arts, literature, writing, communication, cultural understanding, problem solving, and teamwork. All Harrison students attended at least two performances in which the puppeteers told stories from several diverse cultures as well as demonstrated different styles of puppets. The fourth and fifth grade students also attended a puppet session where they learned how to adapt and interpret literature through puppetry and how to compare folk literature of various cultures. The third grade students had the opportunity to make their

own puppets and perform for the students of Harrison School and the residents of the Davenport Lutheran Home. The following third grade students were recognized: **Mitchel Boever, Elijah Brose Sarah Cargile, Tyler Case, Jayson Delvecchio, Chelsea Hamerlinck, Bailey Jackson, Jacob Lorentz, Eric Middleton, Mackenzie Peterson, Drake Smith, and Jenna Stinson.** These students took this opportunity to show their individual puppets and answer questions from the Board. They talked individually with board members and demonstrated the puppets they had created.

In addition, Harrison School also asked **Cliff Coussens** to step forward to be recognized as the leading force not only behind this project at Harrison School but many others. The staff and others said “thank you” for Mr. Coussens’ dedication to the Harrison students and their learning. Dr. Blanche thanked the parents for being at the meeting, also. He thanked Mr. Coussens for this project and other things he has been involved with at the school.

B. SCOTT COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY * *Rachael Mullins, Grant Manager*

Rachael Mullins talked about celebrating the work done by the Scott County Regional Authority and how it has impacted our school district. Representatives from Scott County Regional Authority, **Patsy Ramacitti** and **Terrye Kishiue**, were recognized and President Low presented them with a plaque acknowledging their vital contribution to Davenport Schools and the Scott County community. Individuals from the eight successful projects from the Fall 2002 grant cycle were announced and celebrated:

• All-day Kindergarten	Kathy Erickson	\$30,000 (Phase II)
• Band and Orchestra	John Bernatz	\$30,000 (Phase IV)
• Guided and Shared Reading	Tonya Urbatsch	\$29,970
• Health Education CPR Training	Roger Fuerstenberg	\$18,566
• Algebra for All	Betsy Fair	\$30,000
• Walcott Industrial Tech Lab	Sheri Wilson	\$27,400
• Blue Grass Greenhouse Project	Travis Benner	\$19,601
• Central Computers & Software	Betty Griffin	\$26,990

The total for our district in this round was \$212,527. Of the 31 education grants awarded to 8 applicants, all of these were ours. We received 30 percent of the funds and represented 25 percent of successfully funded applications. Ms. Mullins said that on behalf of the 17,000 students in our district, we say thank you for your support and efforts to assist our community. Thank you for your vision and support of our schools. Mrs. Ramacitta said Scott County Regional Authority wished they could do even more. They certainly appreciated the recognition from the Board, all of the district staff, and students.

Dr. Blanche added the SCRA has had quite an impact on our district. When he visits other superintendents around the country, they tell him how fortunate we are to have this kind of support for our programs and students. Also the deadline for the next round of applications will be April 1. President Low again thanked everyone for the work they do for our children.

COMMUNICATIONS

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Monday, February 3, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole @ Sudlow Intermediate School in the Media Center (5:00 PM tour of the facilities for anyone interested)
- B. Monday, February 10, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Jim Hester Board Room
- C. Monday, February 17 - Presidents' Day Holiday -- No School
- D. Tuesday, February 18, 6:00 PM, PTA Founders' Day Dinner @ North High School
- E. Monday, February 24, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Jim Hester Board Room
- F. Monday, March 3, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole @ Wood Intermediate School in the Media Center (5:00 PM tour of the facilities for anyone interested)
- G. Monday, March 10, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Jim Hester Board Room
- H. Monday, March 17, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Jim Hester Board Room
- I. Spring Break (March 24 through March 28) No School
- J. Open Forum for Community Input -- There were no requests to speak at this time.

President Low said several people had asked to speak during Open Forum regarding the naming of the Board Room. She asked them to wait at this point, and they would be allowed to make their comments when the item regarding the renaming of the Board Room would come forward for a vote.

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: January 6, 2003 Committee of the Whole; January 13, 2003 Regular Meeting; January 15, 2003 Special Call Expulsion; and January 21, 2003 Special Call Expulsion.

B. Open Enrollment Denial Out of Davenport 2003-04 (Late Applications)

It was the recommendation of the administration, that the Davenport Board of Education deny the following students to open enroll out of Davenport into other districts due to submitting late applications after the January 1, 2003 deadline.

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>District Requested</u>	<u>Davenport Attendance</u>
Adam Anderson	9 th	North Scott	West High School
Ronald Peavey	9 th	North Scott	West High School
Angela Peavey	11 th	North Scott	West High School

C. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Baldry, Carol
Math
West High
Effective: End of the 2002-2003 school year
Years of Service: 18 yrs. 10 mos.

Fritz, Manfred
Counselor
West High
Effective: End of the 2002-2003 school year
Years of Service: 35 yr.

Maher, Joseph
Language Arts
West High
Effective: End of the 2002-2003 school year
Years of Service: 26 yrs. 10 mos.

RESIGNATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Conklin, Sandra
Music
Wilson Elementary
Effective: End of the 2002-2003 school year
Years of Service: 31 yrs. 11 mos.

RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Bashor, Jessica
Head Sophomore Softball Coach
North High
10%
\$2,384.00

Gill, Robert
Head Sophomore Boys' Baseball Coach
West High
10%
\$2,384.00

Wiese, Michael
Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach
Central High
6%
\$1,430.00

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFIED

Ericksen, Annette
Grade 3
Jefferson/Edison School
Effective: December 18, 2002
Salary: \$33,055.00

APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

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Antle, Marissa
Kindergarten
Garfield Elementary
Degree: B.A. – Step 1
Effective: January 21, 2003
Salary: \$24,485 prorated to \$11,911.62 for the remaining 90 days of the 2002-2003 school year

Brus, Debra
Grade 4/Reading Recovery
Jackson/Adams Elementary
Degree: B.A. – Step 2
Effective: January 13, 2003
Salary: \$25,709.00 prorated to \$13,201.92 for the remaining 95 days of the 2002-2003 school year

Gray, D.G. Math Sudlow Intermediate	Degree: B.A. – Step 7 Effective: January 14, 2003 Salary: \$31,831.00 prorated to \$16,173.59 for the remaining 94 days of the 2002-2003 school year
Jordan, Ann Math (.5) Central High	Degree: M.A. – Step 1 Effective: January 17, 2003 Salary: \$14,079.00 prorated to \$6,925.35 for the remaining 91 days of the 2002-2003 school year
Kurtz, Dana Preschool (78 days) Childrens' Village at Hoover	Degree: B.A. – Step 1 Effective: January 13, 2003 Salary: \$10,283.70
Pancratz, Kathryn Spanish Wood Intermediate	Degree: B.A. – Step 1 Effective: January 16, 2003 Salary: \$24,485.00 prorated to \$12,176.32 for the remaining 92 days of the 2002-2003 school year
Rupiper, Deborah Reading Recovery (.50) Garfield Elementary	Degree: B.A. – Step 1 Effective: January 13, 2003 Salary: \$12,242.50 prorated to \$6,286.69 for the remaining 95 days of the 2002-2003 school year
Walls, Christina Grade 1/Reading Recovery Truman/Harrison Elementary	Degree: B.A. – Step 1 Effective: January 13, 2003 Salary: \$24,485.00 prorated to \$12,573.38 for the remaining 95 days of the 2002-2003 school year
White, Shannon Math Grade 7 Sudlow Intermediate	Degree: B.A. – Step 1 Effective: January 17, 2003 Salary: \$24,485.00 prorated to \$12,044.76 for the remaining 91 days of the 2002-2003 school year

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Cardaso, Patricia Para Educator Hoover	Effective: December 26, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 10 days
Overstreet, Lauryn Para Educator Hoover	Effective: January 24, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 1 month
Sones, Kathleen Para Educator Eisenhower Elementary	Effective: January 10, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 1 year, 5 months
Williams, Chari Para Educator Lincoln Elementary	Effective: January 9, 2003 Yrs. of Service: 1 year, 8 months

APPROVAL OF BILLS

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

MOTION: Director Guard moved the Board approve the following resolution: "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. Further Resolved, that the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented, with the exception of Check #129233, and we hold that check pending verification of certain information before the payment. Director Losasso seconded the motion. (Note: Check was verified as correct and released.)

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Naming the Jim Hester Board Room

The administration recommended naming the Board Room at the Administration Service Center to be called the "Jim Hester Board Room" in recognition of Director Hester's dedication to education and service to children and the community. Director Hester was a member of the Board from September 1989 until November 2002, serving as an educator and a mentor. After discussion of this matter at the last regular meeting, board members agreed they would like to have the recommendation come forward for approval to name the room used for board meetings after Director James C. Hester.

MOTION: Director Hunter moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation to rename the Board Room at the Administration Service Center to be called the "Jim Hester Board Room" in recognition of Jim Hester's dedication to education and service to the children and the community. Director Portes seconded the motion.

1. Marcel Howard, 2425 Elm Street, spoke about the clear direction Jim Hester gave to people in our community. There is no one in this room who could argue with the fact that Jim Hester has not only given us clear direction on how to be a dedicated community, but he has also laid a foundation for us as shown on the posters in the State of Iowa. As a former student, Marcel said there was no one community leader who had a more positive impact than Jim Hester. His name alone is synonymous with dedication, leadership, and experience. Mr. Howard's challenge to the Board is that when we walk through these doors, we not only acknowledge the memory of a great leader, but incorporate the lessons we have learned from Jim Hester, and use the foundation that he has given us and continue to build an excellent house of education.

2. Ann McGlenn Parsche, 3424 Adams Street, thanked the Board for inviting her to speak tonight. It was an honor for her to be here and she read an article she had written for the Quad City Times shortly after Jim Hester's death. She spoke about things she had learned from Mr. Hester and the lessons he shared with her. She emotionally talked about his passing and the influence he had on her life and the community. She paid tribute to all his accomplishments and talked about how he cheered on the students in athletics, his participation at school board meetings, and how he was there to help students when no one else was around to see him. Mrs. McGlenn Parsche shared accomplishments of Mr. Hester and explained how he responded to people even during his illness. She felt honored to have had the opportunity to know and learn from him. As her own son would grow up, she would let him know about the importance of Mr. Hester.

Board members were also given the opportunity to share their accounts of working with Mr. Hester. Director Roberson talked about Jim sharing lunch with him and how all they talked about was students. Mr. Hester wanted to do all he could to upgrade education for children and they would spend hours together in discussion on this topic. He was truly about all the kids, not just African Americans or minorities. Our conversations were always about the kids and things we could do to improve the quality of life in our community. It was not about us, but it was about the kids.

Director Hunter stated it was a privilege to serve with Jim Hester and he set a high example of leadership. He was an inspiration to everyone in the community through his professional life, athletics, and his career. When he started, equal opportunity was not available and we have to look at how far he went with his life. Today the resources are so much greater and available to students. If the children would apply the same effort as Mr. Hester, use common sense, and decency, there would be no limits to the achievements they could make. That would be a very fitting tribute to Mr. Hester's name.

Director Portes said there have been many African American people who have distinguished themselves on the playing fields, but few have distinguished themselves in the board room. Jim Hester distinguished himself in both arenas and will be long remembered more for what he did in this board room and for these schools than on the playing field. Many people did not have the opportunity to see Mr. Hester when he played for the Bears, but Director Portes said he remembered what he did to help kids coming through the schools. We are proud to call Jim Hester as one of our own, and we now have an incredible replacement for him sitting on our Board. We hope there will be many more to come who will choose to serve this community. The family was thanked for letting the district have so much of his time.

Director Guard said although he didn't have the opportunity to work with Mr. Hester on the Board, he knew of Jim's presence in the community, and especially because of his service on the school board. Director Guard thought Mr. Hester would appreciate having the room named after him much more than having a sports field or gym named after him. This is a fitting tribute to Mr. Hester.

Director Clewell related his accounts of times he and Mr. Hester went out to do school things together. He remembered going to the Art Museum and how Jim struggled to climb the steps with his breathing machine, but he went there any way. Director Clewell said we don't have many heroes in our world, but Jim was a real hero. A quote from Joseph Campbell was shared from a book, *Heroes with A Thousand Faces*. People say all we are seeking is a meaning for life; Director Clewell said what he felt we were seeking was an experience of being alive. "If you follow your bliss, then you put yourself on track . . . and the life that you ought to be living is the life you are living." Director Clewell felt Mr. Hester had found his bliss and had lived on that track where he was able to provide help for many people. Jim had good intentions and authenticity and was committed to bettering the lives of children.

Director Losasso said although she was unable to serve on the Board with Mr. Hester, she had spent many hours serving on activities with him at Central, Sudlow, and Eisenhower. He was a great supporter of athletics and other activities. We can all hold him as a shining example of a person who gave of himself for the community and the students, always with their best interests uppermost in his mind.

Dr. Blanche thanked Chris Hester and her family for being here tonight. It was a privilege for him to be able to sit at the table when this was happening. Jim Hester was a mentor and friend, and he would always remember those good times.

President Low said she didn't want to cry because that would make it harder for the family, but she had known Jim Hester most of her life. She shared her experiences in high school and how Jim was a hero then and a person to be admired. President Low said she was privileged to call him a friend, and she learned many lessons from him when she was elected to the Board. She enjoyed teasing him about things and attending conventions and meetings through the school board associations. Jim shared his ideas on how to improve education and make things better for children. She was happy to be able to bring the idea about naming the Board Room after Jim, and really wanted to do this before Jim passed away. She wanted Jim to know how much he was appreciated and how much he had done for the children and community as a whole. Jim probably would have said not to make such a fuss, but this is a wonderful tribute to his memory.

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

Following the vote on the naming of the Jim Hester Board Room, President Low called the family forward and presented flowers to Chris Hester. She showed the plaque and said it would be hung in the room engraved with Jim Hester's name.

Chris Hester took this opportunity to thank the Board for naming the room after her husband. She had called their girls and told them about what was happening. They were all very thankful for the support received and for the kindness that people showed to Jim during his illness. People took very good care of Jim, and she thanked everyone again. The family had been through a lot, and it was not easy to be strong. She appreciated what people have done and for the support from her family, also. She thanked the Board again on behalf of her late husband because Jim really cared about the kids.

7:45 PM

RECESS

The Board took a five-minute recess to allow for people to visit and the family to leave the meeting following the action taken by the Board. The meeting resumed at 7:50 PM

B. Resolution for Sale of Real Estate (329 Dodge Street, Buffalo, Iowa)

The administration recommended approval of a resolution for the sale of real estate located at 329 Dodge Street (the old Buffalo School) in Buffalo Iowa to the City of Buffalo for the total sum of \$73,000 and to execute and deliver the Purchase Agreement for the sale of this real estate, and take such other actions as necessary to consummate the transaction.

A public hearing was held at the beginning of the meeting.

MOTION: Director Clewell moved Board approval of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE
(329 Dodge Street, Buffalo, Iowa)

WHEREAS Davenport Community School District is the owner of certain real estate located at 329 Dodge Street, Buffalo, Iowa and more particularly described on Exhibit "A", attached hereto; and

WHEREAS Davenport Community School District has received an Offer to Purchase said property from the City of Buffalo for the total sum of \$73,000.00; and

WHEREAS Davenport Community School District has held a public hearing on the proposed sale of real estate pursuant to Iowa Code § 297.22.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Davenport Community School District in the County of Scott, State of Iowa hereby adopts the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that Davenport Community School District shall sell the Real Estate, above described, to the City of Buffalo for the total sum of \$73,000.00, pursuant to an Offer to Purchase;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and Secretary are hereby directed to execute and deliver the Purchase Agreement for the sale of the Real Estate and to take such other and further actions as are necessary or desirable to consummate the transactions contemplated thereunder.

Director Guard seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Guard, Hunter, Losasso, Portes, Roberson, and Low. Motion carried unanimously. (A copy of the complete document will be included with the minutes of record.)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Technology Resources and Curriculum Needs

The administration was asked to make a preliminary report assessing what technology resources are available and what the needs of our schools will be in the future.

Director Hunter first asked to comment about the fact that he had requested a preliminary overview, or a feasibility study that would commence discussion for the Board about the direction of technology in our district. He would like a fuller discussion, perhaps at a Committee of the Whole meeting. Director Hunter wanted this matter to be discussed because the funding has been cut for technology by the State without other initiatives to replace the money. From the materials the Board had, we are looking at a maintenance level of spending, and we need to be looking at a creativity level. Director Hunter hoped the Board would want to elevate this need to a higher level of importance in the district budget. We need to have visions of the future and although it would present challenges, we have to integrate curriculum with technology. It is the way of the future and we need to move forward with investigating instructional methods used and more integration into course work offered. We need to have technology adopted into industrial arts and make this a world class curriculum which is fully integrated in our buildings. This should be a primary goal for our district and we should be fully utilizing the technology we have available. There must be collaborative efforts that can be explored and this is essential to develop some arrangement like we have designed with the YMCA and our high school gym facilities. Director Hunter wanted the Board to move forward with this and charge our administration to elaborate on a higher level in the district and find more funding resources for technology. The administration should be asked to frame the feasibility to work toward improvements.

The administration talked about the State funding not being available at this time; however, we have procured the hardware and support for our technology at this point. Mr. Hunigan talked about having a budget of only \$400,000 this year out of the general fund to upgrade and maintain equipment. We will be looking at some areas and talking about benchmark schools with unique funding streams being available. The key will be integration and staff development money is needed to train our teachers. There was agreement that technology should be more visible and a higher priority. This will be a challenge for the staff without the proper funding and five years down the road, the equipment will become obsolete. We need to be preparing our students for future industry demands, and technology will be essential.

Gary Sloat was asked to share some information about the maintenance budget data that was shown. This budget would just keep the district up to speed with some integration. He talked about the data lines needed for the district, e-rates, contracted services for the router so buildings are on line, and other areas of technology needs. The staff services all the machines in the district, helps with software, web site, virus protection, set ups and upgrades throughout the district. We have a growing number of activities and services provided to the buildings and staff. We have done some exciting things to improve our technology and we are looking into e-locker solutions and electronic user ID's for students. Mr. Sloat talked about new opportunities for students and a multitude of software available that might be purchased with additional grant funding through Rachael Mullins.

Mr. Sloat said this was exciting but also challenging, especially with the No Child Left Behind Act, and the data that will be required to be housed and processed for reports in the future. Training continues to be provided for staff members such as the session by Tom Wagner recently where employees were learning about the use of pivot tables and making reports with data. Test scores will be easier to rotate and flip around to find variables and comparisons. It is essential to have staff development so teachers are trained in using the new software programs. Mr. Sloat would like to see something comprehensive across the district, but maybe at this time having some benchmark schools would be a good start.

Director Guard asked about assessment and taking a survey of students and teachers regarding technology use. Mr. Sloat will be working with Mr. Mata on the data collection areas for assessment and any data manipulation needed for reporting. Mr. Sloat also explained the service log and help-desk work that is impressive. About 95% of the callers are helped immediately from the remote access, and the average turnaround on more difficult areas is about three days. The beginning of the school year, of course, is always a rush and more time is required to service everyone's computer and answer questions. Director Guard had concerns about how we were getting input from the users on what they really needed and how they could integrate into the classroom work. Mr. Sloat talked about the communication methods used with teachers, para educators, students, and other staff. There is also the ICN and e-mail information technology people receive weekly from UEN. They drove up to Des Moines to see how that district was handling things and we are near the top on how our technology people and staff are using software and equipment.

Director Portes asked about other sources of funding being made available. Mr. Sloat said the Riverboats have been very good to us and we are the envy of a lot of smaller districts because of the grants we have gotten. Director Portes asked about our technology plan and strategies for the future. Mr. Sloat said we had a technology plan and we are now rebuilding it. Technology should be a higher priority and be integrated into curriculum. We are working with Dr. Urbatsch on the standards and benchmarks on what the students are achieving. We hope to have the equipment in place to do this work. Mr. Sloat talked about some experiments with computers being sent into homes and high power servers. He talked about portable laptops and zero maintenance that they would like to explore more.

Director Clewell brought up the No Child Left Behind Act legislation, and the fact that we don't know the direction this will take. He wondered if we have the right infrastructure to handle the requirements or will this require additional funding for us. Mr. Sloat responded there were many unknowns at this time, but our infrastructure will be capable to match. How to better warehouse and handle with the teachers getting the feedback from staff needs to be addressed. They continue to focus on the SIS program and people have lots of information available on students. There are challenges and we need more time for training. We have what we need and we can do it. Director Roberson asked if we were doing anything with businesses to see what they want and need. Will the students have the tools they need to take into the real world when they finish, and what should we be doing to improve this partnership? Mr. Sloat talked about the membership of the Tech-Steering Committee and their meetings. The software and PC platform we use is good, and there are still improvements for the future.

Director Losasso talked about having discussion at a meeting concerning the possibility of looking at computers as part of a graduation requirement. Many districts are adding this into their requirements, and the importance of the students being able to work and access computers at home. Mr. Thiessen talked about spreadsheet integration in science and social studies, where students are doing a "real world project" and learn how to use the computers. We have standards and benchmarks, but we need to account for how the students can use and how they demonstrate their abilities on the computers. Mr. Sloat talked about the core courses offered at Central and work at North and West High.

Student board members had an opportunity to talk about their computer experiences and problems finding time to get the classes to fit into their schedules. Amanda said she hadn't had a computer class since 8th grade, and she was in band and taking other electives. She didn't know much about computers and she thought there should be a basic computer course on using software. William asked about spending money for maintenance of the computers and students taking the mouse balls. Mr. Sloat responded the new items purchased are infrared units so that won't be a problem. Kim stated she was in the same boat as Amanda and hadn't taken a class since 6th grade on computers when she learned keyboarding. She had concerns about going to college next year and felt a computer class should be a requirement. Colletta agreed also and there was a lot she didn't know about computers. It should be a requirement for graduation to take a computer course in high school.

President Low asked questions about the SIS program and integration of information from the teachers. Mr. Sloat said the teachers can take deeper advantage of the SIS program beyond taking attendance and doing grades. There are teachers who are learning how to investigate more and use the software. They can get a full account on their desktop of test scores and progress being tracked for students. More real information will be accessible for teachers and this is a good function of SIS. They talked about technology and integration on the web for services. Mr. Sloat said the web will enable teachers to get into SIS from their homes, and we have started a pilot program on this use. Blue Grass, Walcott, and Buffalo all use the web integration system now. There were some questions regarding the virus that was out on the computers over the weekend. Mr. Sloat said we were able to discover any viruses and take care of the situation with anti-virus programs.

President Low asked what kind of support the Board could give the technology department and Dr. Urbatsch to help bring technology to everyone in the district. We are spending a lot of money on technology, yet we have four outstanding student board members who will graduate and not have computer experience from our district. Mr. Sloat said that the computers were being used and we have invested in our media centers and common areas in the schools so computers should be accessible. We encourage students to drop in to the centers and work on the computers. Mr. Sloat talked again about training teachers, and a program called "Peer Power" where teachers are out of the classroom for one day a week and they are the technical guides in their building who can help others learn how to use the computers. It has had some success, and might be helpful in the future to provide additional training.

Dr. Urbatsch took time to talk about integration of computers into the curriculum in science and social studies. There has been inservice training and again the issue is more staff development. We are working on the several areas and benchmarks. We are not sure how to have each child get the computer classes, but we are working at coming up with a career building program for high school. If ninth grade students are doing research and writing papers, then the technical computer part is being integrated. They are building portfolios along the way. We need to have outcomes and determine how students will demonstrate proficiency on computers. Many students have knowledge, but how do they show those skills is the question. There are several areas to explore: staff development time, understanding different ways of doing things for credit, and having money to purchase things to make this all happen.

Director Hunter appreciated the discussion and would like to have this continue with more discussion this year. We should assess what we have and where we want to go. We need more money and have this area as a higher priority. We are handicapped by the State that doesn't recognize our needs. We have the basic equipment, but we need new equipment to add on and stay current. Director Roberson was also concerned about the student board members not having adequate computer knowledge. We need to revisit this area because in the real world, you will need instruction on the computer to be successful. He felt this should be a requirement for students who are graduating to show competency on the computer. Director Portes said the access to information was critical for success. To be successful, students will need the skills. He was concerned with the families who don't have computers at home for their students to use. What can we do to open up the labs and have them more accessible? Mr. Sloat indicated with the LOST projects, we have built our media centers with the idea of extra access by the public and students. Some of the challenges are with staffing the centers and with security for technical reasons. At Monroe we sent some laptops home after the parents came in and got training on their usage. Parents were learning and very grateful. Dr. Blanche mentioned the Jefferson-Edison school and computers for parents/students to take home and have access. The big problem at nights is to have the supervision of the facilities and our investment in the equipment. We would like to make this available but more work is needed.

B. Board Policy 504.01 Discipline

Board members had an opportunity to talk about what direction should be taken in making revisions to the discipline policy. The policy has been discussed and reviewed previously in the Policy Committee and is on the list of policies to be reviewed in the five-year cycle. President Low stated the Board has looked at this for months and it was time to consider what should be done. The Board can revamp the entire policy or send the revisions to Lane & Waterman now to see if these changes will work at this time. Lane and Waterman suggested we might want to break up the policy into smaller policies, but they haven't done this due to some delays because of health issues in their office. Director Guard asked what would work best for the administration to use. Dr. Blanche said that would depend on how the policy would be broken up for reference. Maybe having it in sections by headings would be easier to use on the web site to locate things. Mr. Thiessen said that until the administration saw the divisions in the policy, it was difficult to make a decision about its use. Sometimes it is more confusing to have multiple policies, and at this point people are comfortable with having one policy to use. Mr. Hunigan and Mrs. Reynolds agreed that people knew the policy so well that it doesn't present a challenge for them to use. The division and titles would be critical, and if we don't have the right heading, it could cause confusion.

President Low said one of the reasons she asked to bring this forward for review is that we have struggled for a period of time with the revisions, and we could make the changes recommended and get it on the web. Then we can have it looked at by the attorney and they can subdivide it and we can bring it back later or next year for any revamping or separate policy additions. Director asked about Section IV-C and where does our jurisdiction and responsibility end. He suggested that someone look closely at the wording in this section so it is understood what we mean. Dr. Blanche said going to and from school, we have the authority but not the responsibility to look at what happens. It allows us to look at what might grow out of a problem on the way to or from school. We should have the authority or right to act. This was necessary because some students felt that if they were across the street from school, we couldn't do anything to them. President Low commented this was an opportunity with activities before and after school where we have chosen not to be involved or take time to connect if we need to be involved. There were other questions and suggestions for changing in wording that would be made and brought back to the Committee of the Whole meeting for further review before final approval.

Director Hunter mentioned a reference to the Good Conduct Code. Dr. Blanche said the policy was to be utilized and can enforce behavior issues that might not be related to school activities, but students were representing us in some way. Director Guard liked the idea that students are responsible for their actions going to and from school. President Low mentioned the Good Conduct Code grew out of the Athletic Study Committee and was part of extra curricular activities. Director Clewell still had some concerns about the responsibility or authority issues and how far we could stretch our authority with students' actions outside of school events. Dr. Blanche said there was a great deal of case law that supports participation in extra curricular activities that holds students to a higher standard of behavior. Director Roberson said that any time a student represents their school, their conduct should be of a higher level. We should adhere to the Good Conduct Code for students. Director Clewell felt this was not cut and dry in cases, and some decisions were subjective. He mentioned an example of where a student might use a computer at home inappropriately, and wondered if the charges were clear whether the administration could still do something because they felt this was disruptive behavior for a student. President Low commented that if the police are involved, then we have to go by their rules. Director Clewell felt this was an area of subjectivity and should be explored more.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Blanche mentioned there were several people going to the Urban Education Network lobby day on Tuesday, January 28 in Des Moines. There will be a lunch meeting and time to lobby with legislators.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

- A. Director Guard wanted to recognize the students from Fillmore, JB Young, and Sudlow at the District Honor Choir program that was performed in Muscatine. He congratulated the students on their performance and thanked the following teachers for their preparation work with the students: Kim Knoche and Diane Carius from Sudlow, Andrew Tadlock from JB Young and Anita Zahnhiser from Fillmore.
- B. Director Clewell requested an agenda item for the Committee of the Whole: Our principals and associate principals are required to make subjective calls every day. Nonetheless, it is imperative that we establish standards for how we define "Assault." I would like to hear the administration's position on standardizing what constitutes assault.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

President Low declared the meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Linda M. Smith, Board Secretary