

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 2009

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the counties of Scott and Muscatine met in open session for their Regular Board Meeting on Monday, March 9, 2009 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 Patt Zamora called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell; Nikki DeFauw, Ralph Johanson, Ken Krumwiede, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Superintendent Julio Almanza and other administrators attended. Student board members present were Austin Laugen and Rebecca Briesmoore (Central); Brion Coleman (North); Amber Renard and Rebecca Emry (West).

BOARD GOAL, OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES 2008—2009 & VISION STATEMENT

Director Ralph Johanson read the following: Vision: "Education that challenges conventional thinking, prepares all students to compete in a global society and inspires our students, parents, staff, and community to answer the question, "What if?" and Mission: "The Davenport School Board will actively support the efforts of the superintendent, district, staff, and families to ensure continuous student achievement for all students." Director Johanson mentioned the Vision Committee is conducting visits with community groups to convey the vision and talk about stepping out of conventional ways of thinking and normal boundaries to look at things differently. Student board members will look toward the future and with economic times have to ask "What if?"

COMMUNICATIONS

I. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. ~~Wednesday, March 11, 3:45 PM, Board Policy Committee, Administration Service Center, Conference Room B CANCELLED~~
- B. Monday, March 16, 5:30 PM, Extra Committee of the Whole, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room (pending approval)
- C. Thursday, March 19, 6:30 PM, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee; Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- D. Spring Break March 23-27
- E. Monday, March 30, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room
- F. Wednesday, April 1, 3:45 PM, Legislative Advocacy Meeting, TBD
- G. Monday, April 6, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting & Public Hearing for Budget and Budget Amendments (in place of the Committee of the Whole meeting); Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Meeting
- H. Monday, April 27, Regular Board Meeting, Administration Service Center, Jim Hester Board Room

I. OPEN FORUM

1. Jerry Hass, 3819 N. Sturdevant, Davenport, expressed his views about the bid at Williams and felt the decision had already been made. He was a tax payer and had kids in the district. He felt the District should keep the jobs in Davenport. He talked about voting for the Promise and about the training available for carpenters here. He didn't know whether the low bidder had the same type of worker. He knew the bid was close, only 1% difference. His family shops in town and he hoped the Board would adopt a policy about hiring only local contractors in the future. He will continue to pay taxes, but would hope the Board could support the local carpenters in Davenport first.
2. Mark Gilmour, 3412 N. Pine St., Davenport, stated he pays local taxes and he doesn't think it was right to have people driving here from Muscatine when he lived only six blocks away from Williams and he wanted to work on the building. He couldn't see the district spending \$1.6 million on this project for workers who lived out of town. He hoped the Board would do the right thing and keep this project local in town.
3. Steve Fogel, 6623 W. Kimberly Road, Davenport, was a representative for the carpenters' union and appreciated the opportunity to talk to the Board about the Williams bid. He read the minutes from the last meeting and explanations about the lowest, responsible, responsive bidder. He provided information to the Board and shared a difference in opinion about the process and how the Board could award the bid to a local company. He read parts of the law and house files and talked about having the Board reject all the bids. He disagreed with how the Board was looking at the law and possible law suits. He felt the Board had an option to hire a local contractor over some firm out of town and the decision should be made based on facts and not arbitrary. The Board needs to see the value of hiring locally and the affect it will have on the local community. That could be a part of the decision making for selecting a firm from Davenport over another city. He hoped the Board would consider this in their decision later tonight.
4. Rory Washburn, 4485 Cheyenne Avenue, Davenport, represented the Tri-City Trades Association. In talking with board members, they said we were proud of the support the trade unions gave the school district over the year and understood the role we play in instruction. The trades have provided opportunities for young men and women who graduated from the Davenport School District, especially for those who did not continue on with college but went to work in the trades. Those young people stay in our community and contribute to the tax base here. He talked about making a decent living through the trades and giving kids a chance. We understand state laws but we will provide opportunities to the students here in Davenport through the construction at Williams. We have hundreds of apprenticeships through the trade industry and those young people are working hard. He encouraged the Board to attend a job trade fair on March 11-12 and see opportunities first hand. He hoped board members would consider coming to the event and see what a trade occupation will provide for our children.

CONSENT AGENDA

II. 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: February 23 Regular Board Meeting (**corrected**), Closed Session for Real Estate & Litigation March 2 @ 5:30 PM; and Committee of the Whole March 2, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Olson, Adam	7%
Assistant Sophomore Baseball	\$1,866.00
North High	

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Ahrens, Derek	Effective: March 2, 2009
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.79/hr
KCAE	Hours: 6.0 hrs/day
Bloomer, Catherine	Effective: February 26, 2009
Para Educator	Salary: \$8.79/hr
Williams Intermediate	Hours: 6.5 hrs/day
Cox, Mark	Effective: February 19, 2009
Custodian	Salary: \$11.89/hr
Williams Intermediate	Hours: 6.0 hrs/day
Gale, Vanessa	Effective: February 20, 2009
Food Service Worker	Salary: \$8.21/hr
Truman Elementary	Hours: 2.5 hrs/day
Glembine, Lauree	Effective: March 2, 2009
Title I Family Involvement Liaison	Salary: \$10.58/hr
Lincoln Academy	Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Isabel, Ian-Dishon	Effective: March 2, 2009
Para Educator	Salary: \$11.75/hr
Lincoln Academy	Hours: 6.5 hrs/day

Miller, Heather Title I Family Involvement Liaison Jefferson Elementary	Effective: March 2, 2009 Salary: \$11.49/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Miller Powers, Cindy Custodian North High	Effective: March 5, 2009 Salary: \$11.89/hr Hours: 8.0 hrs/day
Panning, Jamie Title 1 Family Involvement Liaison Jackson Elementary	Effective: March 3, 10 , 2009 (corrected) Salary: \$11.49/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Robbins, Wende Food Service Cook-in-Charge Truman Elementary	Effective: February 17, 2009 Salary: \$8.77/hr Hours: 5.5 hrs/day
Russell, Danielle Para Educator KCAE	Effective: March 9, 2009 Salary: \$8.79/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Sievertsen, Tonya Title I Family Involvement Liaison Wilson Elementary	Effective: March 2, 2009 Salary: \$10.58/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day
Williams, Floya Title I Family Involvement Liaison Fillmore Elementary	Effective: March 3, 2009 Salary: \$11.49/hr Hours: 4.0 hrs/day

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Atwater, Shawn Boys' Assistant Varsity Soccer North High	8% \$2,132.00
Dykstra, Shawn Boys' 8 th Grade Basketball – 2 nd Team Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00
Dykstra, Shawn Assistant Track – 2 nd Team Walcott Intermediate	5% \$1,333.00
Dykstra, Shawn 8 th Volleyball – 2 nd Team Walcott Intermediate	8% \$2,132.00
Haut, Adam 7 th Grade Wrestling Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00
Haut, Adam 8 th Grade Wrestling Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00

Heller, Guy Boys' Varsity Swimming North High	14% \$3,731.00
Heller, Guy Girls' Varsity Swimming North High	14% \$3,731.00
Huntley, David 7 th Basketball-2nd Team Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00
McCreery, Laura Sr. High Cheerleading North High	19% \$5,064.00
Olsen, James 7 th Grade Wrestling (Additional If Needed) Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00
Poskin, Carissa Flag Line Instructor Central High	7% \$1,866.00
Ripslinger, John Girls' 8 th Grade Basketball (2 nd Team if Needed) Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00
Ripslinger, John Girls' 7 th Grade Basketball (2 nd Team if Needed) Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,866.00

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Bell, Virginia Food Service Worker Madison Elementary	Effective: March 4, 2009 Years of Service: 3 mos
Gutierrez, Marci Para Educator Children's Village West	Effective: February 19, 2009 Years of Service: 2 yrs 5 mos
Sievertsen, Tonya Para Educator Wilson/Buffalo Elementary	Effective: February 27, 2009 Years of Service: 1 yr 2 mos Reason: Other District Employment
Souhrada, Jesell Para Educator Central High	Effective: March 6, 2009 Years of Service: 3 mos

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Jack, Cathy
Science Teacher
West High

Extended Unpaid Leave of Absence
Effective: 2009-2010 school year

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SCHOOL	STEP	FROM	TO	SALARY
Beauchamp	Amanda	West	3	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$31,395.00
Brokaw	Heather	Fillmore	10	B.A.+15	M.S.	\$43,680.00
Buller	Laura	Williams	9	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$42,315.00
Denger	Andrea	Buchanan	12	B.A.+15	M.Ed	\$46,410.00
Ehlinger	Brian	Central	14	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$42,315.00
Horton	Michelle	Wilson	12	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$46,410.00
Huss	Amanda	Jefferson	4	B.A.+15	M.S.	\$35,490.00
Judkins	Patrick	Madison	5	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$34,125.00
Leon	Karen	Jefferson	9	B.A.+15	M.S.	\$42,315.00
Menard	Rebecca	Williams	8	M.A.+30	Ed.Spec.	\$45,045.00
Ogden	Debra	Wood	12	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$42,315.00
Orfitelli	Michael	Central	15	M.A.	M.A.+15	\$51,870.00
Pepper	Jill	CV West	10	B.S.+15	M.S.	\$50,763.24
Poskin	Carissa	Central	3	M.A.	M.A +15	\$35,490.00
Roisen	Lindsay	Fillmore	3	B.S.	B.S.+15	\$31,395.00
Verdon	Michelle	Central	11	B.A.+15	M.A.	\$45,045.00
Whalen	Lisa	Madison	12	M.Ed	M.Ed+15	\$47,775.00
Wiese	Cindy	Walcott Elem	15	M.A.	M.A.+15	\$51,870.00

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda and the corrections provided in the personnel section showing changes. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

A resolution was recommended by the Administration for adoption of bills as presented:

MOTION: Director Roberson moved: “Resolved all claims presented to the Board having been duly certified as correct by the Secretary, reviewed by the administration and board members, and they are hereby audited and allowed as just claims and warrants drawn on the Treasury for the several amounts. Further Resolved, the payment of claims and salaries be approved as presented, with the exception of two voided checks #258268 for \$53,330 and #258402 for \$156.80.” Director Tupper seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

IV. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. BID # 596 WILLIAMS GYMNASIUM RENOVATIONS

The Board brought the original motion back to the table for discussion and action. The original motion had been postponed February 23 for Bid #596.

President Zamora restated the original motion on the table:

MOTION: “ Moved by Roberson, seconded by Clewell, the Board accept the administration’s recommendation to approve the lowest responsible Bid #596 received from Todd Hackett Construction in the amount of \$1,715,095 for the Williams Intermediate School gymnasium addition.”

President Zamora said at this time the original motion was back on the table for discussion and action.

Director Tupper appreciated the people who spoke during open forum regarding the Williams bid. He was concerned about the economy of the local area and nationally. He understood how there were compelling arguments about rewarding local companies with the bids. He knew some of the people advocating and grew up with others in the community. He was having a tough time voting to award the project to an out-of-town contractor since the difference was only about 1% or \$15,000. He said the Board talks about local economic development but sends this out-of-town; and he didn’t feel it made sense. He would like the Policy Committee to study the policy on bids and make revisions to adopt different wording about selecting local contractors.

Director Johanson talked about the Legislative Advocacy Committee working with people to help them advocate for things in which they believe. There were a lot of people who stepped forward on this matter to advocate for their perspective on the bid. Director De Fauw was conflicted about the vote on this bid and some of the dialog along the way. The Board heard people express opinions in open forum and what they said tonight about the economy was a unique perspective. However, we are more than just one city in our district and encompass other towns as a community school district. She appreciated comments made and understands people talk about making this one super city and removing the boundaries. We have to define what is “local” and does that only include the city of Davenport in the definition of our district? She was very

troubled with comments made about the decision already being made on the bid because that was not true. She hoped all the bids might be rejected and then we could have the project rebid because she was concerned with the process and wrong perceptions.

Vice President Roberson spoke about the trade union people speaking at the last meeting and because of their questions, the Board asked to postpone the vote so they could get a legal opinion on the law. He was concerned about comments noting the 1% difference and options people felt the Board had to interpret the code. The State code takes away the control the Board actually has on matters and we can't show favoritism. If we go by the code, we need to award the bid to the lowest, responsible, responsive bidder. We would have to have reasons not to follow this and show the bidder was unable to do the work. He shared the same concerns as Director De Fauw about the process and maybe we should reject all bids. He didn't want people to believe the Board talked about this matter privately and that a decision was already made.

Director Clewell said there was a great deal of open discussion about this bid and he appreciated the advocacy of people for their company. He has talked with people about the vision and sharing thoughts of the community. He appreciated their time and sharing in the process. He believed legal counsel had made it very clear to the Board what their options were with this bid. The State has provided certain rules we have to follow in the code regarding awarding of contracts. He was worried about the perception the people had given tonight about the decision already being made.

President Zamora said no one was told the decision was done. She told Mr. Washburn the Board consulted with legal counsel to review the code from the State of Iowa. No decision or vote was taken on this matter and the Board will vote tonight in open session. We don't know how anyone will vote. Superintendent Almanza added the Board wanted a legal opinion and went into closed session with the attorney. We investigated information sent to the Board by the trade unions and had our attorneys go over the documents.

Director Johanson felt it was unacceptable to vote if people felt the process was tainted, and he was concerned about comments made in open forum. He talked about the Board having a higher standard for conduct and they have not discussed their votes. They met with legal counsel to go over options. Director Krumwiede appreciated the advocacy by the union workers, and board members have wrestled with this bid issue. He thanked the superintendent for having an explanation given to the Board by legal counsel. We have to follow the Code of Iowa regarding the lowest, responsible, responsive bidder.

Director Tupper mentioned remarks the union said that allowed the Board to select a "local" contractor. Director De Fauw talked about the process and Superintendent responded. If the Board rejected all the bids, then we would have to go out for the bid again with new specifications and we have to understand why the Board rejected the first plan. This will delay the work at least two more months at a minimum. The Board could reject all the bids, and resubmit new plans and specifications, but there is no guarantee the results would be different on who the lowest bidder would be.

Director Tupper talked about making a modification in the motion. Vice

President Roberson reminded board members there was a motion already on the floor which has been discussed for some time. The law had been explained and the rules are rules. He felt the Board needed to move forward with the motion on the table.

Director Clewell said there seemed to be a perception tonight this was tainted, but it was not. If we decide to reject all bids, then the next RFP would have to be different. We have heard from our legal counsel on the Code of Iowa and Director Clewell didn't see any purpose in rejecting the bids and starting over.

President Zamora also pointed out Board members have not voted on this matter already or discussed their votes in advance. We are bound by the law and we will ask for the vote in open session at this time.

ACTION: The vote on the original motion to approve the lowest responsible Bid #596 received from Todd Hackett Construction in the amount of \$1,715,095 for the Williams gymnasium addition was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Roberson, Clewell, Johanson, Krumwiede, and Zamora. Nays: De Fauw and Tupper. Motion carried.

B. BID #593 – REROOFING PROJECT AT BUCHANAN ELEMENTARY

The administration made a recommendation on Bid 593 for reroofing Buchanan.

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation to accept the lowest responsible Bid #593 received from Jim Giese Commercial Roofing in the amount of \$309,044 for reroofing sections 1, 2, and 3 at Buchanan Elementary. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

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

C. CENTRAL HIGH RESTROOM ADDITION PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS /PUBLIC HEARING

Scott Martin talked about the final plans and specifications for the restroom additions by the small gymnasium at Central High. Mr. Martin acknowledged the Board had time to review the plans at the last Committee of the Whole and they discussed the proposal. There were no changes being made from the original presentation. The administration was recommending moving forward with the plans as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Following the presentation, the Board conducted a public hearing on the plans and specifications for additional restrooms near the small gym at Central High. No one came forward to be heard. Therefore, the public hearing was declared closed.

ACTION:

The Board was asked to approve the final plans and specifications for the restroom additions at Central High.

MOTION: Director Krumwiede moved the Board accept the recommendation from the administration to approve the final plans and specifications for the restroom additions at Central High as presented. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

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

**D. WALCOTT RESTROOM RENOVATION PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS
/PUBLIC HEARING**

Scott Martin talked about the final plans and specifications for the restroom renovations at Walcott Intermediate. The plans had been presented at the last Committee of the Whole and were the final plans being submitted tonight for consideration. No changes were made in the plans since the original presentation. The administration recommended taking action on the plans and specifications as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Following the presentation, the Board conducted a public hearing on the plans and specifications. No one came forward to be heard. Therefore, the public hearing was declared closed.

ACTION:

The Board was asked to approve the final plans and specifications for the restroom renovations at Walcott Intermediate.

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board approve the recommendation of the administration for the final plans and specifications as presented for the renovations of the restrooms at Walcott Intermediate. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

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

E. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MARCH 16

The Board was asked to add an extra Committee of the Whole meeting in March to review the budget and amendments.

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board approve having an extra Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2009 starting at 5:30 PM. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

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

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

V. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT ON START DATE LEGISLATION & POSSIBLE ACTION RESOLUTION**

Director Clewell talked about the work of the Legislative Advocacy Committee and expansion of their work into the area of looking at specific bills affecting the school district that come up in Des Moines. He talked about the three goals of the committee and how the group had evolved into new areas. Director Johanson explained the background on a resolution coming from the committee regarding House File 371 that will allow the State to set the start date for school and eliminate the local school district from requesting a waiver to start early. The current legislation includes a financial penalty for any district deciding to start school before the weekend of the State Fair in Polk County. Board members had a copy of the house file and were able to review this.

Director Johanson read the resolution regarding the move by the legislature to change the start date of school until after the State Fair which is held in Des Moines. Although we presently can apply for a waiver to start early, the legislation will remove that option and take away the local control as to when school can start effective 2010. We asked this to be listed as an action item on the agenda so the Board could make a motion tonight.

RESOLUTION ON HF 351 START DATE

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Iowa recognize that there are always significant economic challenges, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has the ultimate responsibility in determining how to meet those challenges while also providing the best opportunities for our students, and

WHEREAS, Governor Culver and the whole Legislature has continued to provide leadership which is consistent with our State Motto, "Our liberties we will prize, and our rights we will maintain," and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Iowa recognize that, although the Iowa State Fair is culturally important and a very high priority, and Fair attendance is important as it generates significant revenues to the State and to businesses; yea, however, students and their achievements are even more important, and

WHEREAS, Iowans value local authority when it comes to making decisions on things like school start dates, which can then be sensitive to local weather, culture, customs, thinking, and

WHEREAS, the current school start date bill would undermine the authority of local officials to determine what is best for students and student achievement, and to subordinate these ideals to the goal of increased fair attendance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Davenport Community School District Board of Directors opposes Iowa House File 351 which proposes to establish school start dates which are arbitrary with respect to student achievement, and which undermines the ability of local authorities to act on behalf of the needs of their constituents and families.

Director De Fauw said she appreciated the prompt attention the Legislative Committee took with HR 351. It can be summarized in paragraph six when we talk about local authority being taken away. Will we subordinate our student achievement to provide profits for the State funds? The decisions for what is in the best interest of our students, rests with our local control. She was happy to support this resolution and hoped other Boards will do the same. President Zamora also remarked about the idea of local control and difficulties that come along when the State takes over. She supported this on local control.

Director Tupper appreciated the work of the committee in moving the resolution forward but was concerned this might set a precedence that leads the Board into devious issues on State legislation. He didn't feel this was the role of the Board and we have IASB handling legislative matters on our behalf. We have better things to do dealing with our own district. Director Clewell talked about other districts being our constituents and we continue to work with those Boards. He hoped the other districts might consider resolutions on this matter. Vice President Roberson felt this HF351 was about a larger picture and dealt with taking away our local control. It was an important matter. Director Clewell mentioned there are a number of people who lobby for the State Fair in Des Moines but their efforts are taking away local control. We believe one of our jobs is to educate legislators on matters that affect our district.

MOTION: Director Johanson moved the Board approve the resolution regarding HF351 as previously read and presented. Director Krumwiede seconded the motion.

Director Johanson appreciated the concerns expressed about having resolutions at the board table all the time, but felt this action tonight did not set precedence. Director Clewell hoped the Board would let the Legislative Advocacy Committee study legislation and we will not bring things forward divisively.

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

B. BOARD POLICY REVISIONS/REVIEWS

The Policy Committee led the discussion on a number of recently reviewed policies. Ralph Johanson asked for input from board members after he talked about the homeless children policy. He shared the committee met with Ellen Reilly on this topic and felt the Board should hear what the district is doing for homeless children before we make any additional revisions. There will be a request for a presentation by Ms. Reilly at a future meeting where she can share her expertise on the programs available and restrictions.

Vice President Roberson thanked the committee for making sure the needs of homeless children were being met. It was the right thing to do and we should help children catch up with their studies in addition to providing clothes, food, and transportation. President Zamora asked if board members had questions on any of the other policies listed. If there are questions, please call committee members with your suggestions. Director De Fauw wanted the Board to know that we have not made any revisions in the current policy but asked Ms. Reilly to help us look at this and bring the requirements up to date. There will be additional language or modifications required and the Board had received the materials on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987.

Superintendent Almanza talked about federal regulations in the stimulus package dealing with requirements in this area. When homeless children or regular children move here, we don't act quickly enough to place them. We are working on this to help the children get into school faster. Vice President Roberson said we are doing this because it is right and not just because the federal government is telling us this is the law. We should care about people and offer them opportunities.

Director Clewell had questions about the number of homeless children we had in the district and he imagined that most of us wouldn't be able to recognize the children at our schools. There was some discussion about qualifications and immunization records for students who are homeless and lifting restrictions. The superintendent noted this policy was originally adopted in 2003 and now is being edited to meet current requirements. The McKinney-Vento act overrides certain restrictions and the Policy Committee is aware of changes needed in the policy. We help with transportation for homeless children to make sure they get to stay in their home school even when they are moving around the community. We are trying to do the best we can for these children. We can't use "lack of resources" as a reason to deny services. There were questions about whether we work directly with shelters and the administration responded we do work together.

Director De Fauw said the committee wanted Ellen Reilly to come and speak to the full Board about the programs for homeless children. President Zamora commented that she and Director Tupper work with this problem daily in juvenile court and we have to address the issues. Some shelters have been closed and people in our community are trying to fill the gap in services to families. Director Johanson thanked members of the policy committee for their work in having administrators come to the meetings and share their ideas on policy matters. It helps to hear directly from people who work with our policies to make sure they are up-to-date and accurate. Mr. Martin came to the last meeting and helped with the revisions on the policies dealing with bids, architects and engineers, and property matters. Vice President Roberson also had a question about the revisions in #701.01 and felt we should include a statement about our new diversity plan in this policy if it is different from what is currently practiced.

The policies discussed at this time were: #501.06 Homeless Children and Youth; #303.02 Opening of Bids; #701.01 School Facility Studies; #701.03 Construction and Renovation Specifications; #702.01 Selection of an Architect/Engineer; #702.02 Procedures with Architects/Engineers During Construction; #703.02 Site Acquisition; and #705.01 Procedure in Bond Elections.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS

Director Johanson requested an informational presentation on homeless students in the district be done at one of our upcoming board meetings by Ellen Reilly. This might impact our board policy and help with further discussion.

VII. BOARD REPORTS

Director De Fauw congratulated the “North Side Establishment” which is the North High School Varsity Show Choir, for being named Grand Champion this past weekend at the Fort Madison Show Choir Invitational. North Side swept the caption awards as well being named Best Band, Best Vocals, and Best Choreography.

President Zamora mentioned there would be a showing of the performance on Channel 22 on TV.

Director Clewell mentioned one of our student board members, Nicole Woodson, was not here tonight because she was playing violin in a performance. She has been very active in music and show choir this year.

Director Clewell talked about participating in “Read Across America” and what a wonderful opportunity that was to share with young children the joy of reading. He was impressed by comments he heard from students at Lincoln Academy. He wanted to give a special recognition to Sue Wiele for her hard work in making this event happen each year in our schools. She has volunteered countless hours of her time to help our children and we are lucky to have her give so freely of her time. Thank you to Ms. Wiele.

Director Clewell wanted to bring to the Board’s attention that there would be an IASB workshop ICN at North High on March 30 at the same time as the board meeting from 7 to 9 PM. He wondered how things will work out for the board meeting since several of them would be involved in the presentation. He will be out of town but Directors Krumwiede and Johanson are doing the presentation for IASB.

Director Johanson said their presentation part is only ten minutes during the ICN but they don’t know the actual time for presenting. Director Krumwiede said he would call IASB and talk with them about the time schedule.

Superintendent Almanza reminded the Board of items provided in their weekly packet dealing with the analysis of ITBS and Reading scores. They also received a copy of the legislation pending for the Iowa House and Senate and hoped they had an opportunity to reflect on some of these matters facing action.

Director Tupper appreciated the involvement of the Legislative Advocacy Committee in the process but hoped we don’t have to discuss these items tonight. He also had some questions regarding the number of students from other districts who are participating in joint enrollment with community colleges. He thought with the most recent election defeat for the Promise, this was the ideal time for the district to have more discussions about providing opportunities for college credit during high school. He would like the Board to look at seeing what we will be able to do. Maybe we can target this discussion at a Board meeting or address the issues at a Committee of the Whole.

President Zamora noted the request for discussion at a meeting to gather information on enhanced programs for our students. Other directors also commented about wanting to hear more about higher education offerings and what other districts are doing. Superintendent Almanza talked about including information on vocational areas and opportunities. There are offerings for vocational and technical studies and extension of career programs. President Zamora noted our district was also involved with home building projects.

ADJOURNMENT

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

By consensus, the Board agreed to adjourn.

President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary