

REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 24, 2006 (Revised)

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met for the Regular Board Meeting on Monday, April 24, 2006, pursuant to law and the rules of said Board. The meeting was held in the media center at Adams Elementary School, 3029 North Division Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said district. President Zamora called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM following the closed session evaluation meeting.

On roll call the following board members were present: President Patt Zamora; Directors Richard Clewell, Ralph Johanson, Larry Roberson, and Tim Tupper. Absent: Directors Nikki DeFauw and Alan Guard. Student board member Bryce Ricketts attended representing West High School.

RECOGNITIONS

I. RECOGNITIONS

A. **ADAMS ELEMENTARY – MARY MCMEEKIN, PRINCIPAL**

Principal Mary McMeekin presented a report detailing the action the Adams' staff has undertaken in order to increase student achievement and diminish the achievement gap. The Board heard about activities being done in the building that are making improvements in student achievement in three areas: (1) Building meaningful relationships; (2) Reading achievement; and (3) Math problem solving and computation achievement. Mrs. McMeekin talked about the connection Adams has with St. Ambrose, reading aloud, solution focus, and selecting students to target for help. There have been decreases in referrals, improved discipline, and better relationships. We have teachers offering help to tutor students after school. We are making plans for the future to do even more. Mrs. McMeekin was proud about the growth in math curriculum areas and explained various steps used to help students. Students are using the computers to help them excel in this area and they are seeing connections for math in real life. Adams is making improvements every day.

B. **BUCHANAN ELEMENTARY – DIANE SIMMONS, PRINCIPAL**

Principal Diane Simmons reviewed much information about Buchanan Elementary using a PowerPoint presentation. She shared news about the balanced calendar school year and student behavior data from Buchanan School. She talked about the successes in the building and some areas of concern. The Board heard about class size and other statistical information. There were comparisons from one year to another so it was easy to see the areas of improvement. Mrs. Simmons presented data on attendance, special programs, discipline, English Language Learners, and test scores. The staff and students were very happy with their successes this year in a number of areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

II. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. School Board Resignation Alan Guard

A letter of resignation was received from Director Alan Guard saying he was resigning from the school board and office of Vice President effective immediately following acceptance by the Board on April 24. The reason for resignation was shown due to conditions of his employment with the City of Davenport.

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board accept the resignation of Director Alan Guard effective immediately following acceptance by the Board based on his working conditions with the City of Davenport. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

President Zamora said everyone was sorry to see Alan resign and he has been a wonderful board member. We wish him the best of everything.

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

B. Election of Vice President Larry Roberson

1. Nomination: President Zamora asked for nominations for Vice President to fill the remainder of this year's term caused by the resignation of Alan Guard.

Director Johanson nominated Larry Roberson for the position of Vice President to fill the remainder of this year's term caused by the resignation of Alan Guard.

There were no other nominations; therefore the nominations were closed. Larry Roberson accepted the nomination.

2. Action: After nominations were closed, the Board took action by voting for Vice President to fill the position until the next school board election in September.

The vote on the nomination of Larry Roberson to serve as Vice President was taken and recorded as follows: Ayes: Clewell, Johanson, Tupper, Roberson, and Zamora. Unanimous approval was given.

President Zamora declared Larry Roberson to be the Board Vice President.

C. Process for Appointment of Board Member

The Board needed to consider the process to follow to appoint a person within 30 days to fill the director vacancy on the Board until the September 2006 Election when the two-year vacancy will be placed on the election ballot.

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the Board appoint a person in the next 30 days to fill the director vacancy until the September 2006 election when the two-year vacancy will be placed on the ballot. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

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

President Zamora said the Board will make an appointment in the next 30 days.

COMMUNICATIONS

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Monday, May 1, @ 4:30 PM, Legislative Advocacy Forum at Hayes Elementary (Open to the Public; Legislative Priority on Early Education)
- B. Monday, May 1, @ 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole at Hayes Elementary
- C. Monday, May 8, 6:30 PM, Board Recognition Reception at Adams Elementary in the Media Center; 7:00 PM Regular Board Meeting at Adams
- D. Tuesday, May 16, 3:45 PM, Legislative Advocacy Committee, Administration Service Center, 1st Floor East Conference Room
- E. Wednesday, May 17, 3:45 PM, Board Policy Committee, Administration Service Center, 1st Floor East Conference Room
- F. Monday, May 22, 4:30 to 6:30, Reception for Dr. and Mrs. Schuerman at Williams Intermediate School in the Media Center
- G. Monday, May 22, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting at Adams Elementary in the Media Center
- H. Open Forum: Susie Bell, 1718 Marquette, Davenport presented the Board with a clipping from the *Arizona Republic*, March 23, 2006, that talked about the basic strategies to better learning. Mr. Tom Horne wrote about reestablishment of better discipline in schools leading to spectacular results. Mrs. Bell explained her connections with the Davenport school and involvement teaching. Her children got a good education and they liked school. Mrs. Bell visited with a superintendent in Arizona and he agreed discipline has gotten away from our schools. She talked with legislators and wanted the school board to be aware of the importance of good discipline in our schools. She complimented Dr. Schuerman on his work and hoped the new superintendent would be as good.

CONSENT AGENDA

IV. 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 will be presented for approval as follows: Regular Board Meeting April 10, 2006 and Special Call Expulsion Meeting April 12, 2006

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

EARLY RETIREMENTS: ADMINISTRATIVE

O'Brien, James
Principal
Jackson Elementary

Effective: July 31, 2006
Years of Service: 32 yrs 10 mos

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Brockman, Cynthia
Grade 2
Monroe Elementary

Effective: June 16, 2006
Years of Service: 15 yrs 8 mos

Kendall, Judith
Counselor
Wood Intermediate

Effective: June 8, 2006
Years of Service: 32 yrs 10 mos

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Mitchell, Shelley
Grade 4
Buffalo Elementary

Effective: April 5, 2006 – May 30, 2006

Pollock, Madeline
Special Education/MD
North High

Effective: January 30, 2006 – August 27, 2006

Revell, Laura
Science
Young Intermediate

Effective: 2006-2007 School Year

Schroeder, Alyssa
Kindergarten
Jefferson/Edison

Effective: February 7, 2006 – April 10, 2006

Serrano, Katrina
Grade 1
Adams Elementary

Effective: March 6, 2006 – April 21, 2006

Wine, Amy
Guidance Counselor
North High

Effective: October 15, 2005 – December 9, 2005

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Buening, Rebecca
Musical Book Director
Central

5%
\$1,250.00

Buening, Rebecca
Technical Director
Central

5%
\$1,250.00

Hughes, Ralph
9th Grade Football Coach
West High

9%
\$2,249.00

Leal, Marty
Track Girls – Cross Country (.5)
West High

7%
\$874.50

APPOINTMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Jager, Jeff	10%
Head Sophomore Baseball	\$2,499.00
West High	

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Graham, Mary	Effective: December 1, 2005
Grade 2	Salary: \$48,716.00
Garfield Elementary	

Macias, Lori	Effective: November 28, 2005
Grade 2	Salary: \$39,742.00
Fillmore Elementary	

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Connolly, Marie	Effective: April 7, 2006
Para Educator	Years of Service: 11 yrs 4.5 mos
Wood Intermediate	

Murray, Tracy L.	Effective: March 22, 2006
Para Educator - Floater	Years of Service: 3 yrs 6 mos
Wilson	

Reyes, Rebecca	Effective: May 19, 2006
Food Service Cook	Years of Service: 7 yrs 9 mos
North High	

Ramirez-Maldonado, Adella	Effective: April 13, 2006
Para Educator	Years of Service: 1 yr 7 mos
Childrens' Village West	

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Moore, Barbara B	Absent without pay
Para Educator	Effective: April 7, 2006 – August 27, 2006
Central High	

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Konrad, Rebecca	Effective: April 17, 2006
Para Educator	Salary: \$7.74/hr
ASC – District Floater	

RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Cummings, Maria M	Effective: June 7, 2006
Para Educator	Years of Service: 12 yrs 4 mos
Lincoln Elementary	

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Powell, Walter
Campus Supervisor
West High

Effective: April 5, 2006
Salary: \$12.59 hr
Hours: 8.0 hrs/day

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as written. Director Johanson seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

V. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

MOTION: Director Tupper moved the following: "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 two checks which were voided--#181694 for \$114.81 and #181860 for \$3,000. Director Roberson seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

VI. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Bid #543 – Partial Roof Replacement at Jackson/Public Hearing

MOTION: Director Roberson moved regarding the partial roof replacement at Jackson that the Board approves the lowest responsible Bid #543 received from White Roofing in the amount of \$98,032. Director Johanson seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Bid #543 for partial roof replacement at Jackson Elementary. No one came forth to be heard; therefore the public hearing was declared closed.

Director Roberson compared the bids from the two companies and asked for an explanation on why such a huge difference from \$98,000 to \$157,000. Mr. Good said it was hard to understand except the other company just got a very large bid from North Scott the next day and White Roof needs this work.

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

B. Bid #544 – Lincoln Academy Renovations (Rejected)/Public Hearing

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board accept the administration's recommendation on Bid #544 for Lincoln Academy of Integrated Arts Renovations to reject all bids due to being over budget. Director Tupper seconded the motion.

The Board conducted a public hearing on Bid #544 for rejection of all bids for the Lincoln Academy of Integrated Arts Renovations. No one came forth to be heard; therefore the public hearing as closed.

Director Roberson asked since we are rejecting all the bids, what will happen to the time frame on this construction. It is the right thing, but what is next? Mr. Good said this was very difficult for him and it certainly will push construction work back. We are going to strategically look at the construction and hope to bring a bid back in July so we can start in August on the renovation work. We will get some site work done and keep people busy. We are looking at the design and will bring down the masonry and electrical costs. We are working on this, but it will be late.

President Zamora asked if we had a budget problem with this construction or will we have to make major concessions? Mr. Good said they are careful in maintaining the components needed, and there are some aspects that are complicated. We will do the media center, office areas, and handle other improves like other sites.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows. Ayes: Clewell, Tupper, Johanson, Roberson, and Zamora. Motion to reject all bids carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Additional Textbook Adoptions (English and Math)

Kathy Learn, Susan Downs, and Laura Isele presented recommendations for adoptions of textbooks for three areas of study. They believe the new textbooks will improve academic achievement for students in our district. The adoptions are for textbooks needed in English and math courses. The curriculum department has established a calendar and adoptions run in 10-year cycles. They included parents on the selection committee and examined the board policy dealing with textbook adoptions.

Dr. Schuerman indicated Juli Staszewski was not available tonight due to illness, but she felt the staff could answer any questions from the Board dealing with the adoptions. Director Tupper brought up a math textbook adoption in 2003 that was not successful and he had concerns about spending the additional money on these textbooks now. How will we know these textbooks will be any better? Laura Isele said they looked at national studies and there was a lot of research behind the selection. They did field test four different NSF programs and have talked to other schools who have adopted the books. She shared how the books come in modules and so they should hold up longer than standard paperback books. If we use a binder they will hold up well for eight years. There is homework, vocabulary,

journals, and parent materials that go along with the textbooks. Lost or damaged books are not as expensive to replace. It is an exceptional program modeled for the middle school program. It aligns with the ITBS and other tests. There are no guarantees but this looks like the best adoption. The material seems to work with the top end student as well as special education and at-risk students.

Director Tupper asked how the curriculum will be evaluation to see if it is successful. Ms. Isele said we will revisit our benchmarks and standards to see how they address the assessment on the ITBS. We will get feedback from the teachers. We will be sending representative teachers for a week of training from the company in August for the teachers to learn how to use the textbook and materials. They will come back to share that information in our buildings.

President Zamora asked how this was different from the old materials. Ms. Isele said these textbooks have more structure and support material. The current books show problems but don't give enough examples. The new adoption has plans for teachers, alternative activities, and problems given so the teacher knows that the student understands. The kids have to really think with this and say it is hard but they like it better.

Director Roberson asked about the life expectancy of the books and if we are on the right rotation with the selection. Ms. Isele thought the program should be checked to make sure it is working. As we evaluate, we will see if this is working and if we need to supplement anything. We will get support materials and see if any element is missing. Recommendations for approval of the textbook adoptions will be made on May 8, 2006 in order to allow time for ordering, delivery, and distribution.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE & INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS/BOARD REQUESTS

Dr. Schuerman announced the new superintendent would be in town this week and visiting some of the schools. He and his wife will be entertaining them and Julio will visit some of the schools on Thursday. He will visit with some staff members and Joan Almanza will be house hunting. The Board President will meet with Julio on Saturday at 8 AM in case any board members want to come to her office. They will be back the week of May 10-13th.

IX. BOARD REPORTS

President Zamora asked board members to think about what we can do to make this a smooth transition. She was pleased to have Mr. Almanza coming to the district and feels he will be a good fit and has the courage to take on any problems.

Director Johanson made a quick note about the DEA Education Forum for District #1 on May 4 at Central High at 5:30 when the community is invited to meet the candidates. The entire community is invited to attend the event. Dr. Schuerman said the invitation from the DEA was forwarded to people in the district.

President Zamora complimented the Legislative Advocacy Committee for bringing issues to the attention of the public and explaining the importance of advocating with the legislators on behalf of education. We need to let them know what we really need and that we will not accept mediocrity.

Director Roberson said he was in Michigan and talked with others about graduation requirements. Their requirements are not as good as ours. President Zamora said last year we raised the requirements by four credits and there is talk of even adding more to the curriculum.

Director Clewell talked about attending the Lincoln's Academy of Art gala last week and there have been a lot of questions about whether this charter school will work. He listened to the parents, teachers, and students—they feel this is working for them. This concept will turn around the attitudes of people so they will see the world differently. There is vibrancy about the school and they are enthusiastic about making practical applications.

President Zamora reported on some sporting events and track meets also.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Roberson moved the Board adjourns. Director Tupper seconded the motion. By consensus everyone agreed to adjourn.

President Zamora declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Linda Smith Kortemeyer, Board Secretary