

DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

August 3, 2009

The Board of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met for the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, August 3, 2009, pursuant to law. The meeting was held in the Jim Hester Board Room, Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street Davenport, Iowa, in said District. President Zamora called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM following a closed property session.

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

GOVERNOR'S AWARD PINS: President Zamora distributed lapel pins to each board member designating the Board as recipients of the Governor's Volunteer Award.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Marsha Tangen reported that the next financial report will be given at the end of the first quarter. She also stated that the auditors have begun their work on reviewing our records.

OPERATIONS REPORT/FACILITIES: Marsha Tangen and Scott Martin reported on several updates from the Long-Range Planning Workshop. The three top priorities that were determined at the Workshop were Instructional Programming, Air Conditioning, and Safety/Security Issues. Each project was listed under one of these project categories, an estimated project cost was given, and an estimated timeline was provided. Ms. Tangen also reported that we do have revenue available to begin these projects in the near future.

Director Krumwiede expressed appreciation for the work done to provide this information. He asked about the priority of the air conditioning projects. It was stated that some projects were further in the future because they are more complicated or may be better done in conjunction with other projects planned at those sites. It was also reported that there are only a limited number of contractors available at any one time so working on too many similar projects at the same time may become difficult and not be cost effective. Ms. Tangen reported that an analysis will be done by outside consultants on air conditioning needs and options. Director Clewell asked if this report may change the priorities. Ms. Tangen said that would be possible.

Director Johanson asked about the rate of construction inflation. Ms. Tangen reported that they will get specific information from local contractors on costs.

CHILDREN'S VILLAGE WEST: Scott Martin reported on the latest updates for options for CVW. There are 3 current options: Renovating Davenport Museum of Art (DMA) and the entry-level of the Wiese Building, renovating the DMA and the entire Wiese Building, or developing a site with new construction. There are potential issues with each choice including not enough space for current number of classrooms, moving children around a multi-level facility, playground areas, and potential traffic issues. If the entire Weise Building is used then we would have to provide new space for the Parks and Recreation Offices that are currently in the lower level of the building. The Principal of CVW reported that there is a new partnership with the United Neighbors and class will begin August 10, 2009 for that program. They are also looking into additional 4-year old programs at Lincoln and Washington. These would be clusters of 3 classes on 2 sites and we receive state funds for these programs.

Director Clewell asked about transportation for students. Ms. Schulte reported that currently only special education children (and siblings for a \$4/day fee) is available. They are investigating other options.

Director Roberson inquired about geothermal costs for all of these options. Mr. Martin stated that it would be an estimated \$2 million more for each option and is not included in the original estimates. Director Roberson also asked about moving the children in a multi-level facility. Ms. Schulte agreed that it is more difficult, but there are no real restrictions.

Director Johanson asked about traffic reports. Mr. Martin said statistics would be available through the city on specific locations. Director Johanson also asked if there are still AEA grants on community education. Ms. Schulte reported that she wasn't aware of any. He also wanted to know if any of these options would increase the number of students that could be accepted into the program. Ms. Schulte said the only addition would be through the United Neighbors program and the possible addition of 4-year old programs at other sites. Director Roberson asked about current waiting lists. Ms. Schulte said that most 4-year olds do get into the programs although it may not be at their first choice of locations. She said that there are more permanent waiting lists for the infants, and 2-3 year olds. She also stated that any new sites for programs would have to meet strict state guidelines for funding and the state would provide a verification visit.

BURNSIDE CHARTER SCHOOL VISIT: 3 representatives from the city, 3 from Scott Community College, 3 from DCSD administration, and 2 from the school board visited the Iowa Central Charter High School. They have 100% of their graduates participating in some form of college credit courses. Davenport Schools has both AP classes and a Joint Enrollment program. These programs provide much of the same benefit as the Burnside program. Some of the differences are beneficial to our students and some may be addressed to add more benefits. Our students may withdraw from a class within guidelines without penalty to further participation in the program. If they fail a class they may retake it to continue on to the next level. Burnside does not allow these options. Burnside is able to obtain more credit hours per semester through a waiver they obtained. We may be able to do the same thing and that can be explored. Burnside operates a bus system through an agreement with the college and that probably cannot be implemented in Davenport. Perhaps the city would want to participate by providing tokens to students.

These types of programs, regardless of the specifics, are beneficial to the high schools and the community colleges. There is no cost to the high school students and the colleges maintain their enrollment. Transferring of credits can be an issue and students need to be responsible for making sure they are pursuing classes that can be used towards their ultimate degree. However, most credits transfer in some way to both community colleges and 4-year colleges. The Davenport District needs to continue to pursue this path and involve students, parents, faculty, and administration in providing the best choices for our students to look towards post-secondary education.

Director Tupper asked if the courses that were eliminated a few years ago had been reinstated. The administration could not answer for sure and will look into it. They were also asked if there was a specific goal for this type of program. Although nothing is officially written, the goals would be to get kids thinking about post-secondary school and promoting rigor and relevance in our educational system.

AEA EVENT: Director Krumwiede pointed out his enthusiasm for a conference that board members were made aware of last week and encouraged all board members to attend. The Mississippi Bend AEA is providing an opportunity to hear Tony Wagner on September 17, 2009. He will present his work on 21st century skills and discuss how these skills are critical for today's students.

The meeting was adjourned by President Zamora at 7:15 PM.

Lynnette Carver, Board Secretary