

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 12, 2001

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in exempt and regular sessions pursuant to law and the rules of said Board on Monday, March 12, 2001 in the Executive Conference and Board Rooms of the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said school district. President Hester called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. following an exempt session on negotiations from 6:30 until 7:00 P.M.

On roll call the following members were present: President Jim Hester, Directors Jamie Howard, Steve Hunter, Steve Imming, Mavis Lee, Susan Low, and Patt Zamora. Student Board members present for the regular meeting were Kevin Miller (Central), Andrea Patrick, Darbie Little (North), and Brianne Zobrist (West).

6:30 PM EXEMPT SESSIONS: NEGOTIATIONS

Exempt Session: Negotiations

The Board held an exempt session at 6:30 P.M. in the Executive Conference Room to conduct strategy meetings of a public employer for employees covered by bargaining agreements, as provided in Chapter 20.17(3), Code of Iowa. By consensus they returned to the board table at 7:00 P.M.

7:04 PM PUBLIC HEARINGS ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Public Hearing on the Family Community Center & Pool at North High

President Hester opened the public hearing for the Family Community Center and Pool at North High School to give the community an opportunity for input on this project. The notice had been advertised in the *Quad City* Time on February 28th giving notice of the hearing. No one asked to speak on this matter.

President Hester announced the hearing would be continued at the next regular board meeting, March 19, 2001 to allow the public ample opportunity for input on this project.

Public Hearing on Buffalo/Perry School Construction

President Hester opened the public hearing on the construction of the new Buffalo/Perry School project to give the community an opportunity for input. The notice had been advertised in the *Quad City* Time on March 1, 2001 giving notice of the hearing. No one asked to speak on this matter.

President Hester announced the hearing would be continued at the next regular board meeting, March 19, 2001 to allow the public ample opportunity for input on this project

RECOGNITIONS

II. RECOGNITIONS

A. Volunteer Leadership Office * *Roger Fuerstenberg*

Roger Fuerstenberg, Coordinator of Community Education, introduced our District's AmeriCorps leadership team for volunteering and mentoring. AmeriCorps VISTAs **Rebecca Oliver** and **Gabe Pieczynski** were present for the meeting and recognized for their work. Two AmeriCorps **Mark Mathews** and **Shannon Luxton** were also recognized, but unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Fuerstenberg explained how Mark and Shannon split time between the Volunteer Office and tutoring at Truman and Buchanan, respectively. The District is appreciative of Mark returning for a second year of service. The Davenport Schools will greatly benefit from the four year-long volunteer program administered by the Corporation for National Service. The AmeriCorps VISTA program is focused on mobilizing people and community resources to increase the capacity and opportunities of low-income residents. During their year, Rebecca and Gabe will be building the structures and partnerships necessary to maintain a district focus on volunteering and mentoring. The AmeriCorps program is focused on direct service. Mark and Shannon provide leadership support as well as their tutoring. With the help of Tom Wagner, Mark is building a web site for volunteering in the Davenport schools.

<http://ascweb/volunteers/americorps.htm>.

Dr. Grady expressed appreciation to Gabe and Rebecca for their achievements and service. Director Zamora asked about their experiences in the District. Gabe said he enjoyed working with the district people and doing positive things. Rebecca especially liked training tutors and working with child abuse prevention programs. Budget limitations were the most frustrating part of the process.

B. Blue Grass * *Walt Viering, Principal*

Mr. Viering said that Blue Grass Elementary was blessed with a cadre of experienced, caring, and successful teachers, para-educators, and support personnel. The community of Blue Grass values the use of its academic specialists. Two teachers were being recognized for demonstrating a high level of educational expertise in working with students at Blue Grass and he was honored to introduce them to the Board.

Regina Harper, Math Specialist at Blue Grass, is a person who is constantly assessing the progress of her students, and she looks at what curricular materials might be adopted to address the needs of her math students. Last year Mrs. Harper concluded Accelerated Math was an alternative that would benefit all of her students. She organized alternative strategies to seek funding for the course, acquired the Accelerated Math Program, became familiarized with its features, and implemented the program in the fall. She soon realized it was necessary to have additional levels and proceeded to gain the funding necessary for this purchase so she could incorporate the additional levels into her teaching. Mrs. Harper epitomizes the model of being a life-long learner and seeks the resources to implement her vision of "What if" to the reality of "It's been done."

Travis Benner, Science Specialist, has a philosophy of instruction that creates a "being there experience for his students." His ability to harness the enthusiasm which children naturally possess has been so contagious, that our whole community has become involved. Through his guidance with our PTA and the community, Mr. Benner has orchestrated his

vision of a greenhouse as an instructional center to the reality of having our own greenhouse on campus. Mr. Benner can be seen as a Pied Piper—a person who has the natural gift of engaging students in learning and whetting their appetites to learn even more. Last year a student nominated Mr. Benner for the Davenport Community School District's HUG award. The students and community benefit from the dedication of both Mr. Benner and Mrs. Harper.

Board members talked briefly with Mr. Benner and Mrs. Harper about their experiences and heard about the success of the math program and the greenhouse project. Board members complimented these two individuals for their dedication and creativeness. Mr. Viering also complimented the community of Blue Grass for the extra work they have done to help make the greenhouse a reality and for participating in this community work with the school district to help all the children.

C. **Washington Elementary * *William Sandknop, Principal***

Mr. Sandknop honored three of Washington Elementary School's teachers who will be retiring at the end of the current school year. The reason for their recognition tonight was not so much because these teachers were retiring, but in order to recognize these individuals for the length of time they have worked with students at Washington Elementary School. **Jeanette Isaacson**, Grade Four Teacher, was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but she was finishing her 32nd year in teaching in Davenport—all those years at Washington. **Nancy Math**, Grade Three Teacher, was completing her 35th year with the Davenport Schools—all at Washington. **Mike Wiley**, Physical Education Teacher, was finishing his 40th year in the Davenport Schools—with 39 years at Washington. These three teachers have a combined total of 107 service years to the District, with 106 years of teaching experience at Washington. Former board member, Mr. Robert McCue, was also present for this meeting and applauded for his part in hiring all three of these teachers. Mr. McCue knew how to pick them! Board members also remarked on the positive experiences they had with these wonderful teachers from Washington and expressed their appreciation for the many years of service to the children in our district.

COMMUNICATIONS

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Tuesday, March 13, 12:00 Noon, Special Call Meeting—Bond Sales, DSASC, Executive Conference Room
- B. Thursday, March 15, 7:00 PM, Davenport Schools Foundation, DSASC, Board Room
- C. Monday, March 19, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, DSASC, Board Room
- D. Tuesday, March 20, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, North High—Food Court; tour of building at 5:10 and meeting at 5:30 PM
- E. March 26-30, Spring Break, No School
- F. Saturday, March 31, 8:15 AM, Legislative Forum Meeting, O'Keefe Library at St. Ambrose
- G. Monday, April 2, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, DSASC, Board Room

H. Open Forum for Community Input

1. Nora DeJohn, 1205 Spring, Davenport, complained about being able to get an agenda ahead of time and knowing what the Board would be talking about at the meetings. She said the agendas were not available to the public ahead of time. She also complained about the board policies dealing with personnel issues and relationships. She commented about a district employee who was an alderman for the City, and then she started to make accusations reflecting on the character of the Board President. Ms. DeJohn was called out of order. Our policy states the President may terminate a person's privilege of addressing the Board for violations of conduct or remarks in the form of inferences, insinuations, or innuendoes. Ms. DeJohn was asked to leave the meeting and escorted out by Officer Cole.
2. Mrs. Naomi Sly, 1922 E. 12th Street, Davenport, addressed the Board about policies with employees. She had questions on some of our policies when one of our employees was also employed by the City Council. Mrs. Sly stated that she heard remarks made by this employee concerning comments from Dr. Blanche about Walmart and how it would help with tax money for the district. She didn't feel an employee should be soliciting money for the school board. She thought the one-cent sales tax was more than enough, and this upsets her to hear this at a public meeting.

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 Meetings

The minutes from the February 26, 2001 Regular Board Meeting were presented for approval.

B. Financial Report

It was recommended that the Treasurer's monthly reports of receipts and disbursements of the various funds for the period ending January 31, 2001 be approved.

C. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

RETIREMENTS: CERTIFICATED

Henkhaus, Lynne
Reading Specialist
Adams

Effective: End of 2000-2001 School Year
Years of Service: 27 yrs.

RESIGNATIONS: CERTIFICATED

Keckler, Stephanie
School Nurse
Blue Grass/Buffalo/Perry

Effective: 2/28/01
Reason: Personal
Years of Service: 7 yrs. 6 mos.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CERTIFICATED

Ashby, Lori Grade 4 Hayes Elementary	Maternity/FMLA Effective: 1/16/01 – 4/9/01 1/16/01 – 2/26/01 with pay 2/27/01 – 4/12/01 without pay
Cook, Teena Kindergarten/Literacy Support Eisenhower Elementary	Maternity/FMLA Effective: 12/13/00 – 2/2/01
Hester, Melton Physical Education Young Intermediate	Health Leave/FMLA with pay Effective: 10/17/00 – 2/16/01 Reason: Health
Hoeksema, Thomas Social Studies West High	Health Leave/FMLA with pay Effective: 1/18/01 – End of the 2000-2001 School Year Reason: Health
Johns, Ella Media Specialist Garfield Elementary	Extension of Health Leave with pay Effective: 1/23/01 – 3/2/01 3/5/01 – 4/16/01 return .5
Klesack, Patricia Special Education/LD Walcott Elementary/Intermediate	Extension of Health Leave with pay Effective: 1/29/01 – 2/23/01 2/26/01 – 3/9/01 return .5
Lundvall, Julie Preschool Truman Elementary	Maternity/FMLA Effective: 12/13/00 – 2/2/01 12/13/00 – 1/24/01 with pay 1/25/01 – 2/2/01 without pay
Norberg, Heather Grade 3 Hayes Elementary	Maternity/FMLA Effective: 12/28/00 – 2/8/01 12/18/00 – 2/8/01 with pay
Wells, Kelly Science West High	Maternity/FMLA with pay Effective: 1/2/01 – 2/12/01

RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

* Lancaster, Beth Grade 9 Girls' Volleyball Central High	Effective: February 1, 2001 Salary: \$1,863.00 Reason: Personal
* McNeil, Daniel Soccer SH Girls' Assistant Coach Central High	Effective: January 23, 2001 Salary: \$1,397.00 Reason: Personal
* Parks, Willie F Track Girls' Varsity Ass't West High	Effective: January 24, 2001 Salary: \$2,329.00 Reason: To Accept Other Coaching Position with District

*	Sigler, Thomas Grade 9 Football Coach West High	Effective: January 22, 2001 Salary: \$2,096.00 Reason: Further Education
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SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

*	Gross, D'Anne Intermediate Co-Ed Track Assistant Coach Wood Intermediate	5% \$1,164.00
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*	Parks, Willie F Track Girls' Varsity Ass't North High	10% \$2,329.00
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*	Sinksen, Arthur Intermediate Co-Ed Track Assistant Coach Wood Intermediate	5% \$1,164.00
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*	Turner, Estes Grade 7 Boys' Basketball Coach Sudlow Intermediate	7% \$1,630.00
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*	Williams, Natalie Intramurals Williams Intermediate	8% \$1,863.00
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*	Zimmerman, Kenneth Intermediate Co-Ed Track Coach Sudlow Intermediate	7% \$1,630.00
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APPOINTMENTS: CERTIFICATED

**	McDonald, Charlotte Special Education/MultiCat/SCI Smart Intermediate	Degree: B.A.+15 – 1 Effective: February 23, 2001 Salary: \$25,132 prorated to \$9,373.56 for the remaining 69 days in the 2000-2001 school year
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RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

*	Dankert, Diane Para Educator Lincoln Elementary	Effective: February 26, 2001 Reason: Other Employment Years of Service: 1 yr 4 mos
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*	Harris, Linda Para Educator Williams Intermediate	Effective: February 19, 2001 Reason: Medical Years of Service: 11yrs 5 mos
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*	Hintz, Melissa Cook in Charge Central	Effective: February 26, 2001 Reason: Personal Years of Service: 4 mos
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RETIREMENTS: CLASSIFIED

McGinnis, Tonya
Para Educator
Eastern Perry

Effective: June 7, 2001
Reason: Retirement
Years of Service: 9 yrs 9 mos

* Not a Teacher ** Served as Guest Teacher *** Not a Replacement

MOTION: Director Low moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Low, Zamora, Howard, Hunter, Imming, and Lee. Abstaining, Hester. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

V. APPROVAL OF BILLS

The following resolution was recommended by the Administration for adoption --

“Resolved that all claims presented to the Board having been duly certified as correct by the Secretary, and reviewed by the administration and the Board ad hoc committee, 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.”

MOTION: Director Imming moved the Board approve the resolution regarding payment of bills with one exception, Check #091276 to be held and paid upon further review by the administration. Director Zamora seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Imming, Zamora, Low, Lee, Hunter, Howard, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

VI. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. **School Calendar 2001-2002**

The school calendar was not ready for approval at this time. No action was recommended.

B. Board Policy 605.04 Permanent Student Records

The Board was asked to approve the revisions in Board Policy 605.04—Permanent Student Records as discussed at the board meeting on February 26, 2001.

MOTION: Director Low moved the Board approves the revisions to Policy 605.04--Permanent Student Records as previously discussed. Director Imming seconded the motion.

Director Howard indicated she had not gotten information back on people visiting the high schools to see how information was given out to organizations and groups. Dr. Grady said she would review this with Dr. Blanche. They would see how names were given out to groups for solicitation for selling products to students. They will be looking at the disclosure statement and procedures will be developed.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Low, Imming, Howard, Lee, Hunter, Zamora, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Board Policy 602.11 Special Education

The Board was asked to approve the revisions in Board Policy 602.11—Special Education as discussed at the board meeting on February 26, 2001

MOTION: Director Low moved the Board approves revisions to Policy 602.11--Special Education as previously discussed and needed to meet our code requirements. Director Imming seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Low, Imming, Howard, Hunter, Lee, Zamora, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. School Safety

Corporal Mike Cole presented information on the Davenport Community School District's readiness and preparations being taken to deal with safety issues. Mr. Bill Thiessen, Executive Director of Administrative Services, was available for questions, as well Mr. Bill Long, Wilson Elementary Principal, and Mr. Roger Keester, Associate Principal at Sudlow. Dr. Blanche had asked Officer Cole to address some of these issues in light of the incidents in California and other districts dealing with violence. They have been extra busy in the buildings because of copy-kat situations and they investigate the incidents at the school building level. Staff members have reported comments to him and if they need his assistance, we investigate. We talk with the victim and bring in the building people to hear what was said. In large, the reports have been insignificant. We have procedures to attack these situations and most of this is a common sense approach. There are crisis plans in the buildings and teams that address security daily. The community is obviously concerned, but we are taking care of business in the buildings. Officer Cole complimented the people who work in the buildings and how they handle the situations. We take this seriously and we act upon the problems. The bar has been raised in education because of some of these situations in other areas. There are consequences for the students who are causing

problems or creating fears for other students. There have been comments overheard by students, but we didn't feel the students had been in a position to carry out the threat. We talk to the students, parents, and staff members, and consequences are administered so the students understand this kind of behavior is not allowed.

Director Howard asked what type of training is provided for the staff and students if they hear comments. How can they report this and what about confidentiality. Mr. Long talked about a number of programs in place for students to help train them in how to deal with these situations. The Peace Builders program, Pride, and DARE programs all help students learn how to cope and deal with difficult situations. We tell them to report problems to a responsible adult. Mr. Long takes opportunities in the lunchroom to talk with students and remind them of positive behavior and the discipline policies, and how they should respond. It is their responsibility to help and that is part of being a good citizen. Mr. Keester talked about the Skills Program at Sudlow and how the curriculum at the school addresses these issues. He deals with confidentiality and the students trust the teachers. If a student makes a report, he tries to avoid putting a student in a position that would break a confidence. The students are not 100 percent sure and some are reluctant, but we keep working together. Mr. Long added the elementary students like to tell things about each other, but as the students get older, they are more reluctant.

Director Howard asked about after school concerns and what we are doing for safety in this area. Officer Cole mentioned some schools have after-school programs and there is on-going security with the police department. He works with other officers to try to monitor areas that might be a problem and to be available for students after school. The officers patrol areas around the school and where students hang out. There is a great deal of cooperation between the school and the police department. We hope to be re-energizing the Crime Stoppers Program and will be working with Bettendorf to see how they are setting up a phone hotline.

Director Low appreciated the way the district and our police were approaching problems here and not overreacting as some districts have done. We appreciate the work you are doing and being able to negotiate with people on how to handle these cases and incidents. It is easy in a dangerous atmosphere to overreact. Officer Cole said he takes this work seriously, and before he calls on his colleagues, he investigates thoroughly. The majority of situations have been unwise choices by students and they do receive consequences for their action so they get the message. Director Imming expressed his appreciation for the work being done, and he recognized the extra load the police have had because of threats at the schools. Maybe this will be positive if the students learn how to report the problems and deal with trouble before it gets too bad. Officer Cole said the key element he felt was building relationships with students. If the students have a relationship with a staff member, they are more likely to share their problems and this might help in solving the bad situations that could develop. It is a team effort. President Hester thanked everyone for the efforts being made and for bringing this information to the Board and community.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Grady reminded the Board about the Comprehensive Site Visit and Accreditation and Equity Review by the Iowa Department of Education the week of April 16-20, 2001. There will be 15-17 visitors in the district with some from the Department of Education and the AEA. They would like to meet with board members, and possibly have a Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, April 16 from 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. for this purpose. Otherwise we could arrange a meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The exit interview will be held on Friday, April 20th at 3:30.

IX. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

President Hester extended condolences to Dr. Blanche and his family on the death of his mother-in-law.

President Hester reminded board members of some upcoming events including the UEN annual meeting on April 19 and 20th in Waterloo. If anyone was interested, they should let the Board Secretary know. The Bond Sale would be tomorrow, March 13th at noon. There was also the groundbreaking at Jackson School on March 13th at 1:00 P.M. Dr. Grady had already mentioned the equity review, and we would be making plans for the Committee of the Whole meeting for that Monday, April 16th. Board members also received information about an open forum at Central High on March 15th at 6:30 in the cafeteria sponsored by a group of African Americans to talk about education and bridging the gap. He encouraged everyone to attend this meeting if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Howard moved the Board adjourn. Director Low seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes, Howard, Low, Lee, Hunter, Imming, Zamora, and Hester. Motion carried unanimously.

President Hester declared the meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Linda M. Smith, Board Secretary