

**PRIVATE HEARING and
SPECIAL CALL BOARD MEETING
MAY 28, 2002**

The Board of Directors of the Davenport Community School District in the Counties of Scott and Muscatine, State of Iowa, met in Special Call Session on May 28, 2002, pursuant to law and the rules of said Board, at the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, 1606 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa, in said school district in the Board Room. There was agreement by all parties that the Exempt Session be closed for a private hearing which began at 5:05 PM. The Open Session was called to order at 6:39 PM.

On roll call the following members were present: President Jim Hester, Directors Richard Clewell, Steve Hunter, Steve Imming, and Susan Low. Absent: Directors Mavis Lee and Patt Zamora.

**PRIVATE HEARING
EXEMPT SESSION**

The Board conducted a private hearing for teachers who had requested a hearing before the Board. Under Iowa Code Section 279.15 private hearings are exempt from the open meetings' law to consider the termination or continuation of the teachers' contracts.

Following the private hearing, by consensus the Board returned to Open Session in the Board Room at the Administration Service Center at 6:39 PM to take action on the matters discussed in the private hearing.

6:39 PM

OPEN SESSION

TERMINATION OF TEACHER CONTRACTS/BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS

Dr. Blanche presented his recommendation to the Board to terminate the contracts of two teachers. He said these recommendations are being made based upon the need for staff reductions due to the District's financial condition. The recommendations were made in compliance with Article XII, Staff Reduction of the collective bargaining agreement.

Dr. Blanche noted the affected teachers were personally served with a notice of termination and the reasons for termination were specifically set out in the notices these teachers received. At this time, the Board should take action on these recommendations. Dr. Blanche asked the Board to accept the recommendations and vote to terminate the continuing teaching contracts of the two teachers affected. He explained Iowa law requires the Board takes action on each of the recommendations separately and that the Board makes its decision by roll call vote.

Dr. Blanche asked the Board to accept the recommendation and vote to terminate the continuing teacher contracts of Staci Nelson and Barbara Smith.

MOTION: Director Low moved the Board adopt the Superintendent's recommendation and terminate Staci Nelson's continuing contract with the District effective at the end of the 2001-02 school year. Director Imming seconded the motion.

Director Low remarked this was not action the Board wished they had to take. All of the teachers were young, energetic, and vital to the district. She hoped they would continue to stay in the teaching profession and be able to return to work in our district in the future.

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

MOTION: Director Low moved the Board adopt the Superintendent's recommendation and terminate Barbara Smith's continuing contract with the District effective at the end of the 2001-02 school year. Director Imming seconded the motion.

President Hester added agreement with Director Low that this was the saddest part of being on the Board when we are asked to terminate contracts. This is a district for youth and this was a very difficult part of the job to have to take action because of budgetary matters.

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

Director Hunter joined in with comments that this was a difficult thing for the Board to deal with. These teachers are starting on their career and have good qualifications. There will be a need for teachers in the future, and we are struggling to get on tract. We need to be in a position to maintain quality education. We regret having this action fall on the teachers and we wish them well. Director Clewell commented there was nothing we could say to eliminate the concerns or pain for these teachers. It seems unfair that we have to take this action, but he hoped the teachers would be able to look at this positively in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

President Hester adjourned the Special Call Session at 6:45 PM.

Linda M. Smith, Board Secretary