

REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 25, 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 Monday, November 25, 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. President Susan Low called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

On roll call the following members were present: President Susan Low; Directors Richard Clewell, Alan Guard, Steve Hunter, Anne Losasso, and Dan Portes. Student board members present for the regular meeting were Amanda Strittmater and Kim Koranda from West High.

RECOGNITIONS

IN MEMORY OF DIRECTOR JAMES "JIM" C. HESTER

Dr. Blanche and board members shared their thoughts about Director Jim Hester, who passed away November 14, 2002. They celebrated his life and realized how the whole community benefited from the work Mr. Hester did during his life.

Dr. Blanche said he had an opportunity to share comments at the funeral. Jim Hester will be missed on a personal level by the community and from the perspective he brought to the board table. Director Hester was an advocate for each child he encountered, and the "No Child Left Behind" concept was not new to Jim but part of his everyday life. Board Secretary Linda Smith shared her thoughts about how Mr. Hester changed the lives of children that had no hope by being a mentor to them. It was a privilege to have worked with Mr. Hester and to see his kindness in action. Director Clewell said he worked with Mr. Hester only a short time but he appreciated the help Jim offered. Jim made the world beautiful and was a hero to many students. He dealt with people as individuals and utilized his talents well.

Director Portes said he had worked with Mr. Hester on the Local School Improvement Tax project. Mr. Hester knew how important this effort would be for the schools and children. Mr. Portes said he had looked forward to working with Jim, and he had a tremendous respect for Mr. Hester's opinion. Director Losasso felt it was important to look at the example Director Hester set of someone giving freely of his time to give back to the community. Mr. Hester was a shining example for our community to follow. Director Guard added he didn't have the opportunity to work with Mr. Hester, but he knew Jim's presence was felt in the school district and community. We will have to fill Mr. Hester's seat on the Board, but no one can fill his shoes. The family and friends were extended condolences and thanked for sharing Jim Hester with the community and the school district.

President Low asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Board Member Jim Hester.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS EARLY START DATE WAIVER & INNOVATIVE CALENDAR

President Low announced that the Board would hold public hearings on the early start and innovative calendar waiver request for the 2003-2004 school year. The notice of public hearings had been advertised in the *Quad City Times* on November 15, 2002.

A public hearing was held concerning the early start date. The public was given an opportunity for input about commencing classes for regularly established elementary and secondary schools prior to the earliest starting date specified in Subsection 1, Iowa Code 279.10(4). This allows the Board to make a request for a waiver for an early start date. No one came forth to speak on the early start date. The public hearing was declared closed on this topic.

A public hearing was also held concerning the continuation of a district-wide innovative calendar. The public was given an opportunity for input about having a district wide innovative calendar that was the equivalent to 180 days required by law. No one came forth to speak on this topic. The public hearing was declared closed on this topic.

President Low announced the Board would take action on the waiver requests later in the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS

II. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. November 27-29: Thanksgiving Holiday for students & teachers
- B. Monday, December 2, 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, Fillmore Elementary School, Media Center (5:00 PM tour of facility)
- C. Pending Board Action: A date would be set for a Special Call Board Meeting, DSASC, Board Room
- D. Monday, December 9, 6:00 PM, Exempt Session Negotiations (closed); 7:00 PM Regular Meeting, DSASC, Board Room
- E. Thursday, December 12, 5:00 PM, Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, Location TBA (Eisenhower Elementary)
- F. December 23, 2002 to January 3, 2003: Winter Break for students and teachers; Classes resume on Monday, January 6, 2003
- G. Monday, January 6, 2003; 5:30 PM, Committee of the Whole, Smart Intermediate School, Media Center
- H. Open Forum for Community Input
 - 1. Joseph Obleton, 1212 Marquette, represented the Davenport NAACP and wanted to thank North High for letting them use the facility for a youth gathering on November 16, 2002. Because of the support of the staff and everyone, it was a good program designed to discuss issues with the youth in our community. It was successful because we could use North and they appreciated that help.

Mr. Obleton also talked about the replacement of Jim Hester on the Board. He said Mr. Hester touched all of us and people were grateful for what Jim did. Mr. Hester left us with knowledge and direction to follow. His shoes will be hard to fill but someone needs to be chosen. Please select someone with the same commitment and drive as Mr. Hester. Mr. Obleton talked about the No Child Left Behind laws and the desegregation plan. He felt that part of the problem was with the schools being really committed to desegregation. If more efforts were brought into the schools, it would make them more sensitive. The NAACP is encouraged to do whatever they can to address these issues positively.

2. Nicky DeFawl, 5070 Garnet Court, talked about the last four months and the administration talking about racial issues and desegregation in the schools. She objected to Dr. Blanche's comments that Barb Ikes' column was a slap in the face. Barb just had a different opinion than the administration on these issues. She said the community has a right to have differences of opinion. She talked about white flight and people having valid reasons for leaving the district. Why do we need to have a Focus Group hired and why not just contact the people who are leaving and ask them why they are going to other districts? We need reliable data instead of conjecture, then you will be able to have a prescription for a cure.
3. Irene Hart, 2505 E. Locust, explained reasons why she open enrolled her four children out of Davenport to Pleasant Valley Schools. She said she didn't take her decision lightly. She has to spend 17 minutes driving her children to Pleasant Valley each day. She started her children in Davenport but had to supplement their education. She complained about areas in the curriculum she felt was lacking, and she complained about cuts being made in the arts programs. She didn't feel her children were being taught to read and her children's futures were at stake. She didn't think the District was doing its job and so she shopped around and thought Pleasant Valley was much better. She continued to make complaints about the district and inadequacies she saw.

CONSENT AGENDA

III. 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. The minutes of the last regular and intervening meetings were removed from the approval in the Consent Agenda.

~~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: November 11, 2002 Special Call Expulsion and November 11, 2002 Regular Board Meeting.~~

B. Personnel: Appointments, Resignations, Etc.

RESIGNATIONS FROM SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

Benisch, Heather Boys' Assistant Swimming Coach Central High	10% \$2,384.00
Burden, William Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach Central High	12% \$2,860.00
Flynn, Paul Head Varsity Football Coach West High	25% \$5,959.00
Mitchell, Joseph Sophomore Wrestling Coach .5 North High	10% \$1,192.00
Olsen, James Volleyball Assistant Walcott Intermediate	8% \$1,907.00
Ryan, Chad Assistant Sophomore Boys' Basketball Coach Central High	10% \$2,384.00
Stevens, Terry Head Sophomore Boys' Basketball Coach Central High	12% \$2,860.00

SUPPLEMENTAL APPOINTMENTS

Abdo, Sara Girls Basketball Assistant Gr. 8 Young Intermediate	7% \$1,668.00
Alaniz, Robert Sophomore Wrestling Coach Central High	10% \$2,384.00
Burden, William Interim Head Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach Central High	25% \$5,959.00
Irwin, Kayla Girls' Basketball Assistant Gr. 8 Smart Intermediate	7% \$1,668.00

Mayfield, Gary 8 th Grade Wrestling Coach Young Intermediate	7% \$1,668.00
Mitchell, Joseph Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach North High	10% \$2,384.00
Ripslinger, John Girls Basketball Assistant Gr. 8	7% \$1,668.00
Ryan, Chad Interim Head Sophomore Boys' Basketball Coach Central High	12% \$2,860.00
Stahl, Duane Head Boys' Swimming Coach Central High	14% \$3,337.00
Stevens, Terry Interim Assistant Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach Central High	12% \$2,860.00
Trujillo, Michael Head Girls' Track Coach Central High	14% \$3,337.00
Weisrock, James Head Wrestling Coach Gr. 7 Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,668.00
Weisrock, James Head Wrestling Coach Gr. 8 Walcott Intermediate	7% \$1,668.00

SALARY ADJUSTMENTS: CERTIFIED

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	SCHOOL	STEP	FROM	TO	SALARY
Crossen	Trisha	Walcott Inter	9	MSW	MSW +15	\$39,176.00
Long	Robert	North High	5	B.A.	B.A.+15	\$30,606.00
Van Fossen	Clinton	West High	11	B.S.	B.S.+15	\$37,952.00

RETURN FROM LEAVE OF ABSENCE: CERTIFIED

Allen, Toi Kindergarten Madison Elementary	Effective: 10/28/2002 Salary: \$29,382.00 prorated to \$21,758.56 for the remaining 137 days of the 2002-2003 school year
Golderman, Carol Math/Reading (.5) Hayes Elementary	Effective: 11/15/02 Salary: \$18,364.00
Wilkins, Tonya Grant Manager Madison Elementary	Effective: 10/11/2002 Salary: \$39,176.00 prorated to \$31,340.80 for the remaining 148 days of the 2002-2003 school year

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS: CLASSIFIED

Harding, Scott Para-educator North High	Effective: October 28, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 13 days
Johnson, Jody Community Site Facilitator Monroe Elementary	Effective: October 25, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 4 months
O'Connor, Catherine Para-educator Garfield Elementary	Effective: August 22, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 1 yr., 5 months
Shiltz, Justin Positive Behavior Support Liaison JB Young	Effective: November 14, 2002 Yrs. of Service: 19 days

LEAVES OF ABSENCE: CLASSIFIED

Huff, Kathy Clerk III Central High	Leave of Absence Effective: July 11, 2002 through November 15, 2002
Kemp, Stacy Para-educator Wood Intermediate	Extension of Leave of Absence Effective: 01/21/03 through 03/21/03
Whitney, Tammy Food Service Worker Williams Intermediate	Leave of Absence Effective: 10/25/02 through 02/14/03

APPOINTMENTS: CLASSIFIED

Atwater, Patrick Para-educator North High	Effective: November 11, 2002 Rate of Pay: \$6.55 3.5 hrs./day
Burrows, Cheryl Para-educator Walcott	Effective: November 13, 2002 Rate of Pay: \$6.55 7.0 hrs/day
Carlson, Bridget Para-educator McKinley Elementary	Effective: November 18, 2002 Rate of Pay: \$6.55 6.0 hrs/day
Christensen, Ryan Community Site Facilitator McKinley Elementary	Effective: December 2, 2002 Rate of Pay: \$24,946, prorated to \$14,330.68 235 days
Eganhouse, Mary Food Service Worker West High	Effective: November 18, 2002 Rate of Pay: \$6.86 3.0 hrs/day
Gordon, Emily Community Site Facilitator McKinley Elementary	Effective: November 25, 2002 Rate of Pay: \$24,946, prorated to \$14,542.99 235 days

* Not a Teacher ** Substitute Teacher *** Not a Replacement

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as written, with the exception of the minutes from the November 11th meetings, with the understanding those minutes will be provided under the December 9 Consent Agenda. Director Losasso seconded the motion.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

MOTION: Director Guard moved, be it 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 Check #126286 in the amount of \$1,171.48 to Borders, should be approved. Director Portes seconded the motion.

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

OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

V. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

A. Setting Date & Plans for Filling Board Vacancy

The Board reviewed the process needed for filling the vacancy on the Board created by the death of Director Jim Hester. President Low said she did a lot of research as to what happened in the past and expectations. She talked about the Iowa Code specifying at the death of an elected officer, the School Board will make an appointment to fill the vacancy. They are allowed 30 days to fill the seat and 10 days are allowed to swear in and attest that the person is eligible to fill the position. She talked about special elections and the appointment would be made until the next regular election in September 2003.

The Board has dealt with this before in 1989 with Warner Classon and in 1992 with L. J. Twyner. The Board set a time line to received letters of interest from community members who were eligible to run. They held a special call meeting to which the people showing interest spoke about why they would like to be on the Board. Then the Board nominated people and the voting process was held until someone was appointed. President Low suggested the Board follow a similar procedure for filling the seat of Jim Hester.

Board members discussed the procedures and looked at dates that would work best for all board members to participate prior to the deadline for appointment of December 14. They discussed having the appointment before the next regular board meeting, but there were scheduling conflicts by board members. President Low explained how the Board allowed several people to be nominated before taking a vote to fill previous appointments. It was clarified that four votes would be needed to appoint an individual to the seat if all six board members were at the meeting. A majority vote of board members present would be needed for the appointment. They continued with discussion about possible dates to hold the special call meeting and reviewed other suggestions concerning the procedures.

Board members agreed they were empowered with the responsibility to make such an appointment and the community will expect the Board to follow up on this matter. They talked about special elections, petitions from citizens, and interviewing procedures. There was dialogue about having community members speak and allowing people to show support for candidates as part of the interview process. President Low clarified that Directors Portes and Guard wanted to add to the process by having community input or comments during the interviews. Then board members talked about the time element and the time people should be given to speak to allow them ample opportunity. The interviews will be held at a special call meeting and will be in open session. It was agreed some time limits would need to be established for endorsements so it would not become too unwieldy if numerous speakers asked to talk.

The Board also discussed having a set of questions prepared to which candidates would need to respond. Board members were asked to contact President Low with their questions that would be put into a questionnaire for all the candidates to fill out and submit with their letters of interest. Candidates would not be required to have endorsements during the interviews, but time would be allowed during the meeting for community input. Board members agreed to have just one meeting for interviews and then voting on the candidate to be appointed to fill the vacancy. President Low recapped the Board would follow a time line similar to what was discussed, each board member would submit a questions to her to be included in a questionnaire, and instructions would be prepared for anyone interested in being considered for the appointment. President Low will work with Dr. Blanche and Board Secretary Smith to inform the media and get information out to the public with specifics.

The Board will have to absorb a lot of information in a short time to be able to make this appointment. They will need to set a date for the special call meeting to invite candidates to interview, and time will be allowed for endorsements during the proceedings. Then board members will nominate people following the interviews and vote on the appointment. Board members felt it was not possible to get this done prior to the December 9 board meeting because of schedule conflicts. Board members looked at alternative dates and times for calling a special call meeting prior to December 14. The questions for candidates would be available in the Administration Building and put on the web site if possible, and hopefully through a News Release that would be developed. Candidates would need to write a letter of interest and answer the questionnaire with a deadline of 4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 4, and submit these items to the Board Secretary at the Administration Service Center.

MOTION: Director Hunter moved the Board hold an official Special Call Meeting at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, December 10, 2002 in the Board Room at the Davenport Schools Administration Service Center, for the purpose of appointing a person to fill the vacancy on the Board created by the death of Jim Hester. Director Guard seconded the motion.

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

B. Negotiation Team Addition for the Teachers Contract for the 2003-04 Contract Year

The administration recommended the addition of Gary Ray from the firm of Ray and Associates to be approved for the master contract teachers' negotiation team for the 2003-04 contract year. (Note: Other administrative team members were approved on October 28, 2002.)

MOTION: Director Losasso moved the Board approve the administration's recommendation to add Gary Ray from the firm of Ray and Associated to the master contract teachers' negotiation team for the 2003-04 contract year. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

The vote on the motion was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Losasso, Clewell, Hunter, Portes, and Low. Nay: Guard. Motion carried.

C. District Wide Early Start Date

The administration recommended the Board approve a request to the Director of the Department of Education to commence classes for regularly established elementary and secondary schools prior to the earliest starting date specified in subsection 1. The school district has determined that a starting date on or after the earliest starting date specified in the Iowa Code Section 279.10 Subsection 1 will have a significant negative educational impact.

(NOTE: The official academic calendar will be approved later with a starting date prior to September 1.)

MOTION: Director Clewell moved the Board approve the request to the Director of the Department of Education to commence classes for regularly established elementary and secondary schools prior to the earliest starting date specified in subsection 1. The school district has determined that a starting date on or after the earliest starting date specified in the Iowa Code Section 279.10 Subsection 1 will have a significant negative educational impact. Director Guard seconded the motion.

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

D. Continuation of District Wide Innovative Calendar

The administration recommends the Board approve a request to the Director of the Department of Education to continue with the Innovative Calendar established district wide for our schools that is the equivalent to the 180 days required by law.

MOTION: Director Hunter moved the administration's recommendation for approval of a request to the Director of the Department of Education to continue with the Innovative Calendar established district wide for our schools that is the equivalent to the 180 days required by law. Director Guard seconded the motion.

Department of Education to continue with the Innovative Calendar established district wide for our schools that is the equivalent to the 180 days required by law.

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

E. Local School Improvement Advisory Committee Appointment

The administration recommended Carol Newkirk, parent at Garfield, to be appointed as an additional member of the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee for 2002-03.

MOTION: Director Portes moved the Board accept the recommendation of Carol Newkirk, parent at Garfield, to be appointed as an additional member of the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee for 2002-2003. Director Losasso seconded the motion.

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

F. Resolution for Public Hearing & Setting the Date for Sale of Grant Property

The administration recommended approval of a resolution setting the date for a public hearing on December 9, 2002 at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering the sale of real estate owned by the District located at 216 W. Hayes, Davenport, Iowa (Grant School) to Living Hope Community Church for the sum of \$170,000; and resolving that a Notice of the Sale and Public Hearing be published.

MOTION: Director Losasso moved the resolution for public hearing of 216 West Hayes, Davenport:

WHEREAS, Davenport Community School District is the owner of certain real estate located at 216 W. Hayes, Davenport, Iowa and more particularly described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, Davenport Community School District has received an offer to sell said real estate to Living Hope Community Church for the sum of \$170,000; and

WHEREAS, Davenport Community School District is required to hold a public hearing on the proposed transfer pursuant to Iowa Code §297.22.

RESOLVED that a Public Hearing shall be held at the Administrative Service Center on December 9, 2002 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of considering the sale of real estate owned by the School District located 216 W. Hayes, Davenport, Iowa;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary shall publish Notice of Sale of Real Estate and Notice of Public Hearing in the Quad City Times at least once not less that ten (10) days but not more than twenty (20) days prior to the date of the public hearing.

Director Portes seconded the motion.

Board members had an opportunity to discuss the proposal being recommended to sell the property at 216 West Hayes, Grant Elementary School. Director Clewell talked about the community growing up around the school and the spirit of the community. It is incumbent for the Board to discuss the possibilities that would be the best value to the community for this property. Mr. Bill Good shared information about the intended purchaser and the uses for the facility that would be used for church services, children's events, and adult bible school and classes. There may be preschool or day care in the building, community and civic groups meetings, and several services for the neighborhood. There will be some programs and classes offered for building better families and learning skills for child care. We believe it will be put to good use with this new owner. There had not been any discussion about subletting parts of the building by the owner.

Director Guard commented that he felt the building was put to good use last year and could be put to good use again this year if the school hadn't been closed. He felt the Board should look at the whole vision and he talked about goals, academic achievement, closing the gap, improving discipline and behavior, and providing Pre-K programs for the district. He had concerns about class size in other buildings and would like to address the negative impact of school sizes. He has given board members information on these things. He talked about the problems he saw with closing Grant and Johnson Schools by the previous Board. He talked about the investment in this building that could be used by the district for classrooms and the costs of building a new elementary school versus repairing an existing building. He hoped board members would take this into consideration when voting on the sale of Grant, and whether the closure of the school was in the best interest of the children.

President Low responded with comments about the summary received from IASB from the October 21 board workshop. She talked about specific recommendations and things agreed upon by board members during the session. Children should have equitable opportunities to excel, and we might have different views on how to accomplish things but board members also had common goals. She talked about responsibilities of board members, working with the administration, and focussing on essential issues. There are non-productive things that should be avoided and it was not effective to keep bringing up past decisions. It doesn't serve the children in our district well, and the Board focus should be on the needs of all the children. We should not be discussing past behavior or decisions that were made by the Board. It was imperative not to get caught up in past decisions but to move forward with the challenges in front of the Board. The Board made a clear decision and we do not need to revisit that decision or try to impede progress.

ACTION: The vote on a resolution setting the date for a public hearing for the sale of Grant Elementary School was called and recorded as follows: Ayes: Losasso, Portes, Clewell, Hunter, and Low. Nay: Guard. Motion carried.

G. Final Plans & Specifications for Madison Elementary/Public Hearing

Grant Manager and Teacher in Charge Tonya Wilkins talked to the Board about the wonderful plans being proposed to renovate Madison Elementary. They were excited about the changes in the media center, more accessibility, better parking, computer labs, and other improvements. Architect Greg Larrison presented the final plans and specification so board members and the public could view the recommended changes. He showed drawings of existing rooms and then explained the renovation layouts. He talked about the 32-car parking lot, moving fences, office space, media center, rest rooms for kindergarten students, workroom areas, toilet rooms for Pre-K, Castle Room, and artificial fireplace work in the Media Center. They heard about reading areas, the building having the capability for safety of being closed off for community use, air conditioning in the media center, and changes in the office area were described. The cost was estimated at \$905,000 for all the construction at Madison and they have a \$1.5 million budget. Timeline was for construction to start in late January 2003 and completed for the 2003-04 year. The inside work will begin during the winter, so this is a good time to do the bidding. Board members asked about safety of students during the construction. Mr. Larrison said there would be a four-phase plan and the area under construction would be blocked off like they did at Garfield and Hayes. They will start with the office section, media center, upstairs, and final work back in the media center. Site work will begin when the weather becomes better. They talked about asbestos removal and how any abatement would be done over the winter break, but they were thinking this would not be significant.

President Low conducted a public hearing for the Board asking for input on the final plans and specifications for improvements at Madison Elementary. No one came forth to be heard on the plans and specifications. The public hearing was therefore declared closed.

MOTION:

Director Hunter moved the Board approve the final plans and specifications designed for Madison Elementary discussed at the Committee of the Whole on November 4, 2002 and supplemented in the presentation tonight. Director Clewell seconded the motion.

Director Hunter said this was one of the most significant projects in our inner-city school. It will have a huge impact and will be a showcase for our district.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS**VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS****A. Summer Literacy Academy**

Bill Thiessen, Ken Krumwiede, and Jodi Hoogland presented a report outlining the results of the 2002 Summer Literacy Academy for Second Grade Students. They reviewed the data about the summer academy that they had an opportunity to share at the IASB meeting last week. They talked about the progress being made and how fewer students need the program. They talked about the early start programs available for the students. There were 13 students retained in second grade according to the board policy, and we will continue to monitor all the students. Board members heard the staff is now tracking the progress of these students over time. Mr. Krumwiede spoke about the IASB experience and how many people stopped by the Summer Literacy booth to get information. Administrators and teachers from other districts were impressed with the initiative. Several other school districts will be in touch with us and said it would be a good thing to bring up with the UEN.

Mr. Krumwiede said this was a rewarding experience and he enjoyed seeing the students make such progress over a relatively short period of time. He explained several reasons why he was committed to the program. The staff is dedicated to helping the students, and there are 14 teachers and 14 reading recovery teachers used. Jodi Hoogland assists with the attendance and makes home visits. They have a nurse on call also during this time. They have excellent support from the transportation department and transport students from Blue Grass, Buffalo, Walcott, and 25 different sites to Truman for the four-week program.

Jodi Hoogland talked about the parent component of the program and how there were 64 out of 72 questionnaires returned from the parents relating to their child's reading skills improvement. The parents have asked for even more communication. They have a parent meeting before to explain the type of day to expect and attendance. They learn about how the child's progress will be reported. We meet to come up with alternatives.

Board members had an opportunity to ask questions about the academy after the presentation. Board members appreciated hearing about the parental component and hoped this could happen with all decisions. They talked about testing and assessments used. Director Clewell spoke about social promotions and retention concerns. He encouraged having the parental part in the equation to help the students, and felt this was an impossible task without the help of parents. Mr. Thiessen explained the retention practice was not repeating the same class, but a continuation of the process needed to help the student come up to speed. We use different approaches and strategies to help them learn to read. There are a number of intervention programs used in the schools. We need to monitor the all-day kindergarten programs also for early intervention. There were additional questions and discussion on assessment and how the solution focus program was used. By the fourth quarter parents have been well informed about the possibility of the students having to attend summer school or another kind of program to help their child learn to read. We require second grade teachers to have running records and tract the types of errors made so problem areas can be addressed early.

Director Guard had a concern that the reading specialists were required to spend an enormous amount of time testing students that could be better spent on teaching. It was inconsistent from one building to another. He thought maybe some para educators should be used to monitor testing and free up the time of the reading specialists to teach. If we invest more with the children early on, it is better for them. We need to be paying the teacher to fix the problem and not just test. Mr. Thiessen responded that we have done this with some of the schools where reading recovery is used. Director Low talked about students being able to read the words, but they have low comprehension levels. She told the staff members to keep up the good work they are doing with the academy.

B. Open Enrollment Policy #501.16 Draft

The administration and Board took time to discuss the first draft of a new Open Enrollment Policy being reviewed and to consider further direction to be taken. The Board reviewed the proposed policy and administrative regulations. Director Clewell repeated the fact that a desegregation plan needed to be in place, and that although there are components to the plan, they do not have one formal plan to use. Director Losasso felt the Board needed to sit down and draft out some of the items and set a time line with specific data so there would not be any confusion. Director Hunter talked about the model that showed that the enrollment should approximate the community. He felt the Board needed to look at this more closely and understand the principles that were identified. They needed to know if this would be applied district wide or at the building level for the percentages. Dr. Blanche talked about reviewing this and they looked at this from the district perspective and needed to relate to the district ratios. There were comments about the plans from other districts and materials presented.

Director Guard urged the administration to further review materials he gave them about Burlington, and he felt their plan caused further isolation of minorities and has not done what they wanted. He thought the same was true with the Des Moines plan and that the overall gap was wider and less reflective of the community. He said if the goal is to make minorities less isolated, then this was not the answer to that problem. He said if this policy had been in place, we would have denied open enrollment to students of color. Director Portes felt the desegregation plan applying to open enrollment made sense. We are trying to minimize students exiting from our district. Director Losasso agreed the board members needed more numbers to make an educated decision. Director Guard felt the choice was being made on an arbitrary basis, and it was not okay to tell someone they can't open enroll to another district because of the color of their skin. He was opposed to this plan.

There was a discussion about the students being able to open enroll under the change of residence or "continuation" rule. Director Portes talked about the rules of the State that will allow us to do this based on race but not on the social economic conditions of people. We need to look at this area more closely. There are some things we can't use for determining the criteria and some things we can use. Dr. Blanche clarify that students who request open enrollment under "continuance" will be outside this policy because it is required they be allowed to open enroll under the law. The same thing is true for other reasons such as safety or specific health reasons. The Board would continue discussion of this at another meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL REPORTS

Dr. Blanche reported on the IASB conference he attended last week in Des Moines. We feel fortunate that staff at IASB and UEN are knowledgeable about issues that come up. They attended sessions for IASB and UEN which were very interesting. Both IASB and UEN deal with many legislative matters that are important for our district.

VIII. BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS

1. Director Low announced that Richard Clewell received the Better Boardsmanship award during one of the IASB Conference sessions. Director Clewell attended many meetings and took classes from IASB last year. He was recognized for his dedication to the Board and for educational leadership.
2. Director Low reported on the Delegate Assembly that she and Director Losasso attended last week. Our district gets 15 votes at the assembly, but those were lost in the sea of smaller districts on many issues. However, they did agree on most of the items up for discussion.
3. Director Low said she attended several seminars during the conference and was enthusiastic about the benefits of going to the conference last week.
4. Director Losasso found the IASB conference very informative. The Show and Tell Exhibits were very interesting to see what other districts were capable of doing. Talking with people from smaller districts was very eye opening.
5. Director Clewell felt the meetings were great and he was most interested in the talk by Ted Stilwell from Des Moines. He talked about a comparison between slavery and the No Child Left Behind Act, that made people stop and think. Director Clewell also had the opportunity to attend the Opus honor choir event on Friday in Ames. There were over 300 kids who auditioned and a number of students from Sudlow and Central were selected for this choir including his child. Our district was well represented in the arts during this performance.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

President low declared the meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Linda M. Smith, Board Secretary