

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

March 9, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

Board President Mark Knuth called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Board Room – District Administration Office, Farley, Iowa, with a moment of silence and reading of the District Mission and Core Values.

Roll Call:

Present were President Mark Knuth, Vice-President Chad Vaske, Jeanne Coppola, John Lembezeder, Mark Tilson and Superintendent Jeff Corkery.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Coppola, second by Lembezeder to approve the agenda as published with the following late addition as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

VIII. New Business

10. Approve Cooperative Agreements

c. Hempstead – Boys Swimming

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

1. Open Forum: Janelle Brouwer, parent, community member and former principal within the Western Dubuque CSD, thanked Superintendent Corkery for his visionary leadership, data driven decision making, and engagement in the community; acknowledging his ability to listen and take on tough challenges were imperative in moving the district forward. Superintendent Corkery thanked Ms. Brouwer for her comments.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

1. Minutes of February 9, February 10, February 11, and February 12, 2015 special meetings, February 16, 2015 regular meeting and February 18, 2015 special meeting. Motion by Tilson, second by Vaske to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Bills and Claims for the month of February. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve the bills as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

1. Principals' Reports: Topics discussed were: "Celebrate My Drive" volunteer luncheon, CHS Boys and Girls State Basketball qualifiers, spelling bee success, ACT practice test, PBIS celebrations, "Dance Revolution", parent-teacher conferences, student writing accomplishments, Ronald McDonald presentation on anti-bullying, RTI goal monitoring, "How the West was Done" spring play, book drive, "Read Across America", random acts of kindness, six WDHS State wrestling qualifiers, WDHS Girls Basketball second in State, speech successes, reading progress, "Kids College and Career Ready" event.

2. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Corkery reported: 1) A phone call was received today from the manager at Subway in Altoona, Iowa indicating some of our students stopped while attending the State Basketball tournament. She commended our students on their behavior and politeness, indicating they see a lot of students come through when attending these events and ours were among the best behaved and represented our district well. 2) Last week's exit interview by the Iowa Department of Education Site Visit Team indicated 100% compliance in all areas and was the most complimentary report of any Superintendent Corkery has been involved with in his forty years in education. Mr. Corkery and Jeanne Coppola, on behalf of the School Board, thanked staff for their work in preparing for the visit. 3) Graf Mayor Anita Frisch requested a letter from the School Board to Dubuque County Zoning asking them to keep in mind the best interests of children when selecting the site for the proposed Dubuque County Law Enforcement outdoor shooting range.
3. Cascade Junior/Senior High School Building Highlights: Report was postponed.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Coppola, second by Tilson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Financial Reports of District
2. Personnel
 - a. Resignations
 - b. Employment
 1. Richard Colpitts, Superintendent, \$150,000.00
 2. Lynn Heitkamp, Freshmen Softball, WDHS, \$2,294.80
 3. Amber Meyer, Asst. Varsity Girls Track, CHS, \$2,868.50
3. Out of State Travel - None
4. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings - None
5. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests
 - a. DRA Grants
6. Resolutions
 - a. Resolution recognizing National Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Approve Elementary Attendance Center Boundary changes. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve changes to the Elementary Attendance Center Boundaries as presented effective the 2015-2016 school year. Motion passed 5-0. There was a motion to amend by Coppola, second by Lembezeder for no "grandfathering". Motion passed 5-0. Board members indicated it was a difficult decision but they believe the best decision for our schools and since "grandfathering" would apply only to a student and not an entire family the decision was made to move forward without "grandfathering". Superintendent Corkery reported it was brought to his attention comments were posted on Facebook indicating transportation to non-public schools would be affected. Mr. Corkery cautioned against believing everything you read on forums like Facebook because the informed and uninformed are free to post. There has been no discussion about curtailing transportation for non-public schools. No change in school start times is anticipated due to boundary changes.
2. Approve Board Policy First Readings. Motion by Tilson, second by Vaske to approve the first reading of policies 606.1 Class Size Grouping Equalization and 606.1R1 Elementary Class Size as presented. Motion passed 5-0. Superintendent Corkery indicated letters would be mailed to all elementary parents within the next ten days informing them of their child's 2015-2016 assigned elementary attendance center according to the new boundaries.
 - a. Policy 606.1 Class Size Grouping Equalization

b. Policy 606.1R1 Elementary Class Size

3. Hearing for 2015-16 Calendar. The hearing for the 2015-16 School Calendar was tabled until the April 13, 2015 Board meeting awaiting action by the State legislature. Current legislation has Iowa schools starting no earlier than the week in which September 1 falls but legislators are considering a compromise that may allow schools to begin the week of August 23.
4. Setting of hearing for sale or disposal of residential property located at 201 Harrison St. SE, Cascade. Motion by Vaske, second by Lembezeder to set the hearing for the sale or disposal of residential property located at 201 Harrison St. SE, Cascade for April 13, 2015. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Setting of hearing for sale or disposal of residential property located at 310 1st Ave. E., Cascade. Motion by Lembezeder, second by Coppola to set the hearing for the sale or disposal of residential property located at 310 1st Ave. E, Cascade for April 13, 2015. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Publishing of Amendment and Setting of Public Hearing Date for 2014-15 Budget. Motion by Tilson, second by Vaske to approve publishing of amendment and setting of public hearing for 2014-15 budget for April 13, 2015. Motion passed 5-0. The following were presented as amendments to the current year 2014-15 budget:
 - Instruction from \$23,905,554 to \$24,261,884
 - Other Expenditures from \$5,602,511 to \$6,702,792
7. Publishing of Estimates and Setting of Public Hearing Date for 2015-16 Budget. Motion by Lembezeder, second by Tilson to approve publishing of estimates and setting of the public hearing date for the 2015-16 budget for April 13, 2015. Motion passed 5-0. Business Manager Mark Frasher presented an overview of the 2015-16 budget to the Board.
8. Deny open enrollment request – appropriate special education program is not available. Motion by Coppola, second by Tilson to deny an open enrollment request as presented because appropriate special education programming is not available. Motion passed 5-0.
9. Approve proposal for engineering services for new tennis courts in Epworth. Motion by Vaske, second by Coppola to approve proposal from Burrington Engineers at a cost not to exceed \$13,000 for engineering services for six new tennis courts on Jacoby Drive in Epworth. Motion passed 5-0.
10. Approve Cooperative Agreements. Motion by Lembezeder, second by Vaske to approve cooperative agreements with Dubuque Senior High School for girls swimming, Cascade Jr./Sr. High School for boys and girls soccer and Hempstead High School for boys swimming. Motion passed 5-0.
 - a. Dubuque Senior- Girls Swimming
 - b. Cascade – Boys/Girls Soccer
 - c. Hempstead – Boys Swimming
11. Closed Session: Iowa Code 20.17(3) for discussion of collective bargaining issues. The Board did not enter into closed session for discussion of collective bargaining issues.

Adjournment: Motion by Coppola, second by Tilson to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. on March 9, 2015.

Jeni Schindler
Board Secretary

Mark Knuth
President, Board of Education