

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

December 8, 2014 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

Board President Mark Knuth called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 and Superintendent Jeff Corkery. Absent was Board member Mark Tilson.

Approval of Agenda:

President Mark Knuth requested an addition to the agenda to report on the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) Convention and Superintendent Corkery announced the agenda addition under Reports. Motion by Lembezeder, second by Coppola to approve the agenda as published with addition of IASB Convention Report. Motion passed 4-0.

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

1. Open Forum: Former Board member Bob McCabe applauded Superintendent Corkery's passion for education and commended Superintendent Corkery on increasing the District's solvency ratio under his leadership. Mr. McCabe presented a book on the Beatles to Superintendent Corkery as a memento of their time worked together.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

1. Minutes of November 10, 2014 Regular Meeting, November 12, 2014 Work Session, November 14, 2014 Special Session and November 17, 2014 Work Session. Motion by Vaske, second by Coppola to approve the minutes. Motion passed 4-0.
2. Bills and Claims for the month of November. Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the bills as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Reports:

1. IASB Convention Report: President Mark Knuth reported on the value of attending the Iowa Association of School Boards' Annual Convention. Mr. Knuth indicated he heard inspiring presentations by Will Richardson, Co-Founder Modern Learner Media and Chris Lehmann, Principal, Science Leadership Academy.
2. Principals' Reports: Topics discussed were: Quality of student writing; 'Angel Tree' donations, book study; students recognized by Dubuque Area Youth Leadership Council; 'Thank You' to State Farm Insurance for 'Celebrate My Drive' grand prize award of \$100,000 and concert by The Band Perry to CHS and \$25,000 award to WDHS; food pantry donations; Vendor Fair success; Pre-K Alliance Desk Audit; 'Assessment Wall'; 'Thank you' to paraprofessional staff; Grade-Alike success; WDHS Band trip to Hawaii and performance with U.S. Navy Band; mid-year reviews for Instructional Coaches; Radiant Learning training; Dropout Prevention funding uses.
3. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Corkery reported the Humanex system has aided District administration in selecting the best candidates to fill job vacancies.

4. Buildings and Grounds Department Report: Director of Maintenance and Transportation Bob Hingtgen provided the Board an overview of the total square footage of District buildings, acreage of District property and number of maintenance and custodial staff employed to maintain the buildings and grounds.
5. Review Summer Projects: Director of Maintenance and Transportation Bob Hingtgen indicated the number of summer projects was down because of the building additions taking place at the District's two high schools; however the following projects were completed over the summer: at WDHS - new irrigation system installed to football field, Main Office converted to Guidance Offices, locker replacement; CHS boiler replacement; EES intercom system; CES playground equipment replacement and handicap accessible sidewalk installation.
6. DMIS Highlights: Principal Mary Jane Maher, Guidance Counselor Kara Bryte and At-Risk Instructor Megan Reeves provided the Board an overview of At-Risk services provided at DMIS including: after-school homework room, attendance tracking, RTI, extra help during lunch and assistance with developing student organizational skills and creating students' 4-year plans.
7. Trimester Update: High School Principals Dave Hoeger and Greg VanderLugt presented an update to the Board regarding the proposed trimester schedule. Reviewed was: committee development and input, school visits, parent meetings, staff PD, student meetings, and Board updates. Elements of a desirable schedule: 1) student-focused, 2) provides additional course offerings, 3) effective intervention, placement and support systems, and 4) an aligned assessment system. Previous questions and concerns were addressed and presentations to parents will take place December 17 at WDHS and December 22 at CHS. Board action will occur next meeting, January 12.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Lembezeder, second by Vaske to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

1. Financial Reports of District
2. Personnel
 - a. Resignations
 1. Timothy Marx, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, CHS
 - b. Employment
 1. Nate Meyer, Boys Track Assistant, CHS, \$2,868.50
 2. Heather Scott, Half-time Freshmen Girls Basketball Chaperone, CHS, \$717.13
 3. Grant Wulf, Freshmen Boys Basketball, WDHS, \$3,155.35
3. Out of State Travel
 - a. CHS FFA to Leadership Conference, Washington, DC
4. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings
 - a. Policies 400-402.6
 - b. Policy 502.10 Use of Motor Vehicles
 - c. Policy 501.3 Compulsory Attendance
 - d. Policy 601.1 School Calendar
 - e. Policy 601.2 School Day
 - f. Policy 803.1 Disposition of Obsolete Equipment
 - g. Policy 905.1E2 Facility Rental Fee Schedule
5. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests - None
6. Resolutions - None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Approve 2015-2016 Modified Supplemental Amount Application for Dropout Prevention. Motion by Coppola, second by Lembezeder to approve the District request to the SBRC for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$787,493 for Modified Supplemental Amount Application for Dropout Prevention. Motion passed 4-0.
2. Boundary & Grade Size Presentation: Superintendent Jeff Corkery and Elementary Principal Dan Butler provided the Board a review of current PK-4 class sizes. Elementary class sizes throughout the District vary by as many as 13 students per classroom. The Board was presented options for providing more equitable class sizes and consistent number of class sections throughout the District, including: 1) Re-drawing attendance center boundary lines and limiting attendance center waivers, 2) Realignment building grade levels and having no boundary line changes, 3) Moving entire grade level if lack of building space. Community presentations at each of the high schools are being planned for January with decision by the Board anticipated at the March Board meeting.
3. Approve Board Policies First Readings: Motion by Lembezeder, second by Vaske to approve the first reading of policies 403-407.5 as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjournment: Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on December 8, 2014.

Jeni Schindler
Board Secretary

Mark Knuth
President, Board of Education