

**October 24, 2011
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Clarinda Community School District**

The Board of Directors of the Clarinda Community School District met in regular session on Monday, October 24, 2011, 5:00 p.m., at the Board Room located in the McKinley Building, 423 East Nodaway, Clarinda, IA 51632.

Call to Order

President Turner called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

The following board members were present: President Turner, Vice President Fine, Rarick, Sunderman, and Watkins.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Fine, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

Audience to Visitors

President Turner welcomed all visitors to the meeting. No visitors chose to address the Board at this time.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Irvin, Activities Director, reported:

1. We are still busy with fall sports, with the volleyball team competing in regional play tomorrow night at home, and the football team traveling to Fort Dodge on Wednesday for a play-off game.

Miss Nook, High School Principal, reported:

1. High school teachers have been busy this year with rigor, relevance, relationships, and reflection. Weekly meetings are held one morning a week before school for the entire group.
2. The AEA will be presenting information about co-teaching to the high school staff this week.
3. Just a reminder, the seniors are all required to complete a CPR course, taught by our school nurse, before they can graduate.

Mr. McNeal, Middle School Principal, reported:

1. Middle school student council members attended a Leadership Conference in Carson on October 18th with our guidance counselor, Mrs. Aldrich. You will be learning about that conference from a group of them later in the meeting.
2. Southwest Iowa Honor Band auditions will be held this Saturday, October 29th, at CMS.

Mrs. Whitham, Elementary Principal, reported:

1. We held our annual Title I meeting for parents last week. Although the group was smaller than hoped, they had many good questions and I believe they left with a better understanding of the Title I Program.
2. Huge thank you to the Clarinda Fire Department for coming to Garfield last week during Fire Safety Week. They did a great job educating the students on the dangers of fire by engaging them in activities such as Sparky the Dog, a fully dressed Fire Fighter, the Ladder Truck and the Smoke House. The Fire Fighters left gifts for the students- sling bags, activity books, stickers, and hats.

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. Tickets for Wednesday's football game will be on sale beginning tomorrow morning at the high school. We will be transporting the team and the cheerleaders to Fort Dodge on a charter bus.
2. Governor Branstad will be at the High School auditorium tomorrow, October 25th at 3:00 to discuss his "Blueprint for Education" plan. The public is invited to attend.
3. Mrs. Nordland and I will be meeting with the AEA on Wednesday, October 26th, to work on the preliminary count for special education. We receive supplemental weighted dollars for special education students who are counted as residents of our district each year.
4. Negotiations with the Clarinda Education Association for the 2012-2013 master contract will begin in December.

Old Business

Board members had no old business to discuss or act on.

New Business

Presentation from Middle School Students on Leadership Conference

Mrs. Aldrich, middle school counselor, and four members of the middle school student council shared with board members various topics they explored while attending a leadership conference in Carson on October 18th. The sixteen member middle school student council spent the day learning leadership skills and character building while participating in a number of activities and exercises. Allison Fast, Paetyn Rock, Brett Samuelson, and Owen Smith asked board members to join them in a team-building exercise at the end of their presentation.

Review Early Childhood Special Education Program

Mrs. Whitham reviewed our Early Childhood Special Education Program with board members. Currently our program involves regular education students attending from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon daily and special education students attending 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day. Mrs. Whitham and Mrs. Nordland, our special programs director, would like to provide a more complete educational experience for all the students by extending the day to 2:45. Regular education students will be given the option to attend half days or full days. Mrs. Whitham also discussed the Quality Rating Service (QRS), a voluntary child care rating system for child development homes, licensed child care centers and preschools, and Child care programs that are operated by school districts. The QRS was developed 1) to raise the quality of child care in Iowa; 2) to increase the number of children in high-quality child care settings; and 3) to educate parents about quality in child care. There are five levels in the QRS. For a program to be rated at:

- **Level 1:** all the Level 1 criteria must be met.
- **Level 2:** all the Level 1 *and* Level 2 criteria must be met.
- **Levels 3-5:** all the Level 1 *and* Level 2 criteria must be met, and *then* the program must earn a minimum of one point in each of the Level 3-5 categories. For levels 3-5, the level is determined by the total number of points earned.

Following explanation of the QRS program, a motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Rarick, to approve the Early Childhood Special Education program changes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve 2011-2012 Line Item Budget

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Sunderman, to approve the 2011-2012 line item budget. Business Manager Cindy VanFosson presented the line item budget for the general operating fund, highlighting specific areas of anticipated expenditures. The line item budget is used as a guide to predict categories of spending for the current school year. Approximately eighty percent of the expenses are for salaries and benefits of district personnel, with the majority of the remaining expenses based on historical information of past years. Following a short discussion on the expenditures in the general operating fund, the motion carried on a 5-0 vote.

Approve Implementation of Early Retirement Option

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Rarick, to approve offering the early retirement option for the 2011-2012 school year. Each year prior to November 1st, the board must determine whether or not to offer the early retirement option to eligible staff members. Regular full-time staff members who turn 58 during the current fiscal year and who have continuously worked more than ten years at or before reaching 58 years of age must submit an application by January 15th for early retirement at the end of the current fiscal year or next fiscal year. The value of the benefit for certified personnel is \$15,000, with the payment made to the retiree in September following their retirement. The value of the benefit for classified and administrative personnel is 25% times the annual contracted salary received by the retiree during the fiscal year immediately preceding retirement. Funds are paid from the Management Fund and do not affect the General Operating Fund unless the retiree is over 65 years old. Following discussion of the policy, the motion passed 5-0.

Approve Early Graduation List

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by Watkins, to approve the early graduation list pending successful completion of the graduation requirements as set by the Clarinda Board of Education. Three students have applied for early graduation at the end of the first trimester. The students are Mikeal Carlson, Brandy Moreno, and Zach Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Special Education Contract(s)

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Fine, to approve the contract with Atlantic Community School District for a special education student being served at the Clarinda Academy. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Resignation

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by Sunderman, to approve the resignation from Tyler Hill as middle school girls' basketball coach for the 2011-2012 season. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Coaching Contract

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Sunderman, to approve the contract with Mindy Prather to serve as middle school girls' basketball coach for the 2011-2012 season. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Correspondence

Fine: Congratulations to our fall athletes. We've had a successful fall season in athletics. Go Cards!

Rarick: Enjoyed the presentation from the middle school students and Mrs. Aldrich this evening. They have lots of important information to take back to the middle school student body.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Rarick, to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary