

**March 8, 2010
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, March 8, 2010, 7:00 p.m., at the Board Room located in the McKinley Building, 423 East Nodaway, Clarinda, IA 51632.

Call to Order

President Watkins called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Audience to Visitors

President Watkins welcomed all visitors to the meeting. No visitors chose to address the board at this time.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Schieffer, Activities Director, reported:

1. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held February 25th with 19 new members.
2. Thursday, March 11th is the Parade of Bands at the high school. Instrumental music students from 6th – 12th grade will be participating.
3. The annual FFA banquet is scheduled for March 18th.
4. The spring play is March 26th and 27th.
5. End of season athletic banquets are being held.

Mr. McNeal, Middle School Principal, reported:

1. The Middle School second trimester awards assembly was held March 1st.
2. Students are taking the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills this week.

Mrs. Nordland, Elementary Principal, reported:

1. Ronald McDonald will visit Garfield Elementary on March 15th
2. The 3rd Grade music program will be held at the high school auditorium on March 16th.
3. Mrs. Wiebesiek will have a student teacher in her kindergarten classroom beginning March 15th.
4. The Science Center of Iowa will be presenting a program for our 2nd – 5th grade students on March 26th in the middle school gym. "Simply Electrifying" is a program they've been able to take to Iowa school districts with the help of a grant.

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. We will be involved in mediation with the CEA on March 22nd at 5:30 p.m.
2. South Page Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank has asked if we would consider sharing band with their district. We will meet and discuss the possibility unless you have an objection.
3. The Department of Education site visit team will be here Tuesday and Wednesday, with the exit report scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Thursday in the boardroom.

Consent Items

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Turner, to approve the following consent items:

- A. Minutes of the February 8, 2010, and February 22, 2010 meetings.
- B. Bills in the amounts of:

General Fund	\$199,879.72
Activity Fund	\$10,385.82
Nutrition Fund	\$29,548.82
Trust & Agency	\$271.00

- C. February 28, 2010, Financial Statements, Activity Fund report, Hot Lunch report, and open enrollment application(s).

Board member Fine informed he had audited the bills and found them in order for payment. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business

Board members had no old business to consider at this time.

New Business

Set Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Hearing

Review of Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Proposal

Superintendent Honnold gave a power point presentation on how the 2010-2011 budget will be calculated. The district budget is affected by such variables as state dictated per pupil cost, student enrollment, and property tax valuations. An open hearing will be held to allow residents the opportunity to voice their opinion on the proposed budget. The governor has recommended a 2% allowable growth for schools for next year, which would increase the amount the district receives per pupil by approximately \$115. However, financial analysts agree that with the state's budget difficulties best-case scenario would be an under funding of about \$310 per pupil right off the bat. Also, we've learned this year across-the-board cuts can occur during the fiscal year when staff has already been contracted. The loss of funds from the state, at this point during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, is just over \$478,000. The Clarinda district is considered a "budget guarantee" school, meaning the district is guaranteed at least a 1% growth over last year's regular program district cost (per pupil amount x enrollment). The reason for the budget guarantee is that even with an increase of \$115 per student, the calculation is less than last year because our student numbers dropped by 40 students from October 2008 to October 2009.

Following discussion on the current year budget and next year's proposed property tax levy and budget, a motion was made by Turner, seconded by McComb, to set the 2011 budget hearing for April 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the McKinley Central Office Board Room. The proposed budget will be published in the April 1st edition of the Clarinda Herald Journal. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Budget Reduction Options

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve extending the early retirement option to certified and administrative staff who have passed their original opportunity to apply. Certified and administrative staff who have exceeded the criteria will have until March 22, 2010 to submit their application and resignation to be eligible for this option. Motion carried 4-1. Aye: Turner, Rarick, Fine, and Watkins. Nay: McComb.

Discussion was held on the reduction of coaches and merging 9th grade athletic programs. Football had 53 student participants this fall with 5 coaches. Girls and boys basketball each had approximately 22 athletes participating with 3 coaches for each program. Student numbers in these sports are close to or less than what we had when CHS was a 10-12 high school and employed only 2 coaches for basketball and fewer than 5 coaches for football. Volleyball had 41 students with 3 coaches this past season. Mr. Schieffer commented he struggles with cutting any program, but understands the cost of coach's salaries comes from the general fund. Board member McComb stated everything in our district revolves around numbers. As our student enrollment goes down, our funds go down. The job of the board is to use the funds we have in the most prudent manner. President Watkins said he believed additional games, events, and competition don't make better athletes. If we want winning teams, perfecting skills is more important than competing several nights a week. Rarick felt the cost savings did not warrant the reduction and is worried some students may choose not to participate with fewer chances for competitive performance. Following lengthy discussion, a motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fine, to approve the reduction of one coach in each of the following areas: football, girls basketball and boys basketball and direct the administration to reduce high school programs to either JV and Varsity or 9th/10th and varsity schedules. Motion carried 4-1. Aye: Turner, McComb, Fine, and Watkins. Nay: Rarick.

Discussion was held on the possibility of realigning duties and reducing a position with the retirement of two counselors at the end of the current year. President Watkins reminded the board current economic struggles due to reductions in funds from the state have taken our attention away from the reality that our district's student population is decreasing. We must continue to evaluate each and every program and be prepared to prioritize what we offer in relation to the funds we have available. Superintendent Honnold told the board the administrators have met and are recommending the elimination of the home/school interventionist and maintaining three counselors in the district. Job duties of the home/school interventionist would be divided among the counselors and existing staff.

The administrators felt although the loss of the position would impact student services, the reduction would have the least educational impact. The interventionist position has been funded with At Risk dollars. Those funds would move to fund one of the counselors or fully fund the nurse position. Following a short discussion, a motion was made by Fine, seconded by McComb, to approve the reduction of the At Risk home/school interventionist position for the 2010-2011 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

Set Open Hearing on 2010-2011 Early Start Calendar

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Rarick, to set Monday, April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. for the open hearing on the 2010-2011 early start calendar. By Iowa law, school districts cannot start prior to the Monday in which September 1st falls without a request for an early start waiver. For 2010-2011 that means school could not start prior to August 30th without the waiver. Board members instructed they would like to see the first day for students no earlier than the week of August 23rd. Following discussion on the proposed calendar for next school year, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Approve SBRC Application for Special Education Administrative Costs

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to approve the SBRC (School Budget Review Committee) application for special education administrative costs for the 2010-2011 school year. The application will allow us to charge administrative fees to Iowa districts that have special education students served at the Clarinda Academy. Mrs. Boysen provides oversight for their special education program, monitoring staff and attending meetings dealing with special education student needs. The funds also help to cover our cost in managing the contracts that must be created between the Clarinda District and the resident districts of the special education students at the Academy. Currently we have 112 contracts with 54 Iowa school districts. The application for 2010-2011 will not be an increase over last year, primarily in respect to the budget issues across all districts in the state. Following review of the application, the motion was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Approve Request from South Page Schools

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by Turner, to approve the request from South Page to seek a summer softball and baseball sharing agreement with another district that does not adjoin their boundaries. Prior to signing a sharing agreement with another Corner Conference School for summer softball and baseball, all districts that adjoin South Page must gain our approval. Following explanation of the adjoining boundary rule, the motion carried 5-0.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by McComb, to approve the contracts with College, Keokuk, Nodaway Valley, Griswold, Sidney, Fort Dodge, Farragut, Cherokee, and Des Moines Community School Districts for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Clarinda Academy Graduation List

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by McComb, to approve the Clarinda Academy graduation list for the end of the second trimester. Six students have met the requirements for graduation from the Clarinda School District: Amy Hill, Samantha Peterson, Davonta Williams, Keethan Roland, Luke Pettey, and Jarron Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

Cancel March 22, 2010 Regular Board Meeting

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the cancellation of the March 22, 2010 regular meeting of the Clarinda Board of Education. The board will be participating in mediation with the Clarinda Education Association that evening. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Correspondence

Board members had no correspondence to report at this time.

Adjournment

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary