

January 19, 2009
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, January 19, 2009, 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, and Brian Fine.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Audience to Visitors

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

Administrative Reports

Mr. Honnold, Superintendent, reported:

1. Southwest Iowa school administrators have been meeting to discuss possible sharing opportunities in vocational programs. Shenandoah, Red Oak, and Clarinda administrators are documenting plans they each believe could work for the benefit of all.
2. We have received property valuations from Page County and Taylor County that will be used to develop our 2010 fiscal year budget. Our district's total valuations increased approximately 7.6 million.
3. Kim Watson, who won the bid for the New Market Building Demolition Project, has the building down, and is now working on sorting and removing debris.
4. The agreement we hold with the Clarinda Academy to provide educational oversight is set to expire June 30, 2009. Both parties are reviewing the current agreement and hope to update it within the next month.

Consent Items

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

- A. Minutes of the December 8, 2008, meeting.
- B. Bills in the amounts of:

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|------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$173,745.75 |
| Activity Fund | \$18,980.29 |
| Nutrition Fund | \$19,189.86 |
| New Market Trust | \$14,700.10 |
- C. December 31, 2008, Financial Statements, Activity Fund report, Hot Lunch report, and open enrollment application(s).

The motion to approve the consent items was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Old Business

There was no old business for the board to discuss at this time.

New Business

Senior Trip Request

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the senior trip. Bryant Hummel, President of the Senior Class and Jon Cole, High School faculty member and senior class sponsor, were present at the meeting to request permission for an overnight senior trip in May. Plans call for leaving Clarinda at 3:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12th, and traveling to Kirkwood Lodge in Osage Beach, MO. Various activities include tours of Bagnell Dam and Jacob's Cave. Seniors will return to Clarinda the following day, May 13th, at approximately 7:00 p.m. Following the presentation, the motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Approve High School Course Offerings for 2009-2010

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Turner, to approve the high school course offerings for the 2009-2010 school year. Current high school students will be registering for next year's classes from among the courses offered in the curriculum planner. There are no new additions for the 2009-2010 school year. The actual courses taught will be dependent on student enrollment. Enrollment in each course generally determines the number of sections offered and whether courses with low numbers can be offered in a teacher's schedule. Following a review of the curriculum planner, the motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Approve Driver Education Fee for 2009

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve maintaining the current driver's education fee at \$250 per student for the 2009 program. A check of Hawkeye 10 schools reveals only a small number still teach driver's education with their own staff. The schools that provide driver's education through an independent agency charge a much higher rate. Although the costs associated with the program continue to increase, the administration feels raising the rate during the current economic environment is the wrong thing to do. We will provide two summer sessions, wrapping up the driving portion of the program around the middle of July. Following discussion of our driver's education program, the motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Approve Early Retirement Applications and Resignations

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Turner, to approve the early retirement application and resignation from Mike Ruffing as High School Principal, effective the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Ruffing became principal at CHS in July of 1999, coming to Clarinda from West Central School District in Stuart, Iowa. Each board member stated their reluctance in accepting the resignation, as Mr. Ruffing has been a genuine asset to our district. Following a short discussion on the void we will be filling, the motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the contracts with Walnut, Cedar Rapids, Ogden, Red Oak, CAL, Bedford, Belmont-Klemme, Fort Dodge, Van Buren, Council Bluffs, Sidney, Griswold, Waterloo, Farragut, Fairfield, Sioux City, Mt. Ayr, and Winterset Community School Districts for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. The motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Discussion on State Budget Reductions

Board members spent time discussing the 1.5% across the board reduction in state appropriations ordered by Governor Culver on December 18th. The order cut payments to all appropriations in state government in an equal and uniform manner. Since a change in legislation in 2000, cuts in school district state aid are calculated on a per pupil weighted enrollment figure. The 1.5% reduction means approximately \$62,527 less cash for the Clarinda School District this fiscal year in state aid. Six other categories of funding from the state are also affected, the largest being the money allocated by the legislature to raise teacher salaries. For the time being, the Clarinda teachers will continue to receive the amount calculated before the school year began. If the 2009 Legislature does not restore the funding for this year, teacher paychecks will be adjusted later in the spring. Our district is fortunate to be sitting in a strong financial position and we believe we can survive short-term economic downturns with little or no significant impact. The Board of Directors and administration have worked hard to maintain a strong positive balance in order to continue providing programs and opportunities that are in the best interest of our students.

One area board members focused on was activities and athletics. Although gate receipts and the sale of activity tickets do provide a large portion of the cost of extra-curricular activities, unseen costs, such as vehicle fuel, bus driver pay, electricity, water, natural gas, custodial time, custodial supplies, coaches salaries, and protective equipment come from the general operating fund. Board members did not feel an urgency to begin cutting support of our student activities or athletics, but felt that with the combination of cuts in financial aid from the state and the declining enrollment trend, it is wise to begin a careful review of how our activities and athletics are structured and operated. This discussion will continue as the fiscal year progresses.

Board Correspondence

Board members had no correspondence to share at this time.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Turner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. The motion was approved on a 3-0 vote.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary