

March 9, 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, March 9, 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, Fine, and Fulk. McComb was absent.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Audience to Visitors

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

Administrative Reports

Mrs. Boysen, Special Programs Director, reported:

1. First and third graders have completed the unit in swimming. Thank you to the Lied Center for allowing us to use the indoor pool.
2. We have completed Iowa Tests of Basic Skills for this year, with the exception of make-up tests.
3. Teachers will be participating in professional development training on Wednesday, March 11th. Elementary teachers will be working on reading vocabulary assessments.
4. Ronald McDonald will be at Garfield on March 25th
5. Jump Rope for Heart, an annual fundraiser for Garfield students, was held today after school.

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. The Essex School District has contacted us inquiring of our willingness to share staff, programs, etc.... Unless there is an objection, we will communicate our desire to explore any sharing that would benefit both districts.
2. I spent time in Des Moines last week with other AEA 13 superintendents sharing with legislators concerns we have as leaders of Iowa's K-12 public schools.
3. We've received preliminary information on the federal stimulus funds that are to be provided to K-12 schools. Final confirmation on how we will receive the money and stipulations for its use should be available in the near future.
4. The New Market Building Demolition Project is near completion. Mr. Watson is waiting on the weather to improve to grade and seed the property.

Consent Items

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

- A. Minutes of the February 9, 2009, and February 23, 2009 meetings.
- B. Bills in the amounts of:

General Fund	\$101,653.21
Activity Fund	\$9,604.10
Nutrition Fund	\$27,101.29
New Market Trust	\$1,258.30
- C. February 28, 2009, Financial Statements, Activity Fund report, Hot Lunch report, and open enrollment application(s).

Board member Turner informed she had audited the bills and found them in order for payment. The motion to approve the consent items was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Old Business

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

New Business

Approve Four Year Old Preschool Grant Application

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the four year old preschool grant application for the 2009-2010 school year. The legislature has been attempting to phase in a 4-year-old preschool program into Iowa's K-12 public schools over a five-year period. Schools must apply annually to be considered for the grant and if selected, the funding will become part of the budget process in the second year. We were not selected last year, but hope our application is given greater consideration this year. The grant, written by Mrs. Boysen and a committee that includes community members, was written to allow us funding for 65 four year olds who would receive preschool services in our elementary building. Following a discussion of the possibility of the legislature reducing this program due to the financial situation in the state, the motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

McComb arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Approve First Reading of Board Policy Review and Revisions

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Fine, to approve the first reading of the Board Policy Updates. The committee, board members Dale Fulk and Brian Fine, Superintendent Honnold and Board Secretary VanFosson met several times to review Sections 500 Students and 600 Education Program. Fulk and Fine presented recommendations for change in current policy language and reviewed new policies needed due to changes in Iowa or Federal Law. Following explanations by Fulk and Fine, the motion to approve the first reading of the Board Policy Updates was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Board Policy Review Committee Recommendations

Policy

Number

Recommendation

501.10

Truancy – Unexcused Absences

The committee recommends adding additional examples of unexcused absences to parallel the high school handbook. "These absences will include, but are not limited to, tardiness, shopping, hunting, concerts, preparation or participation in parties and other celebrations, **oversleeping, missing the bus, car problems, hair appointments, sports physicals, taking or picking up proofs for senior pictures, getting driver's license/permit, and working for someone other than a parent.**"

505.3

Student Honors and Awards

The committee recommends changing the word "may" to "will" in the last sentence of the first paragraph. "Students who have not attended the school district for their entire education or have not attended an accredited public or private school ~~may~~ **will** not be eligible for honors and awards."

505.5

Graduation Requirements

The graduation requirements have been updated.

505.6

Early Graduation

The committee recommends adding prom as an activity early graduates may attend. "However, the student who graduates early may participate in **prom activities and** commencement exercises."

603.1

Basic Instruction Program

The committee recommends changing the word units to credits for each of the subject areas listed in the fifth paragraph. The basic instruction program of students enrolled in grades nine through twelve will include English-language arts (6 ~~units~~ **credits**), social studies (5 ~~units~~ **credits**), mathematics (6 ~~units~~ **credits**), science (5 ~~units~~ **credits**), health (1 ~~unit~~ **credit**), physical education (1 ~~unit~~ **credit**), fine arts (3 ~~units~~ **credits**), foreign language (4 ~~units~~ **credits**), and vocational education (12 ~~units~~ **credits**).

603.3E2

Clarinda Academy Special Education Program

The committee recommends changing “he” to “he/she” in the paragraph under Admission Components.

Board Policy Review Committee – Mandates

Policy

Number

Recommendation

Employee Evaluations

The legislature has made a number of changes to teacher and administrator evaluation law over the last couple of years. IASB has updated its policies to include the new standards for teacher and administrator evaluations. Policies affected:

302.5

Superintendent Evaluation

302.5E1

Superintendent Evaluation Form

303.6

Administrator Evaluation

303.6E1

Principal Evaluation Form

405.8

Licensed Employee Evaluation

411.7

Classified Employee Evaluation

905.2

Tobacco-Free Schools

The 2008 General Assembly passed a law which prohibits smoking on all school grounds. As a result, schools no longer need smoke-free policies. If boards decide to go tobacco-free, then a policy is recommended. The committee asked all members to discuss the possibility of moving from smoke-free to tobacco-free. The consensus of the Board was to move from smoke-free to tobacco-free.

New Election Law and Change in Terms for Board Members

As the result of a new Iowa law, school board members’ terms of office change from three years to four years with elections in September 2009 and will occur only in odd-numbered years.

Policies affected:

200.1

Organization of the Board of Directors

201

Board of Directors’ Elections

202.2

Oath of Office

202.3

Term of Office

202.4

Vacancies

206.1

President

206.2

Vice President

Tax Sheltered Annuities

Changes in two policies are necessary due to a new IRS law concerning 403(b)s for public employees.

406.6

Licensed Employee Tax Shelter Programs

412.4

Classified Employee Tax Shelter Programs

Special Education Rules

The Iowa Department of Education amended its special education administrative rules in response to changes at the federal level.

505.5

Graduation Requirements

506.1

Student Records Access

507.2

Administration of Medication to Students

Approve Change in National Honor Society Sponsor

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fulk, to approve Carleen Perry to replace Simat Whipp as one of the co-sponsors of the National Honor Society for the 2009-2010 school year. The motion was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Preliminary Budget Presentation for Fiscal Year 2010

Superintendent Honnold gave a power point presentation on how the 2009-2010 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 April 13th to allow residents the opportunity to voice their opinion on the proposed budget. Much of the budget is a calculation, leaving very little for the board to direct. The legislature has approved a 4% allowable growth for schools for next year, but there is speculation they will fund only half of that growth. A federal stimulus package for education is being reviewed at this time and details on how school districts will receive the funds and what they can spend it on will be forthcoming.

Approve Architectural Proposal for High School Building Repairs

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by McComb, to approve the quote from bcdm Architects to provide structural architectural services associated with the repairs to the exterior high school auditorium and gym walls. Two situations exist: 1) the upper courses of the south masonry wall of the auditorium are deteriorating, and 2) water is infiltrating into the masonry wall inside the hallway of the band/wrestling room addition. The architectural firm would create drawings, prepare specifications, assist in bidding the project, and be available during construction at a cost not to exceed \$13,500. Following a short discussion of the two situations, the motion was approved on a 5-0 vote of the board.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to approve the contracts with Cedar Rapids, Fremont Mills, Red Oak, Roland Story, Shenandoah, Sidney, Storm Lake, Waterloo, and Wayne Community School Districts for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Board Correspondence

Board members had no correspondence to report at this time.

Adjournment

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fulk, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary