

September 28, 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, September 28, 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, Fine, McComb, and Rarick. Turner was absent

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fine, to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

Audience to Visitors

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

Administrative Reports

Mr. McNeal, Middle School Principal, reported:

1. We are six weeks into the school year and everything seems to be going well at the middle school. We have large numbers of students participating in our fall sports.
2. The high school FFA Chapter presented an assembly to middle school students, encouraging them to wear seat belts. "Buckle Up or Eat Glass" was informative and the students enjoyed it.
3. We've also had an assembly dealing with bullying and harassment.
4. The middle school band received first place at Shenandoah on Saturday during Shen Fest.

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. I am handing out a sheet with preliminary enrollment numbers. Official student count day is October 1st. All students in the State will be counted on that day and funding for the 2010-2011 year will be based on those numbers.

Old Business

There was no old business to consider.

New Business

Report on Certified Staff Professional Development Program

Ken Balster, high school instructor and part of the District's planning committee for the teacher's Leadership Team, was at the meeting to update board members on the certified staff professional development program. Our teachers are involved in a continuous improvement process reviewing curriculum and instruction over a six-year cycle. The program focuses on four basic questions: 1) What is it we want students to know and learn? 2) How will we know if the students have learned it? 3) How do we enrich and extend learning? 4) How will we respond when some students do not learn? Small groups of teachers called Professional Learning Communities are used to maintain dialogue and improve instruction. They meet periodically to build upon their shared knowledge and search for better ways to enhance learning.

Technology Presentation

Dan DeGroot, Technology Coordinator, presented a demonstration of the new Smart Board software and tablets being used in some of our classrooms. The Clarinda Foundation awarded Mrs. Jobe, one of the Kindergarten teachers, \$500 toward the purchase of the Smart Board being used in her classroom. The software provides interactive instruction with students manipulating information that is projected from a multi-media projector to a smart white board. The tablets are wireless equipment approximately the size of a clipboard. Using a mouse or pen, the user can perform functions on the tablet that are projected to the Smart Board.

Legislative Discussion

Rich Anderson was on hand to listen and discuss with board members areas of interest for the upcoming 2010 legislative session. Economic conditions force everyone's attention to funding, both for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year

and the 2010-2011 year. The FY 2009 State budget appropriated \$6.1 billion, including federal stimulus funds and the Governor was forced to transfer funds from alternate sources to close the those books just a couple weeks ago. The FY 2010 State budget appropriated \$6.3 billion, including federal stimulus funds, proving government spending is growing at a rate the State cannot afford. The Revenue Estimating Committee will be meeting October 7th and predictions are there will be an across-the-board cut in state funding to all departments. Other items discussed included the Iowa Core Curriculum and Teacher Quality pay and professional development. Board members thanked Mr. Anderson for his diligent work representing the needs of Southwest Iowa in the State Legislature.

Approve Bid Documents for Leasing and Installation of Fiber Between Schools

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Rarick, to approve bid documents for leasing and installation of fiber optic cable between school buildings. Mr. Larry Butler, an engineering consultant hired by the district to oversee a fiber connection between school buildings, wrote the specifications with a minimum bandwidth and the ability to expand. The lease agreement with the successful bidder would cover a period of five years with the option to extend to ten years. An estimated timeline of the project calls for the possibility of awarding the bid in January 2010 and having work completed by June 30, 2010. The district will be making application for support from the Universal Services Fund Program. This support, commonly referred to as E-rate support, provides affordable telecommunications and Internet access services to connect schools and libraries to the Internet. This support goes to service providers that provide discounts on eligible services to eligible schools, school districts, libraries, and consortia of these entities. Following discussion on how we continue to need increased bandwidth and reliable connection, the motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

Approve Custodial Contract

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by McComb, to approve the contract with Sandy Greever to serve as custodian. Motion carried 4-0.

Approve Facility Use Agreement with City of Clarinda

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by Fine, to approve the facility use agreement with the City of Clarinda. The district has had a long-standing agreement with the city for the school to provide transportation for middle school summer athletic events in exchange for use of the tennis courts and baseball and softball fields. The school has also made financial commitments for city projects associated with the ball fields and tennis courts. The funds have helped with major improvements of the facilities or the purchase of equipment. The agreement was written to document terms that have always existed.

In consideration of the mutual obligations expressed below, the parties agree as follows:

1. The City of Clarinda will provide the following:
 - a. Use of City baseball, softball, and tennis courts for practice and games of the Clarinda School District sponsored teams.
 - b. The playing fields will be maintained by the City of Clarinda
 - c. Use of the sound system, lighting, and other essential elements of the activity area will be maintained by the City.
2. The Clarinda Community School District will:
 - a. Provide transportation for 7th and 8th grade softball and baseball traveling teams as agreed upon annually.
 - b. Annually contribute an amount to be mutually agreed to by the Board of Education and the City of Clarinda, to maintain and update facilities and equipment.
 - c. Be allowed to collect admission fees to high school events held on city facilities and use those funds to support District activity programs.
3. Both the City and the School will maintain their own liability insurance to cover events held at city facilities or on school vehicles.

The terms of the agreement are for five years, commencing on July 1, 2009, and terminating on June 30, 2014.

The motion carried 4-0.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Rarick, to approve the contracts with Storm Lake, Independence, Glenwood, Council Bluffs and Waterloo Community Schools for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. Motion carried 4-0.

Approve Home School Assistance Contracts

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by McComb, to approve the contracts with Lexy Davies to provide educational services for the Home School Assistance Program for the 2009-2010 school year. Motion carried 4-0.

Correspondence from Board Members

Rarick: Thanks to Ken Balster and Dan DeGroot for enthusiastic and awesome presentations this evening.

Adjournment

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fine, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary