

**October 26, 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, October 26, 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, McComb, and Rarick.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, 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. The drama department will be presenting the musical, "All Shook Up" November 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available from the high school office.
2. Cross Country District meet is being held this evening. The State Meet is this Saturday in Fort Dodge.
3. Three CHS band members were selected for All State Honors: Jameson Bellairs, Katie Aldrich, and Corey Aldrich.

Mrs. Nordland, Elementary Principal, reported:

1. During Fire Prevention week, Clarinda firemen brought a small house down to Garfield and worked with students on learning to stay below smoke and crawl out a window. The firemen also dressed in full fire gear in order for students to be prepared and not be frightened in the event of an actual fire.
2. Garfield Elementary hosted a Science and Technology Night on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Visitors enjoyed checking out the new technology and science curriculum. Students and parents did hands on activities using new laptops, SmartBoards, animal coverings, and musical PVC pipes.

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. A leak has shown up along the gym wall at the high school. The architect is working with Warren Andrew to determine a solution.
2. The Iowa Association of School Boards Annual Convention will be held November 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. The monthly newsletter is now available in its entirety on the district website, [www.clarinda.k12.ia.us](http://www.clarinda.k12.ia.us), along the left side of the home page under District Office.
4. Opening proposals for the 2010-2011 negotiated agreement with the Clarinda Education Association will be presented prior to the regular board meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to consider.

**New Business**

**Review of High School Semester Test Option**

Board members heard from High School Principal, Ms. Nook concerning the current semester test option. The semester test option is:

Students who have not missed more than one day a semester will be required to take 2 semester tests. Students who have missed 2 days in a semester will be required to take 3 semester tests. Students who have missed 3 days will be required to take 4 semester tests. Students who have missed more than 3 days in a semester will be required to take all their semester tests. (Band, vocal, and P.E. will assess all their students the last 2 days of the semester.)

Students who qualify for the semester test option will receive a form in homeroom to sign up for their tests. This form will be sent home for parental approval and signature before being returned to their homeroom teacher. Students not

returning the form by the deadline will take all their tests. Any student caught forging a signature will be required to take all semester tests. Students striving to attain this bonus need to understand the following guidelines: 1) the semester test option is a reward, not a punishment. 2) Attendance exemptions are rarely made in regard to the semester test option. Exception for a death in the family will be granted if the student is absent only one day. 3) In-school suspension will count against the student's attendance. 4) All students will take at least 2 semester tests. 5) Semester tests are worth 20% of your grade. 6) Class absences as a result of approved school activities will not count against a student's attendance record. 7) Jr/Sr striving to take only 2 semester tests need to see the counselor for guidelines in applying for college visitations. 8) Students wishing to take more than the required tests can do so with the grade being optional. Board members discussed the reason behind the current test option and whether a change needs to be made. It was a consensus of the board to maintain the current policy, but spend this school year considering a change. The issue will be revisited in the spring before student handbooks for next year are approved.

### **Report on At Risk Program**

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Rarick, to approve participation in the At Risk Allowable Growth program for the 2010-2011 school year. Kathy Linke, Family Support Coordinator, spoke about the current At Risk program, which focuses on returning dropouts and dropout prevention by raising funds through a local property tax levy to support K-12 programs and services that improve school performance. High absenteeism, limited or no extra-curricular participation, poor grades, or low achievement scores in reading and math are indicators of potential dropouts. The district funds the following positions using At Risk monies: 1) One half of the Special Program Director's salary, 2) One half of the school nurse's salary, 3) the salary of the family support coordinator, and 4) the salary of the English Limited Learner instructor. Our At-Risk program attempts to support parents and families of a student in need. This is done through personal contact, assistance with community program supports, and referrals for supports. Mrs. Linke works to strengthen the positive relationship between students, their families and the school, believing that in order to provide the greatest potential for success in our students, the district must consider the student's over-all environment. Following the report, the board voted 5-0 to approve participation in the At Risk Allowable Growth program for the 2010-2011 school year.

### **Review of Certified Annual Report**

Board Secretary Cindy VanFosson reviewed the certified annual report for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Revenues in the general operating fund for the fiscal year totaled \$9,557,309, while expenditures totaled \$9,763,318. The district's unspent budget authority is unofficially \$1,297,765, a drop of \$180,754 from the previous year. The fund balance (cash balance) dropped \$221,804 from fiscal year 2008. The annual report is transmitted electronically to the Iowa Department of Education via a secure web site. The ten percent cut in state aid for fiscal year 2010 equals \$452,845 for Clarinda Schools. While the district is fortunate to be in a strong financial position currently, monthly payrolls of over \$500,000 can erode a savings account quickly. Board members are aware of the possibility of very tough decisions ahead.

### **Approve Line Item Budget**

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the 2009-2010 line item budget. Superintendent Honnold 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. While contracted salaries are known expenses, a majority of the remaining expenses for the year can only be predicted based on historical information of past years. Following discussion of specific budget items and flow-thru funds to the Clarinda Academy, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

### **Approve Implementation of the Certified Staff Early Retirement Policy**

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to approve the implementation of the certified staff early retirement option for the 2009-2010. 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Funds are paid from the Management Fund and do not affect the General Operating Fund. Following discussion of the policy, the motion passed 5-0.

### **Approve Implementation of the Administrative/Classified Staff Early Retirement Option**

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Rarick, to approve the implementation of the classified and administrative early retirement option for 2009-2010. 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. The same age and years of service as the certified staff are required. Following discussion, the motion passed 5-0.

**Approve Special Education Contracts**

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by McComb, to approve the contracts with Glenwood and Bedford Community School Districts for special education services provided to Clarinda resident special education students. Motion carried 5-0.

**Coaching Resignation**

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to approve the resignation from Ron Grebert as assistant high school softball coach. Board members would like to thank Mr. Grebert for his time and dedication to the girls softball program. Motion carried 5-0.

**Correspondence from Board Members**

Board members had nothing to report.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Cindy L. VanFosson  
Board Secretary