

**March 10, 2008
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 10, 2008, 7:00 p.m., at the Board Room located in the McKinley Building, 423 East Nodaway, Clarinda, IA 51632.

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

The following board members were present: President McComb, Vice President Watkins, Fulk, Scherf, and Turner.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Fulk, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Open Hearing on Early Start Calendar for 2008-2009

President McComb declared the start of the open hearing on the early start option for the 2008-2009 school year at 7:01 p.m. With no verbal or written objections to, or in favor of presented, President McComb declared the Board out of open hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Audience to Visitors

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

Administrative Reports

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. On the back wall is a new map we've purchased showing our district, as it will be following the New Market dissolution on June 30, 2008. The map will help with continued charting of bus routes to cover the new area. The drivers have each been out considering possible ways to travel.
2. We will be using March 20th as a make-up day for the day missed last Friday, March 7th.

Consent Items

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

- A. Minutes of the February 11, 2008, and February 25, 2008 meetings.
- B. Bills in the amounts of:

General Fund	\$198,498.84
Activity Fund	\$16,094.68
Management Fund	\$126.00
Nutrition Fund	\$25,216.93
Trust & Agency	\$204.00
- C. February 29, 2008, Financial Statements, Activity Fund report, Hot Lunch report, and open enrollment application(s).

Board member Watkins informed he had audited the bills and found them in order for payment. The motion to approve the consent items was unanimously approved by the Board.

Old Business

Approve 2006-2007 School Year Audit

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Watkins, to approve the 2007 fiscal year audit. The audit of the financial records of the district as of June 30, 2007, was completed and statements prepared for filing with the state by Bruce Frink, CPA, of Clarion, Iowa. A copy of the audit report is available for review in the office of the Auditor of the State and the district secretary's office. Following review of the statements included in the report, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

New Business

Approve Certified Staff Negotiated Agreement

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Scherf, to approve the certified staff contract for the 2008-2010 school years. At 4.3% for the 2008-2009 school year, the total increase in costs for salaries and benefits of the current teaching staff calculates to be \$176,454.23. A first year teacher with a bachelor's degree will be hired at \$28,718 for the 2008-2009 school year. Following discussion of how this salary increase will affect the 2008-2009 budget, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

Approve Early Start Calendar for the 2008-2009 School year

A motion was made by Scherf, seconded by Fulk, to approve the early start calendar for the 2008-2009 school year. 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 2008-2009, that means school could not start prior to September 1st without the waiver. The tentative calendar being considered has the first day of school scheduled for August 20th. Following discussion, the motion was approved on a 5-0 vote of the Board.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Turner, to approve the contracts with Ames, Atlantic, Bondurant-Farrar, Cedar Falls, Des Moines Independent, Glenwood, Graettinger, Keokuk, Lawton-Bronson, Mormon-Trail, Mount Vernon, South Tama, and Winterset Community School Districts for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Approve Coaching Contracts

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to approve the contract with Jesus Gutierrez to serve as middle school assistant girls' track coach. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Scherf, to approve the one-year contract with Roger Williams to serve as assistant high school track coach for the 2008 track season. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Approve Coaching Resignation

A motion was made by Scherf, seconded by Fulk, to approve the resignation from Mindy Prather as assistant high school softball coach. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Preliminary 2008-2009 Budget Discussion

Set Budget Hearing Date, Time, and Location

Superintendent Honnold gave a power point presentation on how the 2008-2009 budget will be calculated. The district budget is affected by such variables as state dictated per pupil cost, student enrollment, and property tax valuations. The enrollment of Clarinda resident students will increase due to the New Market dissolution. The increased number of resident students means that the funds received from the State each month will also increase. However, we have been receiving tuition payments from New Market for 76 students who were in our buildings due to either open enrollment or the 7-12 sharing agreement. Those revenues will only shift from being paid by the New Market District to being paid by the State. Another thing to be aware of is that our open enrolled out student population will increase because several students living in the Clarinda District in the City of New Market have been attending Bedford and will probably continue there. Superintendent Honnold explained to board members that much of the budget is a calculation and they, as a board, control only a very minor part of the overall budget total. Only three percent of the budget is board directed. A motion was made by Scherf, seconded by Fulk, to set March 24, 2008, at 7:00 PM in the McKinley Central Office boardroom as the date, time, and place for the open hearing on the 2009 fiscal year budget. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Discussion on Staffing for 2008-2009

The Board spent time discussing district staff and how the 2008-2009 budget would be affected by maintaining current positions. One of the Board's goals has been to strive to maintain an 80% ratio of salaries and benefits to total budget. Given the reality of the general loss of students in rural Iowa, the Board of Directors are aware they must continue to carefully monitor that ratio. No definite discussion was held on reducing the staff. However, there was overall agreement that maintaining quality programs is of the utmost importance.

Board Correspondence

Turner: Enjoyed the FFA contests hosted by CHS and the Brokaw Chapter.

Fulk: I was also involved with the FFA contests as a judge and enjoyed the experience. Saw many talented young people.

Scherf: 1) Echo the comments about the FFA event. 2) Helped with the MS Science Fair. The first place winner was excellent. I see a big improvement in how the science fair participants know and understand their projects. 3)

Attended the Parade of Bands at the high school last week. Our instrumental music programs are something we can definitely be proud of. Lots of talented students involved.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary