

**January 15, 2007
Regular Meeting
Board of Directors
Clarinda Community School District**

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Audience to Visitors
5. Administrative Reports
6. Consent Items
 - A. Approval of Minutes
 - B. Approval of Bills in the Amount of:

• General Fund	\$142,463.05
• Activity Fund	\$15,469.39
• Phys Plant & Equip	\$66,690.00
• Nutrition	\$12,946.31
• Trust & Agency	\$18.00
 - C. Analysis of Reports

• Financial Statements
• Activity Accounts
• Hot Lunch
• Open Enrollment Applications
7. Old Business
8. New Business
 - A. Approve Senior Trip Request
 - B. Approve High School Curriculum Revisions for 2007-2008
 - C. Approve Early Retirement Policy for Classified and Administrative Staff
 - D. Set Open Hearing for Early Start Date for 2007-2008 School Year
 - E. Approve Coaching Contract
 - F. Approve Early Retirement Application and Resignation
 - G. Approve Special Education Contracts
9. Correspondence from Board Members
10. Adjournment

Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Clarinda Community School District met in regular session on Monday, January 15, 2007, 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 Fulk, seconded by Watkins, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Audience to Visitors

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

Administrative Reports

Doug Junker, Educational Director for the Clarinda Academy, reported:

1. Several Academy students were discharged in December. New students are arriving daily.

Mrs. Nordland, Middle School Principal, reported:

1. Lindsay Poore won the Geography Bee at CMS. She will complete a test to see if she qualifies to compete in the State Geography Bee.
2. High School students have been working with the Math Counts team to prepare them for competition on February 15th.
3. Middle School instrumental music fundraiser begins February 13th.
4. Seventh grade instrumental solo contest is February 16th; eighth grade contest is February 19th.
5. Clarinda Middle School is hosting the area spelling for six schools on February 26th.
6. The science fair is scheduled for February 20th.

Mrs. Boysen, Special Programs Director, reported:

1. A student teacher, Shanna Brown, is working with Mrs. DeGroot in the elementary building.
2. The reading curriculum committee is busy reviewing new materials and will be making a decision on the series recommended for purchase.
3. Mrs. Nelson has been attending training sessions designed to help develop a new Creative Curriculum for our early childhood special needs classroom.

Mr. Honnold, Superintendent, reported:

1. Wednesday, January 17th, is a regular school day for the K-8 building. The high school will have professional development prior to parent-teacher conferences that run from 3-7 p.m.
2. Through a grant program, the Page County Red Cross aided our district in obtaining a defibrillator for the high school. Selected staff members will be trained this Wednesday.
3. Repairs to the equipment in the ICN room are scheduled for the middle of February.
4. The 65-passenger bus we ordered in June is scheduled for delivery the third or fourth week of January.
5. The bleachers in the high school gymnasium have been modified to make them safer by adding extra steps and handrails.

Consent Items

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

- A. Minutes of the December 11, 2006 meeting.
- B. Bills in the amounts of:

General Fund	\$142,463.05
Activity Fund	\$15,469.39
Phys Plant & Equip	\$66,690.00
Nutrition Fund	\$12,946.31
Trust & Agency Fund	\$18.00
- C. December 31, 2006, Financial Statements, Activity Fund report, Hot Lunch report, and open enrollment application(s).

Board member Fulk 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

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

New Business

Approve Senior Trip Request

Bailey Humphrey, Vice President of the senior class, and Lauren Hess, Treasurer, along with class advisors Lea Ann Huckins, Sharon McAlpin, and Tom Smith, were at the meeting to present plans and an itinerary for a senior class trip. Ms. Hess and Ms. Humphrey asked the board to grant permission for the Class of 2007 to travel to St. Louis, MO, leaving early on May 15th and returning the evening of May 16th. While in St. Louis, the class plans to visit such sights as the Gateway Arch, the Jefferson National Expansion Museum, and Union Station. Following review of the plans, a motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Turner, to approve the 2007 senior class overnight trip to St. Louis. The motion was approved on a 5-0 vote of the board.

Approve High School Curriculum Revisions for 2007-2008

Mr. Ruffing, High School Principal, presented a list of courses to be offered at the high school next year. The Iowa Department of Education has advised school districts of new requirements in high school curriculum for graduation. Our district will begin implementing the new requirements with the freshman class next fall. The increased requirements include: 1) Language Arts. We currently require 7 credits and will move to 8 credits. 2) Science. We currently require 4 credits and will move to 6 credits. In addition to those changes, the high school will offer statistics as a 1 credit math elective for grades 11-12 and Aerobics will be added as a physical education option. In Business Education, Web Design and Fundamentals of Computers will be added as part of the Career Visions Academy, meaning students in those classes will earn college credits through Iowa Western. Following discussion of the new state standards, a motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to approve the high school curriculum revisions for the 2007-2008 school year. The motion was approved on a 5-0 vote of the board.

Approve Early Retirement Policy for Classified and Administrative Staff

The Board Policy Review Committee presented an early retirement policy for classified and administrative staff. The policy was developed with careful consideration of the language used when the certified staff policy was written and approved earlier in the year. Eligible classified and administrative staff members who are at least 58 with 10 years of service to the district will have a 2 year window of opportunity to accept the early retirement option. While the certified staff policy provides a \$15,000 monetary benefit, the classified and administrative staff would receive 25% of the salary earned in their last year before retirement. This represents an average of a little over \$5,000 for classified staff and an average of \$18,000 for administrative staff when considering salaries being paid in 2006-2007. During discussion, Scherf questioned the difference in the method of calculating the benefit. He pointed out the certified staff benefit of \$15,000 is a fixed amount, while the benefit being proposed for the classified and administrative staff would increase with any increase in annual salary. Watkins, a member of the Policy Review Committee, stated the reason for the difference in calculation method is primarily due to the wide range of salaries earned by classified staff. For example, bus drivers are contracted for four hours a day for 180 days, while custodians are contracted for eight hours a day for 260 days. Offering those two groups the same dollar amount as a benefit at early retirement did not appear equitable to Watkins. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Turner, to approve the early retirement policy for classified and administrative staff as presented and waive the second reading and final reading of the policy. The motion passed on a 4-1 vote of the board. Aye: Fulk, Turner, Watkins, McComb. Nay: Scherf

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to approve implementation of the early retirement policy for classified and administrative staff. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote of the board.

Set Open Hearing for Early Start Date for 2007-2008 School Year

A motion was made by Scherf, seconded by Watkins, to set the open hearing for the early start date for February 12, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the McKinley Central Office Board Room. Superintendent Honnold reminded board members that requesting an early start date does not lock us in to starting early, but provides us with the option if the district chooses to start prior to the week in which September 1st falls. Following discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote of the board.

Approve Coaching Contract

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Scherf, to approve the contract with Mindy Prather to serve as assistant softball coach beginning the 2007 softball season. Ms. Prather has been a volunteer in the softball program for the past several years. The motion to approve the contract was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Approve Early Retirement Application and Resignation

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Fulk, to approve the early retirement and resignation from Patsy Martin as high school English teacher effective the end of the school year. Mrs. Martin has taught language arts in Clarinda Schools for 41 years, best known for her high expectations and ability to challenge students to be their best. The administration and Board of Directors thank Mrs. Martin for her many years of service and wish her well in her retirement. The motion was approved, with regret, on a 5-0 vote of the board.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Watkins, to approve the contracts with Atlantic, Bedford, Boone, Davenport, Fort Madison, Indianola, LeMars, New Market, Remsen-Union, Sioux City, South Tama, Webster City, and West Burlington Community Schools for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote of the board.

Board Correspondence

Fulk: Will be attending a foundation formation committee meeting on Wednesday evening at the high school as a representative of the Board of Education. Mr. Ruffing will be leading the meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Scherf, seconded by Turner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. The motion was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary