

**January 18, 2010
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, January 18, 2010, 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 Rarick. Board member McComb was absent.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Rarick, 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. Nordland, Elementary Principal, reported:

1. Evaluations of the elementary staff are being completed at this time.
2. Students are preparing for the regional spelling bee to be held in Shenandoah on February 22nd.
3. Garfield teachers are meeting twice a month after school to learn how to create math and reading curriculums in accordance with Iowa Core Curriculum guidelines.
4. A group of teachers have been chosen to meet with the team representing the Iowa Dept. of Education when they conduct a site visit in our district in March.

Ms. Nook, High School Principal, reported:

1. The student group who will meet with the site visit team has been chosen and will meet for explanation and instructions for the first time this Wednesday.
2. CHS will host the District Large Group Speech Contest this Saturday, January 23rd.
3. Freshman, sophomores, and juniors will be completing Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITEDs) in February.
4. Only 28.45% of high school parents attended parent-teacher conferences last week.

Mrs. Boysen, Special Programs Director, reported:

1. I am working with parents who will meet with the site visit team.
2. The Clarinda Academy has implemented a Second Chance Reading Program to further strengthen reading skills.
3. Three teachers from the Academy have attended our district professional development trainings this year.

Mr. Schieffer, Activities Director, reported:

1. The Southwest Iowa Bandmasters Association Honor Band Festival was held today in Red Oak. Katie Aldrich finished first in the Victor Woods Southwest Iowa Bandmaster Association Scholarship audition. Students planning on majoring in music at an Iowa College or University were able to audition by completing a music theory test, performing a solo, and attending an interview. Katie's first place award allows her to represent Southwest Iowa in the Iowa Bandmasters' Major Landers Scholarship contest. The state contest will be held at the Iowa Bandmasters' Conference in May.

Mr. Honnold, Superintendent, reported:

1. Due to the number of snow days this year, administrators have discussed moving the last day for seniors to May 14th. The senior trip would be held after graduation.
2. We have received property valuations from Page County and Taylor County that will be used to develop our 2011 fiscal year budget. Our district's total valuations increased approximately \$17 million.

3. We are working with financial advisors at the Department of Education to make final entries in our accounting system and will be writing checks to the Bedford and Clarinda Districts to evenly distribute the remaining New Market funds. The New Market Management Fund has a balance of \$118,233.11 to be divided equally. The New Market Capital Projects Fund has \$151,659.22 to be divided equally. The Scholarship Fund has \$3,192.27 to be divided equally. The New Market General Fund ended with a negative balance of \$41,080.09. The Bedford District and the Clarinda District are required to cover the negative balance with their own general funds. Each district has the option to use an equalization levy to recoup the funds from the prior New Market District residents.
4. Our district did not sign up for the Race To The Top Program. Although it was pushed by Governor Culver and DE Director Judy Jeffrey, The Iowa Association of School Boards recommended schools NOT sign on at this time because the language in the bill would require school boards to engage in collective bargaining regarding interventions for persistently low-achieving schools. IASB believes local school boards should maintain the authority to make decisions regarding educational interventions needed.
5. Mr. Hill is working to complete items listed by the Fire Marshall as needed for compliance. The Fire Marshall will be in the district the first part of February to check the classroom for Head Start.
6. The School Improvement Advisory Committee will meet this Wednesday for a technology presentation in the middle school computer lab.
7. The next negotiations session with the CEA will be Monday, January 25th.
8. Cindy Aldrich and Ann Meyer received recognition as teachers nominated for the Charles Lakin Award.

Consent Items

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

- A. Minutes of the December 14, 2009, meeting.
- B. Bills in the amounts of:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$148,441.08 |
| Activity Fund | \$16,065.90 |
| Nutrition Fund | \$19,681.24 |
| Capital Projects Fund | \$3,670.65 |
| Trust & Agency | \$200.00 |
- C. December 31, 2009, Financial Statements, Activity Fund report, Hot Lunch report, and open enrollment application(s).

The motion to approve the consent items was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Old Business

Approve Second Reading of Board Policy Updates

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Rarick, to approve the second and final reading of the Board Policy updates as presented. The review committee of Scott McComb, Pallin Turner, Superintendent Honnold and Board Secretary VanFosson reviewed Sections 300 Administration and 400 Personnel. The recommendations of the review committee were brought to the board on December 14, 2009, for the first reading. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

New Business

Approve Fiber Connection Bid

The district received bids from 5 companies for fiber connection between buildings. The Iowa Communications Network supplies internet service to the district, coming in at the high school. The fiber connection would allow us to maintain the ICN service and increase bandwidth between the buildings by running fiber from the high school to the K-8 building and from the high school to the central office. Currently Iowa Telecom provides connection between the buildings with the use of copper wire. Larry Butler, an engineer with Oak Hill Consulting, has been working with us to obtain the bids and recommend appropriate action. He reviewed the bids and gave each bid a point value in the areas of total bid price, experience, references, and service area experience. Based on Mr. Butler's point system, he rated Farmers Mutual the highest, primarily on years of experience and being a local bidder. Bidders and lease rates charged per month for the base bid included:

| <u>Bidder</u> | <u>Monthly rate before E-Rate</u> | <u>After E-Rate</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Iowa Telecom | \$6,500 | \$2,600 |
| 2) Unite Private Networks | \$3,857 | \$1,543 |
| 3) Farmers Mutual | \$3,600 | \$1,440 |
| 4) Norlight | \$3,441 | \$1,376 |
| 5) Trumpet Networks | \$2,706 | \$1,082 |

The monthly charge is eligible for an E-Rate reduction that is allowed if we lease the fiber connection. If the district chose to own the line, the E-Rate reduction would not be an option. The Schools and Libraries program, also called the "E-Rate program," makes telephone and Internet access service more affordable for schools and libraries in America. Congress mandated in 1996 that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) use the federal Universal Service Fund to provide support to companies that give discounts to eligible schools and libraries. Contributions from telecommunications companies provide discounts of 20-90% on the cost of telecommunications, Internet access, and network wiring within library and school buildings. The discounts are paid directly to the companies that provide libraries and schools with these services.

The bidders also included an alternate bid to add an extra line between the K-8 building and the central office to complete the loop in the event of a cut in the fiber at any point. However, during discussion it was determined that the additional line was unnecessary due to the projected response time for repairs and the fact that the additional line would not be eligible for the e-rate discount.

Representatives from Iowa Telecom, Farmers Mutual and Trumpet Networks were at the meeting to answer questions posed by board members. Following questions and discussion, a motion was made by Turner, seconded by Rarick, to approve the bid from Farmers Mutual to provide 1 GBPS Ethernet interconnection service for five years at a cost of \$3,600 per month, \$1,440 per month with the e-rate discount. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Approve Resignation(s)

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Turner, to approve the resignation from Amanda Nablo as food service worker. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Approve Early Retirement Applications and Resignations

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Turner, to approve the resignation and early retirement application of Ann Meyer as high school teacher effective the end of the school year. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by Fine, to approve the resignation and early retirement application of Karen Woodard as high school guidance counselor effective the end of the school year. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the resignation and early retirement application of Vicki Prentis as elementary guidance counselor effective the end of the school year. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Rarick, to approve the resignation and early retirement application of Gloria Bonjour as middle school teacher effective the end of the school year. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by Turner, to approve the resignation and early retirement application of Butch Niehaus as custodian effective the end of the current fiscal year. Motion carried 4-0.

Following all action on the item, President Watkins spoke for the board in thanking each employee for their dedicated service to the students in our district and wished them well in their retirement.

Approve Lease Agreement with West Central Community Action Head Start Program

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Rarick, to approve the lease agreement with West Central Community Action Head Start to rent a classroom in the McKinley building at a rate of \$1,000 per month. The agreement is for 17 months, through the end of the 2011 fiscal year. Following approval by the Fire Marshall, students will begin instruction in the classroom. Following review of the lease agreement, the motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Approve Affirmation Action Compliance Plan

A motion was made by Rarick, seconded by Fine, to approve the Affirmative Action Compliance Plan. The plan assures we are an Equal Opportunity Employer, identifies federal and state laws we must adhere to, and provides procedures individuals may follow if they believe we have violated compliance. Following review, the motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Rarick, to approve the contracts with Lenox, Maple Valley, Missouri Valley, Seymour, Sidney, Keokuk, Denison, and Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn Community School Districts for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Approve Coaching Contract

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the coaching contract with James Hash to serve as head baseball coach for the 2010 baseball season. Mr. Hash has been a baseball player, coach, and umpire. His most recent coaching position was as assistant junior varsity baseball coach at Lincoln North Star High School in the spring of 2008, prior to accepting the teaching position at CHS. Following a short discussion of the other summer coaching positions yet to be filled, the motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Board Correspondence

Turner: Would like to wish our early retirees well. I hope they find fun in their retirement.

Watkins: 1) Congratulations to Ann Meyer and Cindy Aldrich as nominees for the Charles Lakin Award. It was great we had 2 nominees in addition to the high school recipient Ken Balster. 2) As board president I participated in the Bossingham Foundation decision-making group. The Foundation provides grants to many worthwhile causes. Clarinda School District was awarded \$2,000 this year. 3) Congratulations to Katie Aldrich as the recipient of the Victor Woods Scholarship today.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Fine, seconded by Rarick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary