

**February 22, 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, February 22, 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, McComb and Rarick. Board member Fine was absent.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, 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. Congratulations to the Mathcounts team. The team won 5th place February 11th at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs and Holly Crawford was named individual first place overall winner. All members will be competing at the state level.
2. The Middle School held its version of the Olympics last week. Students competed in individual, small group, and homeroom team events.
3. The science fair will be this Tuesday, February 23rd.
4. Parent teacher conferences are this Thursday and Friday.

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. High school trimester tests will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, February 23rd.
2. We've received word our insurance premium increase for July 2010 to June 2011 will be 8.75%. A representative from ISEBA, our insurance administrator, will be here tomorrow to discuss plan options.
3. The next negotiations session with the CEA is scheduled for Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.

Old Business

Board members had no old business to discuss or act on.

New Business

Review Site Visit Presentation

Ken Balster, member of the district's Leadership Committee, shared the Power Point presentation he has prepared for the Iowa Department of Education site visit March 9-11. The purpose of the Power Point is to illustrate various aspects of our district programs and activities to the site visit team prior to interviews with various groups. The site visit team will have 4-5 members who will spend 2 days reviewing our district records and will interview teachers, students, parents, the support staff, the School Improvement Advisory Committee, and the Board of Directors. The site visit team will review district programs for compliance with state and federal rules and laws and evaluate how well the district is meeting the compliance issues as identified in the Iowa Code.

Review of Budget, Programs, and Positions for 2010-2011

One of the Board of Directors' goals is to annually review instructional and non-instructional programs in relationship to cost and overall needs of the district. The 10% across-the-board cut made by the governor in state aid reduced the district's budget by \$450,000 for this year. Many officials are predicting another 10% reduction for next school year and possibly another reduction this year. Board members discussed answers to the following questions: 1) If our budget is not fully funded for next year, do we absorb any salary increases through the use of our unspent balance? 2) If we decide we need to make reductions for next year, how do we decide what we can do without? 3) What options can we consider? Do we start with evaluating current openings we

have due to retirements? 4) Do we consider eliminating existing programs or handling them in different ways? The board discussed possibilities for reductions in every area: extra-curricular, academic, and non-instructional. With 80% of the budget spent on salaries and benefits, it will be difficult to make reductions that don't impact personnel. The board will continue to consider all options for cost savings as they move toward certification of the 2010-2011 budget on April 15th.

Approve Resignation

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by McComb, to approve the resignation of Jesus Gutierrez as high school Spanish teacher effective the end of the school year. Mr. Gutierrez was hired in 2007-2008 as part of the "Visiting Teacher from Spain" program and has stayed as long as possible. Supt. Honnold stated he has notified the Department of Education we would be interesting in participating in the "Visiting Teacher from Spain" program again. Following comments by the board that they hate to see Mr. Gutierrez go, but wish him well, the motion to approve his resignation passed on a 4-0 vote.

Correspondence From Board Members

Turner: Winter sports have concluded and I think everybody did a good job. There were some successes and some heartbreak, but everybody worked hard.

Rarick: Congratulations to the Mathcounts team for qualifying for state competition and to Holly Crawford for being named a first place overall winner.

Adjournment

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Rarick, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary