

**December 8, 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, December 8, 2008, 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, Fulk, and McComb.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved 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

Report for Mrs. Nordland, read by Mrs. Boysen:

- 1) Middle School students have collected \$1,481.06, an all-time high, during this year's penny wars. The money will be used to purchase Clarinda Bucks for families of our students and toys for the Clarinda PD's Operation Blessing.
- 2) Winter concerts were held December 1st and December 8th.
- 3) The classified staff will receive CPR and AED training on December 10th.

Mrs. Boysen, Special Education Director, reported:

- 1) K-4 concerts are being held this week during the noon hour.
- 2) Page County Extension is offering an after school program on Tuesday nights for students at Garfield, with a large turnout.
- 3) Garfield students are conducting a food drive in lieu of a gift exchange among students. Food collected will go to the food bank.

Mr. Ruffing, High School Principal, reported:

- 1) Winter sports are underway.
- 2) Approximately 200 students attended the winter dance last weekend. It was a very successful event.
- 3) We will be recognizing the thirty-nine businesses in Clarinda who have graciously allowed our students work experience or internships with them. They will each receive the gift of a plaque we hope they will be proud to display and plan to initiate an article in the local newspaper.

Mr. Honnold, Superintendent, reported:

- 1) The Iowa Association of School Boards has selected their top five priorities for the upcoming 2009 legislative session. The priorities were voted on by a group of delegates from local school boards during the Annual Convention in November.
- 2) Judy Jeffrey, Director of the Iowa Department of Education, was at the AEA 13 superintendent's meeting last week. One thing she mentioned was the possibility of changes to the No Child Left Behind requirements due to the election of a new president.

Consent Items

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

- A. Minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting.
- B. Bills in the amounts of:

General Fund	\$130,600.19
Activity Fund	\$8,386.76
Capital Projects	\$160,891.00

Management	\$3,122.00
Nutrition Fund	\$22,475.07
Trust & Agency Fund	\$1,175.00
New Market Trust	\$10,112.77

- C. November 30, 2008, Financial Statements, Activity Fund report, Hot Lunch report, and open enrollment application(s).

The motion to approve the consent items was approved on a 5-0 vote.

Old Business

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

New Business

Approval of the New Market School Asbestos Removal Bids

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to approve the bid of \$9,280 from Pro Environmental for the asbestos abatement in the New Market building that will be demolished. Asbestos was removed from the interior of the New Market building prior to July 1 when the building was turned over to our district. In order to demolish a building, the outside must be checked and cleared of any asbestos materials. Asbestos will be removed from the following areas: 1) Lower level south (built up roofing): 400 square feet; 2) Upper level south (built up roofing): 988 square feet; 3) Main building-top roof (black tar on emblem): 2 square feet; 4) West center building ledge around boiler opening: 12 linear feet. Pro Environmental believes they will be able to remove the asbestos within the next 30 days. Board members stated their appreciation that the additional asbestos removal will not delay the demolition process. Following the discussion, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Approval of New Market School Building Demolition Bids

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to approve the bid from Watson Excavation of \$117,000 for the New Market School Building Demolition Project. Nine contractors had attended the pre-bid meeting on November 13th and six of them submitted bids that were opened on Thursday, December 4th.

Jac Crain Construction, Clarinda	\$246,850	Stickler's Inc., Clarinda	\$141,310
J & K Contracting, Ames	\$245,000	Watson Excavating, Bedford	\$117,000
Metro Demolition, Des Moines	\$252,000	Lewis Contracting, Red Oak	\$289,000

Trevor Huffaker, architect for bcdm of Des Moines, who the District has been working with on the Demolition Project, reviewed the bids and recommended the acceptance of the lowest bid from Watson Excavating. Following discussion of the price range of the bids received and acknowledging the two lowest bids were from local contractors, the Board approved the motion on a 5-0 vote.

Presentation on Instructional Professional Development Activities

Mr. Ruffing spent time explaining the process being used by our teachers during professional development to create curriculum that will help students to not simply know the answer to a question or problem, but also understand how they can use the information in various other situations and circumstances. Rigor and Relevance are terms being used to describe the push toward higher levels of achievement. Rigor is a high degree of challenge. Relevance is using information or skills previously gained in relation to a matter at hand. Leadership teams were established to guide and encourage their co-workers as they work through this process. It will not happen overnight. Teachers will be working together across grade lines to better communicate and develop solutions for improving student learning. As the Iowa Core Curriculum is developed and details are conveyed to all Iowa school districts, this preliminary work is necessary and will prepare our teachers for the directives of the Iowa Core.

Approval of the At Risk Allowable Growth Budget

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fulk, to approve the At Risk Allowable Growth Application for the 2009-2010 school year. The At Risk budget is funded by property taxes and a 25% match from the general operating budget. We have a growing population of students from families that are stressed or broken, often creating obstacles that may impact their student's educational performance. The At Risk Program is designed to have staff work with the parents and students to improve behavior and attain a positive attitude toward school. Our At Risk budget provides funding for the school nurse, the English as a Second Language instructor, the home school interventionist, and half of the salary of the Special Education Director. For the 2009-2010 school year, the budget has been figured at \$180,948. The district will fund \$45,237 from the general operating fund and the remainder will be received

through property tax. Following discussion of the value of the At Risk program, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

Approval of the Fire and Construction Grant Application

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Fine, to approve the Fire and Construction Grant application. Mrs. Boysen and Craig Hill collaborated to complete the grant application, which, if received will be used to address deficiencies noted by the State Fire Marshall when he was here last fall. The grant application asks for \$21,800 for:

- 1) Installation of wire glass above the lockers and around the corridor door at the High School,
- 2) Replacement of roll down shades that are not fire retardant at both the High School and Garfield.

The Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program was proposed by Senator Tom Harkin and became effective in 1998. Subsequently the grant has become known as Harkin Grants with Congress authorizing annual allocations with grant periods running through September 30, 2011. The purpose of the program is to help school districts correct fire safety problems and to help school districts leverage local resources to construct new schools or remodel and modernize existing buildings. Approximately 35 percent of the available funds have been allocated each year for addressing fire safety issues and 65 percent for construction. Following discussion of the Fire Marshall citations, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Turner, to approve the contracts with Ames, Bedford, Belmond-Klemme, Cal, Council Bluffs, Fort Dodge, Ogden, Red Oak, Sidney, and Van Buren Community School Districts for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. The Board voted 5-0 to approve the motion.

Adopt Resolution to Participate in the ISCAP Program

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fulk, to adopt the following supplemental resolution: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE FINAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE AND DELIVERY OF WARRANTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009, AND AMENDING THE MASTER RESOLUTION. A complete copy of the Supplemental Resolution is on file at the Superintendent's office in the McKinley Administration Building. Due to the uncertainty of the current economic climate, the Iowa Association of School Boards is encouraging all Iowa School Districts to act on the supplemental resolution. The Clarinda Community School District does not qualify to participate in the sale and delivery of warrants at this time because of our strong financial position and availability of cash on hand. However, if the Governor announces a reduction in state aid payments to schools in Iowa, our eligibility could change. Participation in the ISCAP Program would allow the district the option of obtaining cash needed to meet financial obligations. Following discussion of the district's financial position and current economic conditions, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote of the Board.

Board Correspondence

Turner: I enjoyed attending the 5th & 6th grade holiday concert last Monday evening. It is amazing how much our first year instrumental music students learn. Our instructors, Mr. Aldrich and Ms. Touney, are doing an outstanding job.

Watkins: Attended the IASB Legislative Action meeting in Des Moines on November 19th. It was interesting to observe how IASB chooses the items they will concentrate on during the upcoming legislative session.

Adjournment

A motion was made by McComb, seconded by Fulk, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion was approved on a 5-0 vote of the Board.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary