

**February 26, 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. Old Business
  - A. Approve Second and Final Reading of Board Policy Revisions
7. New Business
  - A. Approve Resignation
  - B. Approve 2007-2008 Certified Staff Contract
  - C. Approve 2005-2006 School Year Audit
  - D. Review Staffing for 2007-2008
  - E. Approve Bid for Hazardous Chemical Removal
8. Board Correspondence
9. Adjournment

Minutes

The Board of Directors of the Clarinda Community School District met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 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, and Turner. Scherf was absent.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Fulk, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved 4-0.

**Audience to Visitors**

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

**Administrative Reports**

Mrs. Boysen, Special Programs Director, reported:

1. The School Improvement Advisory Committee met on February 19<sup>th</sup> to review the district's staff development training on reading. Mrs. Ascherl, Mrs. Fulk, Mr. Bird, Mrs. Whipp, and Mrs. Shane attended the

meeting and provided very informative presentations that demonstrated how our instructors are working to promote reading in every area of the curriculum.

2. Teachers will be participating in professional development activities on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
3. A reading consultant will be in the district on March 20<sup>th</sup> to review the new reading series of textbooks to be ordered for next year.
4. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills will be given the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>.
5. Parent-Teacher conferences for K-8 parents will be held March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
6. We have received a generous grant of \$2,995 from the Hockenberry Foundation for the purchase of a climbing wall for the Garfield gymnasium. Mr. Hill and I drove to Shenandoah recently to look at their wall to determine if it would work for our students. The panels are 4' wide and 8' high. They will mount to the east wall of the Garfield gymnasium and will be covered when not in use with a SafetyClose Mat System.

Superintendent Honnold reported:

1. The new bus has arrived and is in use by Norm Mier on his route.
2. Noel Bogdanski has indicated interest in helping with Drivers Education this summer.
3. The senior trip has been cancelled due to lack of interest.
4. Echo Mrs. Boysen's comments on the quality presentations given by the teachers at the community advisory meeting.
5. The teacher's association would like to form an insurance committee to study options and information on health insurance issues related to the district's health benefits. President McComb will ask for a volunteer from the board to work with him on this committee.

### **Old Business**

#### **Approve Second and Final Reading of Board Policy Revisions**

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to approve the second and final reading of the board policy revisions as presented. The review committee of Seth Watkins, 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 February 12, 2007, for the first reading. The motion was approved on a 4-0 vote.

### **New Business**

#### **Approve Resignation**

A motion was made by Turner, seconded by Watkins, to approve the resignation from Mike Talty as maintenance person effective the end of his current contract. The motion passed on a 4-0 vote of the Board.

#### **Approve 2007-2008 Certified Staff Contract**

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to approve the 5% total package raise for the 2007-2008 certified staff contract. The total increase in costs for salaries and benefits of the current teaching staff calculates to be \$202,347 for next year. A first year teacher with a bachelor's degree will be hired at \$27,954 for the 2007-2008 school year. President McComb reminded board members that with our decrease in certified enrollment, the salary increase is going to strain our budget. Following further discussion of how this salary increase will affect the 2008-2009 budget, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the motion.

#### **Approve 2005-2006 School Year Audit**

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Fulk, to approve the 2005-2006 school year audit. The audit of the financial records of the district as of June 30, 2006, 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 4-0 to approve the motion.

#### **Review Staffing for 2007-2008**

The Board spent time discussing the 2007-2008 budget and concerns due to the increased cost of district staff. The district certified enrollment in October 2006, which is used to calculate funding for the 2007-2008 school year, showed a decrease of approximately 30 students from the previous year. A declining enrollment trend is not exclusive to our district, as a large majority of the schools in our part of the state are facing the same situation. However, the Clarinda District is at a serious point. Student numbers have not dropped enough to easily move to fewer teachers per grade level and a greater number of students require more individualized

attention and instruction. The percentage of salaries and benefits to total budget was 80.28% for the 2006 fiscal year. One of the Board's goals has been to strive to maintain an 80% ratio of salaries and benefits to total budget. Given the decrease in students and the increase in salaries for next year, that ratio will be hard to preserve. Following discussion of the many cuts that have been made during the past few years, Board members asked Superintendent Honnold to bring a recommendation to the next meeting for the reduction of any position(s) he felt would impact the fewest number of students while maintaining the required courses and the quality education the district has to offer.

#### **Approve Bid for Hazardous Chemical Removal**

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Turner, to approve the bid from Clean Harbors Environmental Services of \$2,930.90 for disposal of identified hazardous chemicals. The district's property insurance carrier, EMC, provides a program called "Rehab the Lab." It is a four part voluntary program designed to improve the environmental health of policyholders. Identified district staff were provided educational training about chemical exposure via an ICN broadcast and a representative from EMC visited the buildings to assess potential chemical exposures. Clean Harbors Environmental Services, from Des Moines, was asked to provide a quote to dispose of all chemicals identified from the industrial technology area and the science room at the high school. Clean Harbors will assist in submitting reports to the EPA and will supply ongoing support to encourage safe practices and prevention of future problems. Following a discussion of the safe disposal of the identified chemicals, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the motion.

#### **Correspondence From Board Members**

Turner: Attended the middle school science fair. Projects appeared to be well thought out and students seemed excited about science topics.

Fulk: The committee formed to study the creation of a school foundation has met three times. We are close to documenting some recommendations we will be bringing to the Board of Directors.

McComb: Vice President Watkins and I will be representing the Board on the Insurance Committee that will meet with teachers to discuss options in regards to the district's health insurance benefit.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Watkins, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. The Board approved the motion on a 4-0 vote.

Cindy L. VanFosson  
Board Secretary