

September 24, 2007
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, September 24, 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, Fulk, and Scherf.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Scherf, seconded by Fulk, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved 3-0.

Audience to Visitors

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

Board members Turner and Watkins arrived at 7:03 p.m. and 7:04 p.m. respectively.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Ruffing, High School Principal, reported:

1. Pete Lund and Josh Wagoner, CHS seniors, have been notified they are semi-finalists for the National Merit Scholarship. This is a very prestigious honor, with only a very small percentage of students nationally receiving this recognition.
2. Student participation in homecoming activities last week was high.
3. Clarinda Band Jamboree is this Saturday, September 29th. CHS will host many bands and other visitors.
4. Parent-teacher conferences will be held October 3rd at the high school. During conferences parents may attend informational sessions in the computer lab to familiarize themselves with a few of the services we offer from our district web site.
5. In an effort to assist students with academic performance, study halls will now be divided into 4 levels: 1) intensive support, with more individualized resources, 2) directed study, with students working alone or in small groups, 3) honor study, with students able to go to the commons, 4) open campus, with students free to come and go during directed study time. Students must earn the right to move from one level to the next by demonstrating academic success and responsible behavior.

Mrs. Nordland, Middle School Principal, reported:

1. Teams of middle school teachers are reviewing last years Iowa Tests of Basic Skills to determine if there is a pattern to the type of questions most missed by CMS students. The staff will discuss their findings during the October 3rd professional development time.
2. Adults in the middle school building (including food service and custodians) have been assigned students who they will make contact with each and every day. The goal is to provide at-risk students with positive daily adult interaction.
3. Middle school students are thoroughly enjoying the fruit and vegetable program.

Mrs. Boysen, Special Programs Director, reported:

1. Several elementary teachers will be participating in McTeacher Night at McDonalds here in Clarinda on October 9th. A portion of the sales from that evening will be donated to Garfield Elementary.
2. The second week of October is Fire Prevention Week. Clarinda firemen will visit and present a program for all students K-4.
3. Mr. Ruffing, Mrs. Nordland, and I are attending evaluator training this year as part of the new legislation dealing with teacher compensation and evaluation.
4. Teachers are working on the new reading series. The reading consultant will return around the end of October to answer any questions and offer suggestions.
5. School pictures will be taken tomorrow, September 25th, in the K-8 building.

Mr. Honnold, Superintendent, reported:

1. Congratulations to incumbent board member Scott McComb on his re-election.
2. Iowa superintendents are also involved in evaluator training. We will be using the training to evaluate administrators in our districts.

Old Business

Approve Certified Annual Report

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Watkins, to approve the Certified Annual Report. Board Secretary Cindy VanFosson reviewed various parts of the report, explaining the financial standing of each of the school district funds as of June 30, 2007. The report will be transmitted electronically to the Iowa Department of Education by means of uploading through a secure web site. Superintendent Honnold explained the annual Special Education Supplement would also be submitted to the state. It shows the number of resident students being served in special education programs both in our district and other Iowa districts, and the cost. It also provides information on the number of students from outside our district who attend special education programs in our classrooms and the funds we receive for providing those services. Following discussion of the two reports, the motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Organizational Meeting

Report of 2007 Board Election Results

Board Secretary Cindy VanFosson read the election results. Page County Election Commissioner, Judy Clark, certified the following to be the results of the September 11, 2007, school board election:

3-year term

Scott McComb	65 *	Number of Voters=	66
Scattering	0	Number Eligible=	4201
		Voter Turnout=	1.6%

*Elected

Administer Oath of Office to Newly Elected Board Members

Board Secretary Cindy VanFosson administered the oath of office to Scott McComb.

Election of Board President

Ms. VanFosson asked for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Directors. Mr. Fulk nominated Scott McComb to serve as President of the Board of Directors for 2007-2008. Turner seconded the nomination and Mr. McComb was elected on a 5-0 vote. He assumed the President's role at this point of the organizational meeting.

Election of Board Vice President

Fulk nominated Seth Watkins to serve as Vice President of the Board of Directors for 2007-2008. Turner seconded the motion and Watkins was elected to the office of Vice President on a 5-0 vote.

Appointment of Committee Assignments

President McComb made the following committee assignments:

1. Auditing Committee: Seth Watkins and Scott McComb
2. Board Policy Review Committee: Larry Scherf and Dale Fulk
3. Page County Conference Board: Seth Watkins
4. Legislative Action Network: Scott McComb
5. New Market Sharing Program Committee: Scott McComb and Seth Watkins
6. Clarinda Academy 28E Agreement Committee: Larry Scherf
7. Early Childhood /Preschool Committee: Pallin Turner and Dale Fulk
8. Cardinal Funds Committee: Dale Fulk
9. School Improvement Advisory Committee: Larry Scherf and Pallin Turner

New Business

Report on Model Core Curriculum

High School Principal Mr. Ruffing presented information on the Model Core Curriculum for Iowa High Schools and how our high school staff is working to meet the standards identified, and at this point "recommended" by the state. In 2005 the Iowa Legislature passed a law, SF 245, requiring the creation of the Model Core Curriculum in an effort to ensure that all Iowa students have the opportunity for a rigorous and relevant learning environment that prepares them for success after graduation. The curriculum should also give Iowa educators a tool to ensure that essential subject matter is being taught and essential knowledge and skills are being learned. The CHS staff has begun identifying which benchmarks recommended by the state in each core class are already being covered by our current curriculum.

This will help in determining what changes need to be made to meet state expectations. A concern of the administration and staff is that increasing the requirements too high in core subjects will limit or eliminate class periods available for students to choose electives, such as in vocational areas of interest. The Model Core Curriculum Initiative will be a major topic of discussion in the coming months and years.

Report on Maintenance Projects

Craig Hill, maintenance supervisor, was at the meeting to update the board on the facility maintenance projects underway at this time. 1) Sticker's will be returning to the K-8 site to replace drain inlets and part of the sidewalk as soon as weather permits. We will place sod on the north side of the middle school building to prevent erosion. 2) An additional sprinkler line will be added to the sprinkler system at the high school football field following the football season. 3) Potential solutions for the sewer back-up problem at Garfield are being investigated. City Manager Gary McClarnon and Jac Crain have been consulted. The problem occurs during and just after a heavy rain, prompting the question of why the sewer line has increased flow at that time. The sewer has actually backed up into Garfield when there were no students or staff in the building. When the new middle school and addition to Garfield were added in 1998, the sewer line for Garfield was moved from connecting to the city sewer system on Division Street to connecting on Fifteenth Street. At this time, the most promising solution appears to be changing the connection point to a spot east of the K-8 building, allowing gravity to naturally alleviate the problem. With students in the building and cold weather approaching, the final decision on the course of action can be delayed until next spring. 4) Farris Engineering, the firm hired to develop the plan specifications and bid documents for the boiler replacement project at the high school, will have the preliminary work completed soon. The bidding process will begin after the holidays and the project will be completed during the summer of 2008. One item in question is the addition of specifications to install air conditioning in the high school commons to the boiler project documents as an alternate bid. Board members discussed the \$8,200 additional cost to add the air conditioning specifications and the estimated \$100,000 cost to install the air conditioning equipment. A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Scherf, to approve hiring Farris Engineering to develop bid documents, at a cost of \$8,200, for the high school air conditioning alternate bid. The motion failed on a 2-3 vote. Aye: Fulk, Scherf. Nay: Turner, Watkins, and McComb

Approve Special Education Contracts

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Watkins, to approve the contracts with Stanton Community School for Clarinda resident special education students being served in the Stanton Community School District. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Watkins, to approve the contract with Iowa School for the Deaf for a Clarinda resident special education student being served at ISD. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

A motion was made by Watkins, seconded by Scherf, to approve the contracts with Belmond-Klemme, Cedar Rapids, Sheldon, and Waterloo Community School Districts for special education students being served at the Clarinda Academy. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

Cardinal Funds Committee Report

Dale Fulk, board representative to the Cardinal Funds Committee, updated the board on the progress of the Cardinal Funds Committee as it works toward establishing an avenue for donations and bequests to the school district. At their next meeting sub committees for fund raising and public relations will be set. Mr. Fulk asked board members to submit ideas for specific areas of need to be publicized in future literature to be distributed to alumni and community residents.

Board Correspondence

Board members had no correspondence to report at this time.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Fulk, seconded by Turner, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote and the meeting was adjourned.

Cindy L. VanFosson
Board Secretary