



COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF FORT DODGE, IOWA

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Regular Meeting

October 22, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, Community School District, Fort Dodge, Iowa, was called to order by President Cochrane at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

- Members present : Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Forsythe, Mr. Kent, Ms. Merz, Ms. Peterson, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Wagner.
- Members absent : None.
- Others present : Superintendent Van Zyl, Assistant Superintendent/Director of Human Resources/Board Secretary Hughes, Director of Financial Services/Board Treasurer Hansel, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Wood, Director of Buildings and Grounds Filloon, Owner Construction Representative Albrecht, Communications Director Lane, Fort Dodge Senior High School Principal Keane, Technology Director Pearson, Athletic Director Kinseth, four teaching staff members, a mass media representative, and six other interested parties.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Forsythe, seconded by Kent, to approve the board agenda as presented. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

President Cochrane asked for clarification on the recent open enrollment request for a TK student. The request had previously been submitted and accepted, yet the family rescinded the request. The family resubmitted an open enrollment request after the open enrollment deadline. The agenda item was pulled from the Consent Agenda to be handled individually.

Moved by Merz, seconded by Wagner, to accept the student as a tuitioned-in student with parents responsible for tuition (open enrollment is denied due to missing the deadline). Six board members voted aye, no nays, and one member abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Moved by Forsythe, seconded by Merz, to approve the following consent agenda items: 3.1) approval of the minutes of the October 8, 2012, regular meeting and October 15, 2012, special meeting; 3.2) allow for payment of the attached listing of bills from the general, management, physical plant and equipment, capital projects, activity, and nutrition funds; 3.3) approval of personnel; 3.4) approval of open enrollment requests: from Michelle and Manual Rodriguez for Cassandra Perez to attend the Fort Dodge Community Schools beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, from Fred and Roberta Schmieder for Mary Rose Schmieder and Sarah Schmieder to attend the Humboldt Community Schools beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, and from James Stanberg for Samuel Stanberg to attend the Fort Dodge Community Schools beginning with the 2012-2013 school year; 3.5) Approval of the following out-of-state professional trainings: Tammy Boeckman and Laura Libby Vinger to attend the Regional National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference in Chicago, IL, November 28-30, 2012, and Rosie Ellendson and Sue Wood to attend the "Guided Math: Practical Strategies to Differentiate Your Math Instruction Using

Small Groups, Centers and Whole Group Instruction” conference in Sioux Falls, SD, on November 30, 2012; and 3.6) Approval of Senior High School SADD/Understanding Social Systems Civic Action Project fundraiser. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Communications

Comments from the Public: (there were no comments from the public).

Shane Albrecht, Fort Dodge Community Schools Owner Construction Representative, and John Arians, CSI (Construction Services, Inc.), offered an update on the New Middle School Project.

Recognition/Awards

Recognition was offered to the following:

All-American Dodger Marching Band for Division I Rating at State Marching Band Contest on October 6, 2012.

FDSH Marching Band for second place finish in 4A at the North Central Iowa Marching Band Invitational on September 22, 2012.

Student Keegan Gormally for “Best Soloist” Award on his trombone solo at the North Central Iowa Marching Band Invitational on September 22, 2012.

FDSH Band Instructor Mike Richardson for being elected as North Central Iowa Bandmasters Association President for 2012-2013 school year.

Coaches Andi Adams and Jared Federson for being selected to serve on the Girls’ Softball and Boys’ Tennis Advisory Boards, respectively.

Boys’ Swim Coach Joel Greathouse for his selection by the Iowa High School Swimming Coaches Association and the Iowa High School Athletic Association as their nominee for the 2011-2012 National Federation of State High School Association’s Coach Association Iowa Boys’ Swimming Coach of the Year.

Public Hearings

6:50 p.m. - President Cochrane called for a public hearing on the annual asbestos information that has been distributed in a notification letter. There were no written or oral comments from the public. President Cochrane closed the hearing at 6:51 p.m.

6:51 p.m. - President Cochrane called for a public hearing on the Innovative Calendar for 2013-2014. The innovative calendar calls for a reduction from 180 days to 178 days for PreK-12 grade students to facilitate professional development efforts. There were no written or oral comments from the public. President Cochrane closed the hearing at 6:54 p.m.

6:54 p.m. - President Cochrane called for a public hearing on the Early Start Calendar for 2013-2014. The Early Start will be completed on the Spring BEDS (Basic Educational Data Survey) report but still requires a public hearing. Concern was expressed by the public about the unified athletic calendar and necessity for districts to be able to start. President Cochrane closed the hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Action Items/Presentations/Discussions

Moved by Forsythe, seconded by Rogers, to approve Innovative Calendar for 2013-2014. The innovative calendar calls for a reduction from 180 contact days to 178 contact days for PreK-12 grade students to facilitate professional development opportunities. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Forsythe, seconded by Wagner, to approve Early Start Calendar for 2013-2014. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Merz, seconded by Rogers, to approve the Exemption Request from General Accreditation Standards 281-IAC Chapter 12 (PE Credits). President Cochrane called on Superintendent Van Zyl to share information on the Exemption from Chapter 12 Accreditation-Physical Education. The exemption from Chapter 12 is also a continuation of previous practices. Because of the Fort Dodge Senior High trimester schedule, the waiver provides the same proportional amount of P.E. time as a traditional schedule. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Kent, seconded by Merz, to approve a wireless network project which will ensure that all school buildings have building-wide wireless access. Aruba Equipment, cabling, and network switches will cost an additional \$23,991.02 if purchased now in coordination with the new middle school project. This is a substantial savings versus servicing each building individually. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Merz, seconded by Wagner, to approve the administration's recommendation of acceptance of the proposal of I & E Group for design, construction staking, construction administration, site visits, and reimbursable expenses at a total of \$20,800. Superintendent Van Zyl introduced the potential opportunity to consider building a running track at the new middle school. Owner Construction Representative Albrecht explained the details related to seeking design bids for a new track. Board members shared in discussion and asked questions related to design development for the new middle school track. Recommendation was offered in contracting I & E Group for design, construction staking, construction administration, site visits, and reimbursable expenses at a total of \$20,800. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Rogers, seconded by Peterson, to approve renewal of the Community and Family Resources contract for the "STARS" Program for the 2012-2013 school year. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Moved by Merz, seconded by Kent, to approve the General Fund Report for the period August 1, 2012, through August 31, 2012. All present voting aye, motion carried.

President Cochrane called on Director of Financial Services Hansel to present the 2011-2012 Certified Annual Report and Annual Financial Health Report. Board members asked questions and shared in discussions related to the reports. Appreciation was extended to Director Hansel for the presentation of the reports.

Superintendent Van Zyl called on Director of Financial Services Hansel to present financial projections related to potential Early Retirement considerations for the 2012-2013 school year. During and following the presentation several board members asked questions about the material presented. Early retirement considerations, process, and timelines were discussed. Director Hansel was asked to present particular early retirement options and projections at the next school board meeting.

Communications/Updates

Superintendent's Update: (1) Report on certified student count--the District has an additional 55 students enrolled; (2) Financial position and loss of federal revenue was shared; (3) The City of Fort Dodge is in the process of accepting the new road south of the new middle school, and a proposal to name the road "Dodger Drive" is being considered; (4) Superintendent Van Zyl shared the possibilities of bringing the Fort Dodge community together with the positive behavior presentation "Rachel's Challenge," and an organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012; (5) the Fort Dodge Senior High Football Team will be competing in the Boys' State Football Playoffs on Wednesday evening, October 24, 2012, and congratulations were extended to Head Football Coach Miller; (6) Ames Environmental will be inspecting Phillips Middle School and taking samples to test for asbestos supported by the Holy Trinity Parish.

Board Update and Committee Reports:

Board Committees:

Health and Safety/Policy: a policy meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2012.

Long Range Planning/Finance: attended City Council Meeting; no further report.

Capital Projects: no report.

Negotiations: Committee attended IASB Employee Relations Conference on October 16, 2012. Presentations were made by IASB, State of Iowa Department of Education, and legal counsel. Financial projections and potential employee work-related litigation were discussed.

Communications: Sought input on participation with UEN meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2012. The board shared discussion and will participate.

Board Representation on a Committee:

Foundation: the October 13 fundraiser was successful, with many participants.

Comprehensive School Improvement: met Thursday, October 15, 2012. A new committee structure was put in place and the development of the goal process was established. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2013.

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Advisory Committee: The new committee structure was put in place and development of a goal process established. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2012.

Moved by Forsythe, seconded by Wagner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Robert L. Hughes
Board Secretary