

The Board of Directors of the Cedar Falls Community School District in the County of Black Hawk, State of Iowa, met in regular session pursuant to the laws and rules of said Board at the City of Cedar Falls City Hall, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the President and the roll being called there were present Joyce Coil in the chair, and the following named Directors: Eric Giddens, Jeff Hassman, Susie Hines, Jenny Leeper, Jeff Orvis and Sasha Wohlpart. Others in attendance were: Dr. Andrew Pattee, Superintendent, Douglas Nefzger, Director of Business Affairs, Daniel Conrad, Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Adrian Talbot, Director of Human Resources, and Pam Zeigler, Director of Elementary Education. Also present Arlo Hettle, Andrew Wind and others.

President Coil called the meeting to order and reported that we are here to focus on students and student achievement

Item No. 1 – Public Hearing: High School Track Resurfacing

President Coil reported that she had in her possession an affidavit of publication showing the notice of time and place of the public hearing for the proposed 2017 High School Track resurfacing project. This notice was published in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls Courier on November 15, 2017. The Board will now hold a public hearing on this project. President Coil asked for public comments.

Dick Nemmers, 9045 Nordic Ridge Dr., Cedar Falls had some questions concerning the track repair project including the projected longevity of the repairs, what will be done with the track if a new high school is built, and other options for the track use and the potential repurposing if a new high school is built, or placing a new track at the Robinson Dresser sports complex.

Bart Lane 815 Washington St, Cedar Falls echoed similar questions and concerns of Mr. Nemmers and also asked if there is long range planning for the high school.

Dr. Pattee responded to the questions with the following:

1. The District has purchased land for a new high school site.
2. It will take a minimum of 5 years before a new high school can be built and opened
3. Resurfacing of a track lasts approximately seven years
4. The District reviewed options on the current track including the construction of a new track at one of the junior high schools, partnering with the University of Northern Iowa, busing students out of the community for track use, or building a new track at the future new high school site. In all cases there were either scheduling conflicts or the cost was prohibited to exploring those options any further.
5. The District has not inquired about expanding Robinson Dresser site to include a track. The site does have challenges to the proximity next to dry run creek and there would be significant storm water runoff issues.
6. The track repair project was included in the ten-year Physical Plant and Equipment Levy plan and the track was patched three years ago.
7. The District continues to review future use of the current high school.

Dr. Pattee reviewed the history of the current high school site. The current high school site is approximately 17 acres and the future new high school minimum recommended site size is 40 acres. The District purchased 50 acres and will cost share with the University of Northern Iowa on joint use spaces.

President Coil then declared the public hearing closed.

Item No. 2 – Approval of the Following Consent Agenda Items:

Director Hines moved and Director Wohlpart seconded the motion the Board approves the following items:

1. The agenda of the November 27, 2017 Board of Education agenda as presented.
2. Approval of the November 13, 2017 Board of Education meeting minutes
3. Approval of the November 15-16, 2017 Work Session Minutes: IASB Convention
4. Approval of the bills as presented for payment as reviewed by Director Wohlpart
5. Human Resource Report

Human Resources Report
November 27, 2017

2017-18 School Year ***Resignations - Recommended for Approval***
Kristen Bishop Lincoln Second Grade EOSY 2017-2018

Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis, and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 3 – Public Comment

None

Item No. 4 – Secretary’s Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Nefzger reviewed with the Board the October 2017 fund balances for general, schoolhouse, student activity, and food service. President Coil stated the report would be filed subject to audit.

Item No. 5 – Communications

The Cedar Falls Community School Board of Education student board liaison member, Arlo Hettle reported on the following:

1. Holiday Hoopla event preparations, December 21, 2017
2. Winter dance preparations. Proceeds will go towards the dance marathon
3. Caroling trip to Allen Hospital
4. Dance team State competition is on December 1, 2017

Janelle Darst, Coordinator of Communications & Community Relations discussed the following:

- All State music festival
- District High School food drive 51,515 meals donated. Well above the goal
- 4th Grade Google expeditions
- CAPS annual CAPSGIVING program potluck
- Southdale Cultural Club
- Orchard Hill new playground
- Food Service taste testing for elementary students
- Gary Koenen named “Athletic Director of the Year”
- Matt Johnson, Selected to 5A volleyball coach of the year
- Teacher Professional development Activities on November 22, 2017
- High School rocket club was selected to be included in the NASA competition. They have been chosen as 1 of 15 teams across the nation.

Item No. 6 – Approval of 2018-2019 SBRC Administrative Costs – Lied Center (Bremwood Consortium)

Mr. Nefzger reviewed the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) application request for additional allowable growth for special education administrative costs associated with the Lied Center (Bremwood Consortium) in Waverly. The total cost of the consortium program administrative salary expense is divided equally amongst member school districts based on the number of students enrolled as of October 31, 2017. Cedar Falls Community Schools has 5 students enrolled in the program as of October 31, 2017. The total District request is for \$12,776.00. After discussion, Director Hassman moved and Director Giddens seconded the motion to approve the application to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$12,776.00 for special education administrative costs associated with Lied Center Consortium program for the 2018-19 school year as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Director Orvis abstained from the vote as he is an employee of the Waverly-Shell Rock Community School District, which operates the Lied Center. Motion carried.

Item No. 7 – Approval of Application to 2018-2019 SBRC for Special Education Administrative Cost Request

Mr. Nefzger reviewed the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) application request for additional allowable growth for special education administrative costs associated with the River Hills Consortium program for the 2018-2019 school year. The total cost of the consortium program administrative salary expense is divided equally amongst member school districts based on the number of students enrolled as of October 31, 2017. Cedar Falls Community Schools has 13 students enrolled in the program as of October 31, 2017. The total District request is for \$19,634.57. This request, if approved by the SBRC, would allow the District to include \$19,634.57 in special education expense for the operation of the River Hill consortium program. Director Hines moved and Director Leeper seconded the motion to approve the request to the School Budget Review Committee in the amount of \$19,634.57 for special education administrative costs associated with River Hills Consortium program for the 2018-2019 school year as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis, and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 8 – Approval of Increased Allowable Growth Application for Drop-Out Prevention

Mr. Conrad reviewed the application for modified allowable growth for drop-out prevention for the 2018-19 school year. At-risk students include but are not limited to students in the following groups: homeless children and youth, dropouts, returning dropouts, and potential dropouts. Mr. Conrad reviewed the definition a returning drop-out student as a student in grades 7-12 who has left the school and is now returning. A potential drop-out student is a resident student that demonstrates poor school judgment as indicated by two or more of the following categories:

1. High rate of absenteeism, truancy or frequent tardiness
2. Limited or no extra-curricular participation, lack of identification with school and discipline issues resulting in a suspension/exclusion
3. Poor grades, failing core classes or elementary students not being promoted or advancing to the next grade level
4. Low achievement in reading or math, which reflects two or more years in a lower grade level
5. Children in grades K-3 who make the definition of at-risk as adapted by the Iowa Department of Education

The District is requesting a total of \$855,139 of modified supplemental amount for at-risk and drop-out prevention. The projected property tax rate will be 0.45439 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, an estimated increase of \$0.01434 from the previous school year. After discussion, Director Giddens moved and Director Wohlpart seconded the motion to approve the 2018-2019 application for modified allowable growth for at-risk and drop-out prevention in the amount of \$855,139 as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis, and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 9 – Approval of 2017-2018 Board of Education Goals

Dr. Pattee reviewed the following Board of Education goals as presented for the 2017-2018 school year. Conversation centered on the process of setting the goals which will be effected by the timing of future school board elections, the history of board goal setting, a possible annual review of board policy 101.1, and the possible addition of other goals, including the addition of a goal that addresses new facilities that supports learning, including the building of a new high school. After considerable discussion, Director Hassman moved and Director Leeper seconded the motion to approve the following 2017-2018 Board goals as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis, and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Goal 1 Student Achievement: The Board will focus on student achievement and undertake a culture of learning and participate in the following:

- Learn, discuss and gain a deeper understanding of the CAPS program
- Start a process to create and utilize benchmarks with other high achieving Districts across the Midwest
 - Explore what benchmarks/metrics to utilize
 - Visit 6 high achieving District, of which, at least 3 will be outside the state of Iowa.
- Update and approve a new 5-year Technology Plan, focusing the District’s work on further implementation, student learning and enhancing our technology system
- Discuss best practice and learn about student grading, magnet schools, project based learning, etc., following IASB Annual Conference and throughout the year

Goal 2 Culture/Climate: The Board will “model learning” and enhance support and expansion of a positive climate and culture across our District:

- Participate in a book study centered on grading
- Participate in a joint meeting with the Cedar Falls City Council and CFU Board of Directors
- Participate in an episode of Parent University or Currents UpClose to discuss roles, responsibilities and decision making processes of a School Board Member
- Create a community vision for the need for new facilities that support learning, especially a new high school

Goal 3 PLC: The Board will continue to build and support awareness of the PLC process and enhance its engagement and visibility at the building level and at PTO/PTA meetings:

- Attend PTO/PTA meetings to discuss, provide information and gather feedback
- Visit buildings during the regular school day, PLC time and staff training to see work that is ongoing throughout our District

Item No.10 – Approval of Superintendent Goals

Dr. Pattee reviewed the following Superintendent goals for the 2017-2018 school year. Director Orvis moved and Director Giddens seconded the motion to approve the following 2017-2018 Superintendent goals as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis, and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Student Achievement:

- Continue to grow and enhance the CAPS experience and program through additional strands and deeper partnerships
- Deeper learning Opportunities and exploration:
 - Learning Based Grading
 - Personalized Learning
 - Project/Magnet Elementary School Exploration/Options
- Expansion of SREM/Computer Science opportunities for students

PLC:

- Work with state groups to grow my learning and explore best practice
 - Executive leaders
 - IASB Advisory Board
 - Chamber and Alliance
 - SAI Statewide Conference Planning
- Undertake group learning activities with the Administrative Council regarding leadership, culture and change process:
 - Article reflection and discussion
 - Book Study
 - Best Practice Discussion and Implementation

Culture/Climate:

- Finalize creation of a new high school facility planning framework
- Enhance and engage in Social Media to showcase the work that is ongoing in our Buildings
- Increase Community and parent Engagement
 - Parent University
 - Partners in Education department
- Finalize renewal of technology plan for a 5-year timeframe to be reviewed with the Board of Education by March

Item No. 11 – Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pattee reviewed the following:

- December 6, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. Legislators will be at Peet Junior High
- December 11, 2017 board meeting will include an informational report on Learning Based Grading
- January 8, 2018 Board meeting
- January 10, 2018 Board/Administrative Council Retreat

Item No. 12 – Questions, Comments, and Concerns

Director Leeper commented and asked about the Learning Based Grading information that will be presented to parents.

Director Coil commented on the Cedar Falls Community School Foundation upcoming fundraiser

Item No. 13 – Adjournment

Director Leeper moved and Director Hassman seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis, and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President