

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 James L. Robinson Administrative Center, 1002 West First Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa, at 6:00 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: Jim Brown, James Kenyon, Susan Lantz, Dave Williams, Doug Shaw and Jenny Leeper. Others in attendance were: Dr. Andy Pattee, Superintendent, Dan Conrad, Director of Secondary Education, Douglas Nefzger, Director of Business Affairs, Pam Zeigler, Director of Elementary Education and Dr. Adrian Talbot, Director of Human Resources. Also present Dawn Ask-Martin, Sara Ann Smith, MacKenzie Elmer, Vee Bernard, Jodi Olsen, Sara Eastman, Duane Hamilton, Ben Schafer, Tony Wyckers and Mike Brocka.

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

Item No. 1– Approval of the Following Consent Agenda Items:

Director Brown moved and Director Kenyon seconded the motion the Board approve the following consent agenda with the removal of Item H: Informational Report on K-12 Guidance and Counseling.

1. Approval of the December 9, 2013 Board of Education agenda as amended
2. Approval of the November 25, 2013 Board of Education meeting minutes as presented
3. Approval of the bills as presented for payment as reviewed by the designated Board member, Doug Shaw
4. Approval of the River Hills/Grundy Center CSD agreement

Directors voting in favor of the motion: Lantz, Brown, Coil, Williams, Leeper, Kenyon and Shaw. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 2– Board Training:

Dr. Pattee introduced Dr. Roarke Horn, Chief Administrator at AEA 267. Dr. Horn reviewed the DiSC profile that all Board and Cabinet members recently took. Dr. Horn asked Board members to share the takeaways from the DiSC assessment and profile. In general, Board members discussed the following:

1. DiSC assessment was a somewhat accurate reflection in their role as a school board member.
2. DiSC assessment profile maybe different when they are not a school board member.
3. The individual DiSC profile may change depending upon the topic or discussion within a school board meeting.
4. The importance of a school board collaborating as a team.
5. Transparency of the school board in their discussions and actions.
6. Why individual board members were elected to the school board.
7. Checks and balances that should be in place when the public shares information to an individual school board member.

Dr. Horn led school board members in a discussion on the question, “Is there value in conflict or disagreement amongst school board members on any topic.” At the end of the training, board members thanked Dr. Horn for his time.

Item No. 3– Public Comment:

Dr. Pattee reported there were no requests.

Item No. 4 – Secretary’s Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Nefzger reviewed the monthly balances for November 2013 in the general, schoolhouse, student activity and food service funds. President Coil reported that the report would be filed subject to audit.

Item No. 5 – Communications

Student Representative Andrew Stensland updated the Board on the following:

1. Dance marathon scheduled for February 2014
2. “Red Out” fundraiser for the American Heart Association: Part of the proceeds will go to a high school staff member that recently suffered a serious illness.
3. Recent and upcoming athletic events for boys and girls basketball and wrestling

Ben Schafer, Associate Professor at the University of Northern Iowa reported that December 9-13, 2013 is Computer Science Education Week. The goal is to engage students in computer science. Mr. Schafer reported that Cedar Falls Community Schools will be participating in this week events and UNI students are involved at Holmes and Peet Junior High Schools. During these events students will be learning how to program with the Scratch programming language. More information on Computer Science Education Week can be found at code.org or Scratch.mit.edu.

Item No. 6 – 10-Year Facility Master Plan

Dr. Pattee presented to the Board the frame work of input from staff and community on an options for a 10-year master plan. The frame work would include a Minimal, Moderate and Complete plan listing of the pros and cons of each one of those plans. Discussion was held on the feasibility of moving particular parts of plans from one area to another, i.e. one item in the Complete plan being moved to the Moderate plan. Everyone agreed this plan must be adaptable and fluid as we go through the process in taking input from the facilities committee, district staff and the public.

Other items the Board discussed included:

1. The remodeling or repurposing of the current high school.
2. The possibility of creating a K-12 grade facility option for students
3. The possibility of developing the minimal plan around having a minimum student capacity based on 2023 enrollment projects from RSP and Associates.
4. Ample time for staff and facility committee input
5. Public forums with ample opportunity for community input on the plans, including a survey on the thought of the plans.
6. Finding support based on input from the focus of community meetings, facility committee and district staff

It was the consensus of the Board to continue this conversation in a work session scheduled for December 16, 2014.

Item No. 7 – Approval of Increased Allowable Growth Application for Drop-Out Prevention

Mr. Conrad reviewed the application for modified allowable growth for drop-out prevention. Mr. Conrad reviewed the definitions of a returning drop-out student. A returning drop-out student is 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 \$744,414 of modified allowable growth for at-risk and drop-out prevention. This is \$81,209 increase from the previous school year request. The primary reason for the increase is the inclusion of student mental health services for elementary students. The projected property tax rate will be 0.42159 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. After discussion, Director Lantz moved and Director Williams seconded the motion to approve the 2014-2015 application for modified allowable growth for drop-out prevention in the amount of \$744,414 as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Lantz, Brown, Coil, Williams, Leeper, Kenyon and Shaw. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 8 – Approval of Summer 2014 Architectural Contracts

Mr. Nefzger reviewed contracts for professional services on two projects for the upcoming school year. The first contract is at Southdale Elementary for architectural services from Stuxture Architects in Waterloo, Iowa for the remodeling of three classrooms in the summer of 2014, four classrooms in the summer 2015 and the remaining four classrooms in the summer of 2016. The second architectural contract is with Struxture Architects for architectural services on the remodeling of four classrooms at North Cedar Elementary during the summer of 2014 only. After discussion, Director Kenyon moved and Director Brown seconded the motion to approve the contracts with Struxture Architects for architectural services for the projects at Southdale and North Cedar Elementary buildings as presented. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Lantz, Brown, Coil, Williams, Leeper, Kenyon and Shaw. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 9 – Approval of HVAC Equipment Purchase

Mr. Nefzger reviewed the request to purchase heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment in association with the four classrooms that will be remodeled at North Cedar Elementary. Due to the time line involved in ordering the Airedale HVAC individual classroom units, those units need to be ordered in a timely fashion in order for arrival in time for insulation in June of 2014. The cost associated with purchasing the two Airedale units from Millennium Technology of West Des Moines, Iowa is \$51,920. Director Shaw moved and Director Lantz seconded the motion to approve the purchase of the HVAC equipment from Millennium Technology in the amount of \$51,920. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Lantz, Brown, Coil, Williams, Leeper, Kenyon and Shaw. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 10 – Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pattee reported on the following:

1. Administrative Council/Board Retreat is scheduled for January 8, 2014 from 9:30a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
2. World language committee site visits to other school districts across Iowa: The next scheduled world language committee meeting is January 8, 2014.
3. All Chromebooks for grades 3-6 were delivered last Friday and today (December 9, 2013).

Item No. 11 – Questions, Comments, and Concerns

Director Williams reported that the historical preservation committee of the City of Cedar Falls is going to make a presentation of the historical architecture of Cedar Falls Community Schools on January 14, 2014 at the Women’s Club in Cedar Falls.

Director Leeper gave a brief update on the visit at the high school for Professional Learning Community activities.

Item No. 12 – Adjournment

Director Kenyon moved and Director Brown seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Lantz, Brown, Coil, Williams, Leeper, Kenyon and Shaw. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Secretary

President