

The Board of Directors of the Cedar Falls Community School District in the County of Black Hawk, State of Iowa, met in work 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 James Kenyon in the chair, and the following named Directors: Jeff Hassman, Susie Hines, Susan Lantz, Jenny Leeper and Doug Shaw. Others in attendance were: Dr. Andrew Pattee, Superintendent, Douglas Nefzger, Director of Business Affairs, Dan Conrad, Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Adrian Talbot, Director of Human Resources and Pam Zeigler, Director of Elementary Education.

Item No.1 – District Discussion: Location of School Board Meetings

Dr. Pattee reviewed the recent history on location and format of Board meetings including:

- Changes in board policy
- Addition of more public comment
- Recording of the meetings
- Potential costs associated in purchasing video equipment to broadcast meetings at the Robinson Administrative Center
- Previous comments from the Board that they like the round table format currently being used.

Dr. Pattee updated the Board on the potential costs associated with the remodeling of the board room including major updates to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems that will need to be done in the very near future. Board members discussed the potential of high school students being able to use any purchased video equipment, in addition to use for board meetings. Dr. Pattee noted the cost to hold board meetings at the Cedar Falls City Hall would be minimal. The biggest change will be how board meetings operate and feel.

Director Leeper stated she would like to see the board meetings moved to Cedar Falls City Hall. She also shared her reservations about costs associated with remodeling of the board room.

Director Hassman reflected on the pluses and minuses of moving the meetings to Cedar Falls City Hall.

Director Lantz reported she likes the idea that Cabinet members are close to their offices during board meetings so they can retrieve information when needed.

Questions arose on how closed board sessions would be handled if board meetings would move to Cedar Falls City Hall. Dr. Pattee suggested a trial step for board meetings using a different set-up within the current board room.

Director Hassman stated the dynamics of moving to the Cedar Falls City Hall would take a while for everyone to adjust to.

Director Lantz stated she is afraid the Board of Education would lose intimacy if there is a change in the current board meeting arrangement and the school board should hold their meetings in their own facilities.

Director Leeper commented that she hears about openness and being able to view board members in a current setting.

Dr. Kenyon stated the Board has made minor changes in the set-up of board meetings over the past couple of years. The typical attendance at the board meetings has remained unchanged between 10 to 20 community members per meeting.

Board members continued to discuss the pros and cons of moving board meetings to Cedar Falls City Hall. Dr. Pattee commented it basically comes down to what our objectives are, the impact on communication and the costs involved with moving the board meetings to Cedar Falls City Hall. It was also noted that should the District decide to stay at the Robinson Administrative Center it would provide great potential for other district meetings including district facilities, School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) and Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC) to be video recorded.

The Board discussed the possibility of setting up the board room in a different configuration on a temporary basis for the next few board meetings. It was general consensus across the Board to reconfigure the table setting for the next few meetings and revisit this conversation on April 11, 2016

Item No 2. – Adjournment

Director Lantz moved and Director Hines seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Hassman, Hines, Kenyon, Lantz, Leeper and Shaw. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Secretary

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President