

July 12, 2012

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 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the President and the roll being called there were present Deon Senchina in the chair, and the following named Directors: Susan Lantz, David Williams, Jim Brown, Joyce Coil, and Jenny Leeper. Others in attendance were: Michael Wells, Superintendent and Douglas Nefzger, Board Secretary. Also in attendance Mary Jane Vens from Iowa Association of School Boards.

Mrs. Senchina thanked Mary Jane Vens for coming to Cedar Falls Schools.

Ms. Vens reported the purpose of this work session is to have board members and Superintendent Wells become more acquainted with each other and work as a board to move from good to great.

The following were some questions asked of Board members:

1. What was their best and worst experience as a member while they were in school?
2. What are three things that will guarantee Cedar Falls students to be “lifelong learners” in four years?
3. What students, superintendent, and fellow board members will say about individual board members when they retire from the Board?

Director Kenyon arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Board members then shared their length of time they have been on the Board, how long they have lived in the community, why they decided to run for the Board and their best and worst experiences while they were in school. Lists of best and worst experiences were then compiled.

Board members shared their ideas that will guarantee Cedar Falls students to be “lifelong learners” in four years. These ideas were compiled into a list that all board members agreed upon.

Ms. Vens reported that what board members think and share is very important for the focus of the District.

Ms. Vens reviewed the following:

IASB Board Standards for Visionary and Ethical Leadership

1. Operate as a visionary, ethical governance team
2. Provide effective leadership for high and equitable student learning
3. Act with fiscal responsibility
4. Comply with state and federal law and board policy
5. Cultivate a system enabling people to contribute meaningfully
6. Build effective advocacy for high and equitable student achievement

IASB Five Leadership Roles of the Board

1. Set Clear Expectations
2. Create Conditions for Success
3. Hold the System Accountable to the Expectations
4. Build the Collective Will
5. Learn Together as a Board

In addition, Ms. Ven also reviewed the following:

1. IASB fifteen indicators of an effective board member
2. Roles of school Board members and the Superintendent
3. Discussed votes taken by board members and then supporting all majority votes of the Board no matter how the individual board member votes
4. Patterns of action board members should take in various situations individual board members may experience

Board members filled out Board/Superintendent “Think Abouts” that were submitted to Ms. Vens for compilation.

Ms. Vens thanked the Board for their participation in this evenings work session.

Mrs. Senchina thanked Ms. Vens for facilitating the work session this evening.

Adjournment

Director Lantz moved and Director Williams seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Leeper, Kenyon, Coil, Lantz, Brown, Williams and Senchina. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Secretary

President