

The Board of Directors of the Cedar Falls Community School District in the County of Black Hawk, State of Iowa, met in special 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 Deon Senchina in the chair, and the following named Directors: Susan Lantz, Jenny Leeper, David Williams and Joyce Coil. Others in attendance were: Michael Wells, Superintendent, Douglas Nefzger, Director of Business Affairs, Daniel Conrad, Director of Secondary Education, Pam Zeigler, Director of Elementary Education and Dr. Adrian Talbot, Director of Human Resources. Also in attendance was student representative Andrew Stensland. Others in attendance: Holly Hudson, Troy Becker and Brad Leeper.

President Senchina called the meeting to order and reported that the business and action to be taken at tonight's meeting will be focused on student achievement.

Mr. Wells reviewed questions that were asked at the February 5, 2013 work session and reviewed current rental costs associated with offsite programs such as football, track, robotics etc.

Mr. Wells stated that he requested any questions asked of individual Board of Education members be brought to the total Board.

Mr. Wells reviewed the potential tax levy impact based on \$55 million the cost of renovation of the existing high school or \$73 million for a new constructed high school facility.

Pros and cons of the new high school were discussed.

Pros included in building a new high school:

- Start new
- Energy efficient
- Consistent climate
- Less maintenance costs
- No disruptions due to renovation
- Safety – ADA accessibility
- Parking
- Design for expansion
- 50 year solution
- Attract and retain professional staff
- Staff and student collaboration areas
- Less activities off campus
- More flexible space
- Potential of increased expectations
- Attraction to community and economic development
- Improved collaborations with the business community, University of Northern Iowa and Hawkeye Community College
- Common spaces for students
- Expand current curriculum and offering a more comprehensive program
- Potential overall building capacity relief

Cons included in building a new high school:

- More costly than renovation
- Lose of current high school
- Bonding capacity decrease
- Location not centralized
- Increased staff and operational expenses

The group then discussed the following advantages of repurposing the current high school:

- Potential consolidating other programs into one location
- Additional preschool space
- Expand community programming

Disadvantages of repurposing the high school facility include:

- Cost to operate the facility
- Cost to renovate the facility if used in another way

The greatest reservations of a new high school were discussed and they centered on cost and location of the new high school.

The Board took time to discuss the economics of the Cedar Falls community over the past 20 years. It was agreed that this is a unique opportunity for a new high school and potentially increases partnerships with UNI and HCC. Community ownership of the facility will be very important. A new high school would provide additional economic development and the potential for improved teacher preparation programs in association with the University of Northern Iowa showcasing the latest technology and innovations.

The Board then discussed current grade alignment. It was agreed that 9<sup>th</sup> graders have leadership opportunities at the current junior high level. The Board and administration discussed goals associated with the preschool program. It was stated that it is the wish of the District to have both a regular preschool and special education program in each of the elementary buildings.

The Board discussed enrollment projections along with pros and cons of any realignment within the District. It was the consensus of the Board that the administration should make a recommendation concerning grade realignment.

Mr. Wells reviewed current partnership opportunities with the University of Northern Iowa including Level I, II and III teacher preparation program, STEM opportunities and shared athletic facility usage.

The pros and cons of the close proximity to the University of Northern Iowa were discussed including shared facility usage and the potential increase in traffic.

Partnerships with the City of Cedar Falls were discussed. The City uses the District's gymnasiums, athletic fields and swimming pools. The City and the District have worked well together in creating park and playground collaborations for elementary sites.

Partnerships with Hawkeye Community College were discussed and included college level course offerings and technical courses.

Mr. Wells reviewed meetings he has had with the City of Cedar Falls, University of Northern Iowa and Cedar Falls Community School District. Topics discussed at these meetings included location, development of a transformational educational plan and development of a position statement.

#### Item No. 2 - Adjournment

Director Coil moved and Director Lantz seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Senchina, Williams, Lantz and Leeper. Those voting "no" none. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12p.m.

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Secretary

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President