

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 12, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

Board President Mark Knuth called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room – District Administration Office, Farley, Iowa, with a moment of silence and reading of the District Mission and Core Values.

Roll Call:

Present were President Mark Knuth, Vice-President Chad Vaske, Jeanne Coppola, John Lembezeder, Mark Tilson and Superintendent Jeff Corkery.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the agenda as published. Motion passed 5-0.

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

1. Open Forum: Retired Business Manager David Wegmann reflected on Superintendent Corkery's goals when he was hired in 2006 and lauded Mr. Corkery's leadership, vision and work with parents, staff, community and the Board that made Western Dubuque's dreams and Mr. Corkery's goals become reality. Mr. Wegmann identified the following as some of Superintendent Corkery's many accomplishments at Western Dubuque: continuous improvement via professional staff development and curriculum, new academic and operational software to facilitate continuous improvement and improve day-to-day operations, technology hardware upgrades, major building additions and improvements, and best use of District financial resources. Superintendent Corkery thanked Mr. Wegmann and indicated the accomplishments could not have occurred had he not had competent, committed staff doing their jobs well allowing him to focus on his job.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

1. Minutes of December 8, 2014 Regular Meeting. Motion by Lembezeder, second by Tilson to approve the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Bills and Claims for the month of December. Motion by Vaske, second by Lembezeder to approve the bills as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

1. Principals' Reports: Topics discussed were: Rocket Math; Academic Family Night; Reader's Theater; AIMSWEB benchmark testing; PTO movie night; CJSHS regional spelling contest qualifier; CJHS academic award of bowling trip—89% qualified; Coach Al Marshall one of three in Iowa earning 700th win; CHS hosting District Speech; DMIS 6th grade fundraising monies used to purchase set of classroom iPads; DMIS BLT review of referral system; EES & FES developing action plan based on data from reading assessment; Aaron Thomas, son of Ed Thomas, speaking at WDHS January 28; Swivl and Ipevo assistive technology usage.

2. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Corkery reported on: 1) The effect school cancellations and late starts/early dismissals have on the school calendar with the switch to hours versus days. Students, with the exception of seniors, must attend 1,080 hours per school year. 38.75 hours were built in to this year's calendar to accommodate for time missed; to date 14 hours have been missed. If more than 38.75 hours are missed the District may look at adding minutes on to the school day. 2) Legislators are in session and supplemental aid announcement is expected January 13; hope to see shortfall in transportation funding addressed. 3) Presentations to the community in regard to potential attendance center boundary changes will be held January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the WDHS auditorium for WDHS elementary school feeders and on January 28 at 6:30 p.m. at CHS auditorium for CHS elementary school feeders. Letters announcing the informational presentations will be mailed to elementary families this week; feedback will be received, and action is planned at the March Board meeting.
3. Curriculum Update: Director of Curriculum and Assessment Kelly Simon presented the Board an overview of curriculum updates completed and impending. Ms. Simon reported on implementation of TLC, the new professional development plan, and assessment changes.
4. WDHS Highlights: Instructor Laurie Fallon and high school students Abbey Koerperich, Hayle Gaul, Kaitlin Bockenstedt, and Caleb Erzen presented the Board an overview of the State Youth Activation Committee for Special Olympics Iowa. The program promotes unity, respect and friendship among individuals with and without disabilities.
5. Boundary Study Update: Superintendent Corkery indicated Transportation Assistant Ernie Bolibaugh and Principal Dan Butler were instrumental in assisting with the attendance center boundary review. Options to address inequities in building enrollments and class sizes are being presented to the community this month and a decision made at the March Board meeting.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Financial Reports of District
2. Personnel
 - a. Resignations
 1. Danyelle McClendon, Poms Advisor, CHS
 - b. Employment
 1. Elaina Mertens, Asst. Varsity Boys Track, WDHS, \$2,868.50
 2. Amber Meyer, Weight Room Supervisor, 1/8 time, CHS, \$430.28
 3. Chris Curry, Weight Room Supervisor, 1/4 time, CHS, \$860.55
 4. Cory Sauser, Weight Room Supervisor, 1/4 time, CHS, \$860.55
3. Out of State Travel
 - a. WDHS Borderless Bobcats Club to Italy and Germany
4. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings
 - a. Policies 403-407.5
5. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests
 - a. Piano - WDHS
6. Resolutions - None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Approve 2014-15 SIAC Members. Motion by Tilson, second by Lembezeder to approve the list of 2014-2015 School Improvement Advisory Committee members as presented. SIAC, an advisory committee to the Board, is comprised of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and business leaders. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Approve Preschool Fees for 2015-16: Motion by Lembezeder, second by Coppola to approve the 2015-2016 monthly fee for four-day preschool at \$104; a four percent increase over current rate. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Approve Change Order #10 CHS Project: Motion by Tilson, second by Vaske to approve change order #10 for the CHS project. The change order is a cost reduction of \$2,821 for the glass display wall in the reception area. Business Manager Mark Frasher indicated the change order is the final for the project. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Approve High School Schedules to Trimesters for 2015-16: Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve changing high school and middle school schedules to trimesters for 2015-16. Board member Mark Tilson thanked the committee for thoroughly researching and evaluating the options and keeping the Board and community abreast. Motion passed 5-0.
5. 2015-16 Calendar Presentation: Superintendent Corkery presented the Board two calendars; the original, with a plan to start school August 20 and end May 27, included 2 snow days built in; the second, reflecting recent changes in State legislation requiring schools to begin no earlier than the week in which September 1 falls, would begin August 31 and end June 8, with no snow days built in. Motion by Vaske, second by Tilson to set a school calendar public hearing date for the next Board meeting, February 16. Motion passed 5-0.
6. Closed Session: Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) – Superintendent Evaluation. Motion by Coppola, second by Lembezeder to enter into closed session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i). Roll call vote: Knuth-yes, Vaske-yes, Coppola-yes, Lembezeder-yes, Tilson-yes. Motion passed 5-0. The Board entered into closed session at 7:44 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 8:05 p.m.
7. Review Input from District Stakeholders regarding desired qualities in Superintendent. Search consultant Gary McAndrew with McPherson & Jacobson, LLC, presented the Board an overview of the feedback received from the following stakeholder groups: students, administrators, staff, community members and parents.
8. Closed Session: Iowa Code 22.7(18) – Review applications for the position of Superintendent and the candidates requested confidentiality. Motion by Vaske, second by Tilson to enter into closed session per Iowa Code 22.7(18) to review applications for the position of Superintendent. Roll call vote: Knuth-yes, Vaske-yes, Coppola-yes, Lembezeder-yes, Tilson-yes. Motion passed 5-0. The Board entered into closed session at 8:26 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 9:28 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m. on January 12, 2015.

Jeni Schindler
Board Secretary

Mark Knuth
President, Board of Education