

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

February 16, 2015 6:00 P.M.

Note: The regular meeting date for the month of February was moved from the second Monday of the month to the third Monday of the month in order to conduct Superintendent candidates' interviews the second week in February.

Call to Order:

Board President Mark Knuth called the meeting to order at 5:59 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 Tilson, second by Coppola to approve the agenda as published. Motion passed 5-0.

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

1. Open Forum: Principal Dave Hoeger, representing the entire Western Dubuque administrative team, spoke to Superintendent Corkery's accomplishments at Western Dubuque. A few highlights were Superintendent Corkery's: Development of District Plan on a Page including the Vision (Success for All), Mission (Empower confident, well-prepared citizens to excel in the 21st century), Core Values, Goals, and Guiding Philosophy (Better Every Day); compassionate leadership style; efficient and equitable use of resources; and major building improvements. Superintendent Corkery thanked Mr. Hoeger and indicated he was humbled by the group's thoughts as an administrative team.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

1. Minutes of January 12, 2015 regular meeting and January 26, 2015 special meeting. Motion by Vaske, second by Coppola to approve the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Bills and Claims for the month of January. Motion by Tilson, second by Lembezeder to approve the bills as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

1. Principals' Reports: Topics discussed were: Coach Bob Davidshofer named At-Large Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year; Coach Tim Frake named 2A Girls Track Coach of the Year; ACT preparation; concert by The Band Perry; "Winter Wonderland Dance"; completion of Iowa Assessments; Kathy Link retirement; Donna Marxen retirement; Superintendent Corkery retirement; "Friendship Dance"; power of social media; \$16,000 raised at PES walk-a-thon; six WDHS wrestlers advance to State; Katelynn Till advanced for State Speech; bowling and girls and boys basketball Districts; special education advisory meeting regarding student post-secondary transition; administrative team compassion witnessed.
2. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Corkery reported: 1) Preparations underway for upcoming Department of Education site visit. 2) Education funding recommendation of 1.25% is largely inadequate.

3. Cascade/Bernard Elementary Highlights: Principal Tesha Ruley and instructors Josey Noonan and Carole Cigrand spoke in regard to increased efforts regarding family involvement and the home/school connection resulting in a large turnout Family Night.
4. Auditor's report: Business Manager Mark Frasher presented Board members a copy of the 2013-2014 Financial Audit report and indicated it was a very clean audit.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Lembezeder, second by Coppola to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 5-0. Board member Jeanne Coppola indicated the Board accepted with regret the resignations of Superintendent Jeff Corkery and instructors Kathy Link and Donna Marxen.

1. Financial Reports of District
2. Personnel
 - a. Resignations
 1. Jeff Corkery, Superintendent
 2. Erin Hosch, Freshmen Softball, WDHS
 3. Kathy Link, Elementary Teacher, FES
 4. Donna Marxen, Art Teacher
 5. Donna Marxen, Asst. HS Drama, CHS
 6. Donna Marxen, Asst. HS Musical Dir., CHS
 7. Matt Meier, Asst. Girls Varsity Track, CHS
 8. Keri West, Middle School Cross Country, DMIS
 - b. Employment
 1. Jacob Brindle, Weight Room Supervisor 1/8 time, CHS, \$430.28
 2. Christopher Johnson, 7th Grade Boys Basketball, DMIS, \$2,294.80
 3. Kendra Kirk, Middle School Cross Country, DMIS, 8% of 2015-16 B.A. base
 4. Kori Kremer, Asst. Varsity Girls Soccer, WDHS, \$2,294.80
 5. Michael Sconsa, Weight Room Supervisor 1/8 time, CHS, \$430.28
 6. Grant Wulf, Freshmen Baseball, WDHS, \$2,294.80
2. Out of State Travel - None
3. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings - None
4. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests
 - a. Approve Phone System Hardware Upgrade
6. Resolutions - None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Approve School Fees for 2015-16. Motion by Vaske, second by Lembezeder to approve the 2015-2016 Fee Schedule as presented. Business Manager Mark Frasher indicated there were no major changes and that fees are typically increased by 3-5%. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Finalize two options for Elementary Attendance Centers. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve reducing the options in regard to boundary changes and class size alignment for the elementary feeder schools to both Epworth High School and Cascade High School. Superintendent Corkery indicated the action reduces the options to two but this could be adjusted as the Board sees fit. Motion passed 5-0. Community meetings to present boundary and grade alignment options to the community are scheduled for March 3 at WDHS Auditorium and March 4 at CHS Auditorium, both meetings beginning at 6:30 p.m. with Board decision anticipated at March 9 Board meeting.

3. Setting of hearing for 2015-16 Calendar. Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to set the hearing for the 2015-16 School Calendar for the March 9 Board meeting. The District has three calendar options available at this time pending action by the State legislature. Current legislation has Iowa schools starting no earlier than the week in which September 1 falls but legislators are considering a compromise that may allow schools to begin the week of August 23. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Setting of hearing for WDHS vocational building project and awarding of the bid. Motion by Tilson, second by Lembezeder to set the hearing for the WDHS vocational building project and awarding of the bid at a special meeting on March 16. Bids are due March 12. Motion passed 5-0.

Closed Session: Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) – Review Superintendent candidates’ credentials and candidates requested confidentiality. Motion by Lembezeder, second by Vaske 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 7:43 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 8:02 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Coppola, second by Lembezeder to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. on February 16, 2015.

Jeni Schindler
Board Secretary

Mark Knuth
President, Board of Education