

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

March 12, 2014 - 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

Board President Gary McAndrew 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 Gary McAndrew, Vice-President Mark Knuth, Jeanne Coppola, Mark Tilson, Chad Vaske and Superintendent Jeff Corkery.

Approval of Agenda:

The following changes to the published agenda were presented:

Consent Agenda:

Resignation: LuAnn Willenborg, Kindergarten Teacher – DES

Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests:

Sprinkler system bids – CHS

Copier bids – WDHS

New Business:

Approve Cooperative Agreements

Hempstead – Boys Swimming

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

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

Open Forum: It was noted the evening's Board meeting was the final for retiring Business Manager/Board Secretary Dave Wegmann. Visitors in attendance included retired Superintendent Harold Knutsen and former Board member Bob McCabe.

Superintendent Corkery and Board members presented Mr. Wegmann with a token gift, and on behalf of the District, staff, and community, expressed deep appreciation for all he has done for the Western Dubuque School District. Mr. Wegmann thanked the Board and expressed his appreciation to the many excellent Board members, Superintendents, administrators and all employees he has worked with over the last 44 years. Mr. Wegmann indicated it has been enjoyable to watch the District progress from its' early days.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

1. Minutes of February 10, 2014 Regular Meeting and February 13, 2014 Special Meeting. Motion by Tilson, second by Vaske to approve the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Bills and Claims for the month of February. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve the bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

1. Principals' Reports: Topics discussed were: Teacher Peer Reviews, family involvement in the schools, Parent Survey participation, Instructional Coaching opportunities, Quiz Bowl, school play, student reading and writing improvements, Friendship Dance, movie night, Education Reform, TLC, Parent-teacher conference attendance, athletic and activity successes, and construction progress.

2. Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Jeff Corkery reported Western Dubuque was one of 39 Districts awarded the Teacher Leadership and Compensation grant out of 146 that applied across the State. Kelly Simon, Dan Butler, Megan Birt, Olin Skattum, Tiffany Shekleton and Superintendent Corkery made up the committee that applied for the grant. With the grant award, eight to ten Instructional Coaches will be hired from among current teaching staff and the vacancies created by these moves will be filled. Superintendent Corkery commended Kelly Simon and the committee and indicated the bar is raised for the District and there is a tremendous amount of work ahead.

3. Legislative Update:

Superintendent Jeff Corkery indicated the legislative focus last year in the area of education was TLC and Operational Sharing by Districts with other Districts, Cities or Counties; Superintendent Corkery indicated he would like to see legislators focus on assistance with transportation funding. The monies spent at Western Dubuque just getting students to and from school could be better spent on education. The failure of legislators to set District funding in a timely manner creates difficulties when planning for the future.

4. Summer School: Summer School report to be provided at a later date.

5. Iowa Tests of Basic Skills: Iowa Test of Basic Skills report to be provided at a later date.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 5-0. Sprinkler system bids for CHS were tabled until the April Board meeting.

1. Financial Reports of District

2. Personnel

a. Resignations

1. Darla Hermsen Varsity Volleyball Asst. - WDHS
2. Molly Knuth 7-12 English Teacher - CHS
3. Billie Barth K-12 Vocal Music – Bernard & CHS
4. LuAnn Willenborg Kindergarten Teacher - DES

b. Employment

1. Chad Gehl Varsity Softball Asst. – CHS \$2,256.00
2. Mark Frasher Business Manager – Effective April 1, 2014
3. Jeni Schindler Board Secretary – Effective April 1, 2014 and the oath of office will be administered to Ms. Schindler by an officer of the Board on that date.

3. Out of State Travel - None

4. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings - None

5. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests

a. DRA Grants

b. Construction Projects – Furniture bids CHS and WDHS

c. Sprinkler system bids – CHS – Tabled until April Board meeting

d. Copier bids – WDHS

6. Resolutions

a. Resolution recognizing National Paraprofessional Appreciation Day

Old Business:

1. Public Hearing for 2014-15 Calendar: Motion by Vaske, second by Tilson to set the public hearing on the 2014-15 School Calendar for the April 14 meeting. Motion passed 5-0. Superintendent Corkery provided an overview of the proposed school calendar noting the calendar is based on hours rather than days. The proposed calendar has 177 days with hours totaling 1,113; 33 hours over the required 1,080 to allow room for late starts and early dismissals. Calendar highlights: August 18 start date, May 21 end date; 15 teacher learning days; semester ending before winter break. Overall feedback on the proposed calendar has been positive.

New Business:

1. Review Affirmative Action Plan. Motion by Coppola, second by Knuth to approve Affirmative Action Plan as presented. Motion passed 5-0. Superintendent Jeff Corkery indicated the Affirmative Action Plan of the District is updated annually based on data analysis and hiring goals developed accordingly. The Board approves the Affirmative Action Plan biennially.

2. Publishing of Estimates and Setting of Public Hearing Date – 2014-15 Budget. Assistant Business Manager Mark Frasher presented the Board with an overview of the 2014-15 budget. Motion by Tilson, second by Vaske to publish the following 2014-15 budget estimates and set the public hearing date for April 14, 2014. Motion passed 5-0.

Expenses - ALL FUNDS	Budget 2015
*Instruction	\$23,905,554
*Total Support Services (lines 24-31)	\$11,771,818
*Noninstructional Programs	\$2,040,573
*Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35)	\$5,602,511
Total Expenditures	\$43,320,456
Proposed Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable valuation)	\$13.07816

Business Manager Dave Wegmann provided a short review of budget and expenditure items from the 1970-71 budget year as point of comparison with current costs and budgets. He started his career with Western Dubuque in May of 1970.

3. Approve Cooperative Agreements. Motion by Coppola, second by Tilson to approve the following cooperative agreements. Motion passed 5-0.
 - a. Dubuque Senior – Girls Swimming
 - b. Cascade – Boys/Girls Soccer
 - c. Hempstead – Boys Swimming

4. Closed Session: Iowa Code 20.17(3) for discussion of collective bargaining issues. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to hold a closed session as authorized by Iowa Code 20.17(3) of the Iowa Code to discuss collective bargaining issues. Roll call vote: McAndrew-yes; Knuth-yes; Coppola-yes; Tilson-yes; Vaske-yes. Motion passed 5-0. The board entered into closed session at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 8:45 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Tilson, second by Vaske to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m. on March 12, 2014.

David A. Wegmann
Board Secretary

Gary McAndrew
President, Board of Education