

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 13, 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:

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

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

Open Forum: No comments or communications were received.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

1. Minutes of December 9, 2013 Work Session and Regular Session Meetings. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve the minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Bills and Claims for the month of December. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve the bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

1. Principals' Reports:

Topics discussed were: CES Academic Family Night, CHS Character Ed., State Speech Conference, CHS building project progression, CHS \$2,500 McElroy grant award, discontinuation of YMCA before and after school care program at DES, Response to Intervention (Rtl) success, report card issuance, DMIS Talent Show success, DMIS raised nearly \$800 for Salvation Army, EES and FES students working on persuasive essays, EES and FES purchasing security cameras with DRA grant monies, College and Career Fair at WDHS attended by sophomores and juniors at both high schools, 2014-2015 student registration, At-Risk Modified Allowable Growth approval, Kid's Expo planning underway.

2. Superintendent Report:

- Superintendent Corkery commended Tina Brestrup for her work on At-Risk Modified Allowable Growth and Kelly Simon for her work on the Education Reform Application.
- Work on Crisis Planning is ongoing. Staff attended A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Intruder Training on the January 2nd professional development day. Feedback from staff indicated the training was well received.

- Superintendent Jeff Corkery attended the 2014 Forecast Luncheon sponsored by the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce. Ideas and anticipated changes for the upcoming year were shared by members, legislators and healthcare, manufacturing, education, insurance and small business leaders.
- Superintendent Jeff Corkery reported reduced allowable growth has forced program reductions at Western Dubuque the past two years. Iowa's total expenditures per pupil have fallen in recent years, compared to the rest of the nation. In just twelve months, Iowa fell from 31st to 37th in per pupil spending as compared to the national average. Iowa spends \$1,514 less per student than the national average. Our needs have not decreased and with Iowa's poverty rate reaching 30% our state leaders need to address this change in our schools in the School Finance formula.
- The District will need to make a decision in the next several months on whether to continue with the existing school calendar based on 180 days of school or to switch to a calendar based on 1,080 hours of instruction. New legislation will require all schools to have a minimum of 6 hours of instruction per day if they continue with the 180 day calendar concept. Days on which there is a late start or early dismissal would still need to have a minimum of 6 hours of instruction to be counted as a day of school for School Districts that select the 180 day calendar option.

3. Curriculum Update - Simon:

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Kelly Simon presented an overview of Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC). TLC planning team members Superintendent Corkery, Dan Butler, Olin Skattum, Megan Birt, Tiffany Shekleton and Kelly Simon have worked diligently to obtain this competitive grant. The grant would support teacher leadership opportunities, funding for those opportunities, improvement of instructional strategies on a wider scale, increased opportunities for observation and collaboration, assistance with RTI delivery and daily professional development. The goal is to have all Iowa schools participating by the 2016-2017 school year. 115 school districts are applying this year with \$50 million available for 2014-2015. If awarded Western Dubuque would receive \$310 per student based on certified enrollment. The grant is due January 31st with announcement of the awards in March.

4. Western Dubuque Senior High Building Highlights:

Instructors Brian Kuhle and Lindsey Digmann along with student Megan Kemp presented an overview of the American Studies course at WDHS. The class, taken by each high school junior, combines History and US Literature instruction. Purchased textbooks are not used for the course but rather an online curriculum accessed by students in the classroom using Microsoft Surface tablets. The result has been a culmination of curriculum and technology that the students both enjoy and excel at.

Consent Agenda: Board member Jeanne Coppola lightheartedly requested that David Wegmann's resignation be removed from the consent agenda as she did not want to act on the request. Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of the resignation of David Wegmann, Business Manager/Board Secretary. Motion passed 5-0. Action on the resignation was taken up separate from the Consent Agenda.

1. Financial Reports of District
2. Personnel
 - a. Resignations
 - a. Megan Ries – Freshman Volleyball - WDHS
 - b. Employment
 1. Jennifer Maki – Assistant Director HS Musical – WDHS \$1,128.00
 2. Megan Ries – Head Varsity Volleyball – WDHS 14% of 2014-15 Base
3. Out of State Travel - none
4. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings - none
5. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests
 - i. Wrestling Mat - WDHS
6. Resolutions
 - i. Para educators
 - ii. School Counselors

Resignation: David Wegmann - Business Manager/Board Secretary. Motion by Coppola, second by Knuth to reluctantly accept the resignation of David Wegmann, Business Manager/Board Secretary. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board and Superintendent commended Mr. Wegmann on being a valuable asset to the Western Dubuque School District. Mr. Wegmann's name has become synonymous with Western Dubuque; he is well respected throughout the District and the State of Iowa for his knowledge of school matters. The Board and Superintendent thanked Mr. Wegmann for his service to Western Dubuque and expressed he will be missed.

Mr. Wegmann thanked the Board members and Superintendent Corkery for the opportunities provided him over the past 44 years. He also commended the many excellent School Boards, Superintendents, administrators, teachers and other employees for the work they have done over the years to make Western Dubuque what it is today. He noted that the District has grown:

- From skeletal instructional and activity programs to the accomplished and awarded programs that are available today.
- From the 50 plus portable classrooms in the early 1990's to today's very respectable and functional facilities that the students and communities can be proud of.
- From very limited financial resources to stable and reliable funding.

Old Business:

1. Approval of Modified Allowable Growth At-Risk adjustment. Motion by Vaske, second by Tilson to adjust the amount of the District's request to the SBRC up to \$776,515 from the amount of \$746,886 approved last month. The amount is being adjusted slightly upward because exact figures from the state became available. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business:

1. Approve Education Reform Application. Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the Education Reform Application. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Approve PreSchool Fees for 2014-15. Motion by Tilson, second by Coppola to approve setting the 2014-2015 preschool fee at \$100 per month. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Approve Student Expulsion of student #300378. Motion by Vaske, second by Knuth to approve the expulsion of student #300378. Roll call vote: McAndrew-yes; Knuth-yes; Coppola-abstain; Tilson-yes; Vaske-yes. Motion passed 4-0.
4. First Reading 200 Series Policies Board of Directors. Motion by Coppola, second by Tilson to approve first reading of the 200 series policies and policies 102, 102.E1, 102.R1, 104, 104.E1, 104.E3, 401.1, 500, 501.3, 501.9 and 501.10R1 as presented. Motion passed 5-0.
5. First Reading Policy 102 Equal Educational Opportunity
6. First Reading Policy 102.E1 Section 504 Notice of Nondiscrimination.
7. First Reading Policy 102.R1 Grievance Procedure.
8. First Reading Policy 104 Anti-bullying/Harassment
9. First Reading Policy 104.E1 Harassment/Bullying Complaint Form
10. First Reading Policy 104.E3 Disposition of Anti-bullying/Harassment Complaint Form
11. First Reading Policy 401.1 Equal Employment Opportunity
12. First Reading Policy 500 Objectives for Equal Educational Opportunities for Students
13. First Reading Policy 501.3 Compulsory Attendance
14. First Reading Policy 501.9 Student Absences – Excused
15. First Reading Policy 501.10R1 Truancy – Unexcused Absences Regulation
16. Closed Session: Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) - Superintendent Evaluation. Motion by Vaske, second by Tilson to hold a closed session as authorized by section 21.5(1)(i) of the Iowa Code to discuss and conduct an evaluation of the Superintendent and the Superintendent requested the session be closed. Roll call vote: McAndrew-yes; Knuth-yes; Coppola-yes; Tilson-yes; Vaske-yes. Motion passed 5-0. The board entered into closed session at 7:31 p.m. and reconvened to open session at 7:57 p.m.
17. Closed Session: Iowa Code 20.18(3) for discussion of collective bargaining issues. Motion by Tilson, second by Knuth to hold a closed session as authorized by Iowa Code 20.18(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 8:00 p.m. and reconvened into open session at 9:30 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m. on January 13, 2014.

David A. Wegmann
Board Secretary

Gary McAndrew
President, Board of Education