

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 13, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Board President Bob McCabe 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 Vision Statement and Goals.

Roll Call:

Present were President Bob McCabe, Vice-President Jeanne Coppola, Mark Knuth, Gary McAndrew, Chad Vaske and Superintendent Jeff Corkery.

Approval of Agenda:

The following changes to the Agenda were announced:

Consent Agenda: Resignations – Mr. Tim Showalter, Principal Epworth Elementary;

Lynn Nehl, Sophomore Softball WDHS and Brett Featherston, Assist. V. Baseball Cascade HS.

Equipment Requests: Correction – Published Agenda listed SchoolStream as vendor for Fiber-Optic Lease Agreement. Mediacom is the vendor for the Lease Agreement.

Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to approve the Agenda with the noted changes. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Corkery noted that accepting the resignation letter from Tim Showalter was not an easy task. He noted that Tim has been with the District for 46 years. He served as teacher for 9 years and a dedicated building administrator for 37 years. The work ethic and the professionalism that he exhibited will be missed. A warm round of applause was given by those in attendance.

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

Open Forum: No comments were received from the public.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

- a. January Regular, Workshop and Special Meetings. Motion by Vaske, second by Coppola to approve the Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Bills and Claims for the month of January: Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to approve the bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

Principals Reports: Topics included – All school reading program, building leadership team activities, study of student lead conferences at Cascade/Bernard, high honor roll numbers at Cascade HS., School Spirit Show (KWWL TV) at Cascade HS, use of Rick Wormeli concepts at DMIS, PBIS is having a positive impact for teacher substitutes, Friendship dance April 17th at Dyersville Elementary, interventions for lower achieving students, Spring Carnival on Aril 19th at Drexler Elementary, Wamac Leadership Conference at WDHS, only 38 failing grades out of 5700 course grades issued at the semester for WDHS, new on-line professional development program for teachers to be implemented and special program for students on alcohol and technology abuse to be held at WDHS on March 13th.

Drexler Middle School Building Highlights: Instructor Kelly Simon provided the Board with an overview of a method that the DMIS is using to improve reading at the school. She provides reading assistance to students in a special enrollment Social Studies class taught by fellow instructor Wes Dolphin. At the Junior High level most students no longer receive reading instruction and subsequently struggle with the reading tasks required of the various course offerings. The goal of this special assignment is to help students with the reading of Social Studies and other academic area materials. Mrs. Simon reported that initial results have been very good and that the students have found it to be very helpful.

Superintendent Report: Mr. Corkery announced the District's newly revised Plan On A Page and District Scorecard will be presented at the March School Board meeting. Education reforms are still being debated in the Iowa Legislature with no clear idea of where it may end up at. Pre-School and Kindergarten registrations have begun.

Consent Agenda: Motion by McAndrew, second by Knuth to approve the Consent Agenda with the noted changes. Motion passed 5-0.

- a. Financial Reports of District
- b. Personnel
 1. Resignations
 - a) Tim Showalter – Building Principal – Epworth Elementary
 - b) Lynn Nehl – Soph. Softball – WDHS
 - c) Brett Featherston – Assist. Varsity Baseball - CHS
 - d) Shelley Knepper – Full-time Speech Asst. – CHS
 - e) Susan Turner – Half-time Speech Asst. – CHS
 - f) Chris Curry – Athletic Director - CHS
 2. Employment
 - a) Jodi Boge – Middle School Quiz Bowl – DMIS \$544.80
 - b) Tyler Goedken - Boys Varsity Soccer Co-Asst. - WDHS \$1,089.60
 - c) Jay Hefel – Middle School Boys Asst. Track – DMIS \$1,089.60
 - d) Shelley Knepper - Half-time Speech Asst. - CHS \$817.20
 - e) Lindy Mabeus - Girls Varsity Soccer Asst. - WDHS \$2,179.20
 - f) Timothy Nieman - Boys Varsity Soccer Co-Asst. - WDHS \$1,089.60
 - g) Lindsay Schlichtmann - Middle School Drama Asst. - DMIS \$817.20
 - h) Susan Turner - Full-time Speech Assistant - CHS \$1,634.40
- c. Out of State Travel

- d. Policy Revisions 1st and 2nd Readings
- e. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests
 - 1. Fiber-Optic Lease Agreement with Mediacom
 - 2. Tableau Student Software

Old Business: Public Hearing: Approval of 2012-13 School Calendar. Motion by Knuth, second by Vaske to open the public hearing on the proposed school calendars for the 2012-13 school year. Motion passed 5-0. Several written comments were received prior to the meeting. No comments were made during the hearing. Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to close the public hearing. Motion passed 5-0.
Motion by Vaske, second by Knuth to adopt Option 1 of the proposed calendars for the 2012-13 school year. Motion passed 5-0. School will begin on Monday, August 20th for grades 2-12 and Wednesday, August 22nd for grades Prek, Kindergarten and 1st grade. Last day of school is Tuesday, May 28th.

New Business:

- a. 1st Reading 501.5A: Assignment of Students to Schools: Motion by McAndrew, second by Coppola to approve the 1st Reading. All voting yes. Motion passed 5-0. If adopted (2nd Reading), the transportation fee for school assignment waivers will no longer be assessed and attendance waivers will be granted unless resulting class sizes exceed maximums listed in Board Policy 606.1R.
- b. 1st Reading 704.2R1 Post-Issuance Compliance for Tax-Exempt Bonds. Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to approve the 1st Reading. Motion passed 5-0.
- c. Approve 2012-13 Fees. Motion by McAndrew, second by Coppola to approve the fees as presented. Motion passed 5-0. The fee schedule will be posted on the District's Web Page.
- d. Approve School Budget Review Committee Allowable Growth Application for the Limited English Program. Motion by Coppola, second by Knuth to approve the District's application to the School Budget Review Committee for additional allowable growth in the amount of \$68,433 for the District's Limited English Program. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. **Resolution to Direct the County Commissioner of Elections to Provide for a Submission of the Proposition of Levying a Physical Plant and Equipment Levy to the Voters in the School District.**

Director Knuth introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption. Director McAndrew seconded the motion to adopt and, on roll call, the vote was:

AYES: McCabe, Coppola, McAndrew, Knuth and Vaske

NAYS: None

The President declared the Resolution adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TO DIRECT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR A SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSITION OF LEVYING A PHYSICAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT LEVY TO THE VOTERS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, Chapter 298, Code of Iowa, provides for the imposition of a physical plant and equipment levy and for the submission of levying a voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy to the voters; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that it is in the best interests of the Western Dubuque County Community School District to submit the proposition to the voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Directors of the Western Dubuque County Community School District determines that it is in the best interests of the School District to seek authorization from the voters to provide for a physical plant and equipment levy as provided for in Chapter 298, Code of Iowa.

2. The County Commissioner of Elections is directed to provide for submitting the proposition of levying the voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy for a period of ten years to the voters in the School District. The following Public Measure is approved, and the Secretary is authorized and directed to submit and file the Public Measure for the Ballot with the Dubuque County Commissioner of Elections at least 46 days prior to the election.

3. The County Commissioner of Elections shall make provisions for submitting the following question to the qualified electors of the School District in the Counties of Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson, Jones and Clayton on April 3, 2012:

SHALL THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEASURE BE ADOPTED?

Shall the Board of Directors of the Western Dubuque County Community School District, in the Counties of Dubuque, Clayton, Delaware, Jackson and Jones, State of Iowa, be authorized to levy an annual physical plant and equipment levy upon all taxable property in said School District, said levy not to exceed \$1.00 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation in any one school year, for a period of ten (10) years, commencing with the levy to be made for collection in the fiscal year which begins July 1, 2012, the money received from the levy shall be expended only for those purposes now or hereafter authorized by Iowa Code Chapter 298.

[END OF BALLOT LANGUAGE]

4. That the notice of the election and ballot form used at the election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Rules. The District requests the polls will open at 7:00 o'clock A.M. and close at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

5. That the Election Board for the voting precinct or precincts be appointed by the County Commissioner of Elections, not less than 15 days before the date of the election, a certified copy of which appointment must be officially placed on file in the office of the Secretary.

6. The Commissioner of Elections is requested and directed to make publication of the Notice of Election at least once, not less than four days nor more than twenty days prior to the date of the election, in a legal newspaper, printed wholly in the English language, as defined by Iowa Code Section 618.3.

7. The *Dyersville Commercial* and the *Cascade Pioneer-Advertiser*, legal newspapers, are published within the District and are hereby designated to make the publication of the Notice of Election.

8. That the County Commissioner of Elections shall prepare all ballots and election registers and other supplies as necessary for the property and legal conduct of this election and the Secretary of the Board is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Commissioner of Elections in the preparation of the necessary proceedings.

9. That the Secretary is directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution in the Office of the County Commissioner of Elections to constitute the "written notice" to the County Commissioner of Elections of the election date, required to be given by the governing body under the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 47

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of February, 2012.

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f. Acceptance of Petition to Call for a Bond Issue Vote.

Mr. Mark Tilson from Peosta, Iowa introduced himself and presented the following petition with 779 names on it calling for vote on a \$16.5 million bond issue. Comments in support for the Petition and favorable action by the School Board were as follows:

Mark Tilson: An advocacy committee has been organized under the name of "Our Future Now" with himself as President and Travis Schlemme as Treasurer. He indicated that broad support exists for a \$16.5 million Bond Issue and the proposed \$1.00 voted tax rate for a Physical Plant and Equipment Levy. The proposals are tax neutral and provide an exceptional opportunity that will benefit students, taxpayers and communities.

Michael Omarzu – Instructor WDHS: A significant need exists for an Auditorium; 1/3 of all students come through the fine arts classrooms, ventilation is poor; many opportunities for Speech, Drama, community activities and guest speakers cannot be properly accommodated with the current setup. Winter athletics have a gym; but fine arts have no Auditorium.

Steven Wilming – Peosta: Support issuance of bonds and a gymnasium in Cascade; additions are needed and they keep kids involved in the schools; smaller area schools have better facilities and more opportunities; helps to keep people in the District and also attracts industry.

Douglas Hunt – Cascade: Supports the request and it represents an opportunity that we cannot pass up; it is beneficial that the proposal will help both high schools at the same time versus the past history of only one school getting improvements at a time; property tax neutral is a big plus.

Gary Gansen – Epworth: Acoustics and the sound system in the gymnasium is not designed for fine arts performances - poor substitute for a needed auditorium; one issue helps both high schools, thank you to the School Board for their vision on the ballot issue questions.

Sandy Gassman – Epworth: Gymnasiums and Auditoriums are classrooms. Ballot issue also includes the addition of needed regular classrooms.

Motion by Coppola, second by Knuth to accept the following Petition with 779 names as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Board Comments: Thanks for the support – a significant effort will be needed; thanks to the administration for pursuing the needs and finding a method to ensure a property tax neutral funding method; locker rooms at Cascade HS have not changed since 1961; safety and security at the two high schools is an absolute necessity.

PETITION

TO THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTIES OF DUBUQUE, DELAWARE, JACKSON, JONES AND CLAYTON, STATE OF IOWA:

We, the undersigned, are eligible electors, reside within the School District and petition the Board of Directors of the School District to call a special election to submit to the voters of the School District the following proposition the purpose of which cannot be accomplished within the limit of one and one-quarter percent of the assessed value of the taxable property within the School District:

Shall the Board of Directors of the Western Dubuque County Community School District in the Counties of Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson, Jones and Clayton, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$16,500,000 – funds will be used for technology upgrades District-Wide and to build additions to, remodel, improve, repair, furnish and equip the following buildings and sites: Cascade Jr./Sr. High School, Cascade Elementary, Drexler Middle /Intermediate School, Peosta Elementary and Western Dubuque High School?

g. Resolution Ordering a Special Election on the Issuance of not to exceed \$16,500,000 General Obligation School Bonds

The President of the Board called the meeting together and stated that a Petition had been filed purporting to be signed by eligible electors of the School District numbering at least 25% of those voting at the last election of school officials. The Petition requests that an election be called on the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed \$16,500,000, to provide funds to be used for technology upgrades District-Wide and to build additions to, remodel, improve, repair, furnish and equip the following buildings and sites: Cascade Jr./Sr. High School, Cascade Elementary, Drexler Middle /Intermediate School, Peosta Elementary and Western Dubuque High School.

The President submitted the Petition to the Board which examined the Petition. 296 qualified electors voted at the last election of school officials; the number of eligible electors who have signed the petition is 779.

Director McAndrew introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption. Director Coppola seconded the motion to adopt and, on roll call, the vote was:

AYES: McCabe, Coppola, McAndrew, Knuth and Vaske

NAYS: None

The President declared the Resolution adopted as follows:

**RESOLUTION ORDERING A SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE
ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$16,500,000 GENERAL
OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS**

WHEREAS, there has been filed with the President of this Board a Petition of eligible electors of this School District asking that an election be called to submit the question of contracting indebtedness and issuing bonds of the School District in an amount not to exceed \$16,500,000 to provide funds to be used for technology upgrades District-Wide and to build additions to, remodel, improve, repair, furnish and equip the following buildings and sites: Cascade Jr./Sr. High School, Cascade Elementary, Drexler Middle /Intermediate School, Peosta Elementary and Western Dubuque High School; and

WHEREAS, this Board has examined the Petition and finds that it is signed by eligible electors of the School District numbering at least 25% of those voting at the last election of school officials and that the purposes set forth in the petition cannot be accomplished within the limit of one and one-quarter percent of the assessed value of the taxable property in the School District; and

WHEREAS, the proposal for the issuance of Bonds or any other proposal incorporating any portion of it has not or will not have been submitted to the qualified electors of the School District for a period of at least six months prior to the date of election being called in these Proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTIES OF DUBUQUE, CLAYTON, DELAWARE, JACKSON AND JONES, STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. That an election is called of the qualified electors of the Western Dubuque County Community School District in the Counties of Dubuque, Clayton, Delaware, Jackson and Jones, State of Iowa, on Tuesday, April 3, 2012. The following Proposition is approved, and the Secretary is authorized and directed to submit and file the Proposition for the Ballot with the Dubuque County Commissioner of Elections at least 46 days prior to the election:

SHALL THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEASURE BE ADOPTED?

PROPOSITION A

YES []

NO []

Shall the Board of Directors of the Western Dubuque County Community School District in the Counties of Dubuque, Clayton, Delaware, Jackson and Jones, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$16,500,000 - funds will be used for technology upgrades District-Wide and to build additions to, remodel, improve, repair, furnish and equip the following buildings and sites: Cascade Jr./Sr. High School, Cascade Elementary, Drexler Middle /Intermediate School, Peosta Elementary and Western Dubuque High School?

[END OF BALLOT LANGUAGE]

Section 2. That the notice of the election and ballot form used at the election shall be prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Iowa Code and Iowa Administrative Rules. The District requests the polls will open at 7:00 o'clock A.M. and close at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

Section 3. That the Election Board for the voting precinct or precincts be appointed by the County Commissioner of Elections, not less than 15 days before the date of the election, a certified copy of which appointment must be officially placed on file in the office of the Secretary.

Section 4. The Commissioner of Elections is requested and directed to make publication of the Notice of Election at least once, not less than four days nor more than twenty days prior to the date of the election, in a legal newspaper, printed wholly in the English language, as defined by Iowa Code section 618.3.

Section 5. The *Dyersville Commercial* and the *Cascade Pioneer-Advertiser*, legal newspapers, are published within the District and is hereby designated to make the publication of the Notice of Election.

Section 6. That the County Commissioner of Elections shall prepare all ballots and election registers and other supplies as necessary for the proper and legal conduct of this election and the Secretary of the Board is authorized and directed to cooperate with the Commissioner of Elections in the preparation of the necessary proceedings.

Section 7. That the Secretary is directed to file a certified copy of this Resolution in the Office of the County Commissioner of Elections to constitute the "written notice" to the County Commissioner of Elections of the election date, required to be given by the governing body under the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 47.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of February, 2012.

Adjournment: Motion by McAndrew, second by Coppola to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. on February 13, 2012.

David A. Wegmann
Board Secretary

Robert McCabe
President, Board of Education