

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

October 10, 2011 – 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, Chad Vaske and Superintendent Jeff Corkery. Absent: Gary McAndrew.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Knuth, second by Coppola to approve the Agenda as published. Motion passed 4-0.

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

Open Forum: No comments were received.

Approval of:

- a. September 9, 2011 regular session; September 19, 2011 workshop, regular session and organizational meeting. Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the Minutes. Motion passed 4-0.
- b. Bills and Claims for the month of September: Motion by Coppola second by Knuth to approve the bills. Motion passed 4-0.

Reports:

- I. Principals Reports: Topics included fire department visits, building goals, I-Pads in the classrooms, Dubuque Area Youth Leadership Council - selection of Cascade and WDHS students, MAAP testing, Drexler MS play tryouts, Project Cheer – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, community service projects, construction expo, added PreK classroom at Dyersville, building lockdown plans, parent teacher organization donations and professional development topics.
- II. Farley Elementary Building Highlights: Assistant Principal Dan Butler and P.T.O. President Vicky Coyle provided an overview of the parent organizations membership, goals, purposes, activities and fundraising activities.
- III. Annual Progress Report: Dawn Schiro – Director of Instruction reviewed the Annual Progress Report to the Community for the 2010-11 school year. The report identifies District goals and measures of performance in the areas of Reading, Math and Science along with other District selected areas. The five goals are 1. Improve student performance in literacy, math, science, social studies and twenty-first century skills 2. Provide a safe environment that supports student social, emotional and behavioral development 3. Ensure a high performance staff that utilizes exemplary professional practices 4. Provide equitable and adequate resources while operating with fiscal integrity and 5. Increase community support for student learning. The complete report is available in the District Administration Office.

- IV. Transportation Annual Report: Bob Hingtgen provided the Board with data take from the District's annual report submitted to the Dept. of Education for the 2010-11 school year. Included were route miles, number of routes, selective cost items, and other significant bussing information. He noted that the District's reimbursement claim for private school busing of \$710,538 was shorted by \$172,548 for the 2010-11 school year. The reimbursement method that was used for the 1st semester would have resulted in a much larger annual shortfall; but, the District successfully petitioned the Department of Education to revise their reimbursement formula to the method used in previous years. The primary reason for the shortfall is underfunding of the program by the State of Iowa.
- V. Superintendent Report: Topics discussed were 1. Re-writing of the District's Strategic Plan with input from the District committee 2. State Transportation Committee projects and funding issues 3. Pending agreement with the City of Farley and the Dubuque County Library Board for use of the new Drexler MS library 4. Governor Branstad's Reform Education proposal and 5. Discussions with staff on the message provided by speaker Rick Wormeli at the District's 09-01-2011 professional development workshop.
- VI. Certified Annual Financial Report: Information from the District's 2010-11 Certified Financial Report to the Dept. of Education was presented by David Wegmann. Included were fund revenue and expense summaries, payroll information, trends, solvency ratio, utility and fuel costs and sales tax revenue and expense projections.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion passed 4-0.

- a. Financial Reports of District
- b. Personnel
 - 1. Resignations
 - 1. Kayleigh Green – 9th Grade Softball Coach – CHS
 - 2. Carol Van Deest – Varsity Softball Coach - CHS
 - 2. Employment
- c. Out of State Travel
 - 1. WDHS Spanish Club to Guatemala
- d. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings
- e. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests
- f. Resolutions
 - 1. Resolution for National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 10-17, 2011

Old Business: None

New Business:

Instructional Support Program: Superintendent Corkery provided an overview of the existing program and the new five-year program beginning July 1, 2012. Topics covered were history, public and private school usage, funding sources, state-wide participation numbers, the need to continue the program and possible plans to remove the purchase of school buses from this program to the district's Physical Plant and Equipment Fund. A per pupil formula based upon actual funding of the program will be the basis for annual allocations for instructional materials to the area private schools. Planned expenses are for Teacher Wages, Technology Purchases, School Bus Purchases, Private School Instructional Materials and Athletic Trainer expenses for the public and private schools.

- a. Public Hearing on Intent to Participate in Instructional Support Levy. Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to open the public hearing. Motion passed 4-0. Coby Culbertson, District Technology Director spoke in favor of continuing the program citing needs and certainty of funding for planning purposes. No other comments were received nor made for or against the District's intent to participate in the Instructional Support Program. Motion by Knuth, second by Coppola to close the public hearing. Motion passed 4-0.
- b. Resolution on Intent to Participate in Instructional Support Levy

Director Knuth introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set forth and moved its adoption; seconded by Director Coppola; after due consideration thereof by the Board, the President put the question upon the adoption of said Resolution and, the roll being called, the following Directors voted:

Aye: McCabe, Coppola, Knuth and Vaske

Nay: None

Whereupon, the President declared said Resolution duly adopted, as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, following a public hearing, the Board of Directors of the Western Dubuque County Community School District (Board) deems it necessary and desirable to provide additional funding for the Western Dubuque County Community School District pursuant to the Instructional Support Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to a duly published notice, the Board held a public hearing on the question of participation in the Instructional Support Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board received and considered public input from citizens and taxpayers attending the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to take action to adopt a Resolution to Participate in the Instructional Support Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board:

Section 1: That the Board adopts the following Resolution of Participation for the Instructional Support Program.

RESOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION

“That the Board of Directors of the Western Dubuque County Community School District shall for a period of five (5) years levy and impose an Instructional Support Program tax in an amount not exceeding ten (10 %) of the total regular program district cost, and be authorized annually, in combination, to levy an Instructional Support Program Property Tax with the levy of property taxes for collection commencing in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, and to impose an Instructional Support Income Surtax upon each individual income taxpayer resident in the School District on December 31 for each calendar year commencing with calendar year 2012 and each year thereafter (the percent of income tax to be determined by the Board of Directors each year in an amount not to exceed the amount allowed under Iowa law) to be used for any general fund purpose permitted by Iowa law.”

Section 2: That all resolutions or orders or parts thereof in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Passed and approved this 10th day of October, 2011.

Adjournment: Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. on October 10, 2011.

David A. Wegmann
Board Secretary

Robert McCabe
President, Board of Education