

**SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
AUGUST 22, 2005
5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

President Jorgensen called the special meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. Present: Directors Batcheller, Benson, Daane, Johnson, Jorgensen, Mounts, and Peterson.

Approval of Agenda

Director Mounts moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried 7-0.

Approval of /Adjourn to Closed Session

Director Batcheller moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion that the board go into a closed session to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. The motion carried 7-0, and the board adjourned to closed session at 5:02 p.m.

Return to Open Session

Director Batcheller moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion to return to open session. The motion carried 7-0, and the board returned to open session at 6:02 p.m.

Adjourn

Director Johnson moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion to adjourn the special meeting. The motion carried 7-0, and the closed session adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

**SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
AUGUST 22, 2005
6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

President Jorgensen called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Present: Directors Batcheller, Benson, Daane, Johnson, Jorgensen, Mounts, and Peterson.

Approval of Agenda

Director Batcheller moved and Director Johnson seconded the motion to approve the agenda with emendations. The motion carried 7-0.

Citizen Input

None.

Superintendent's Evaluation

President Jorgensen stated that the board had met in executive session this afternoon to evaluate the professional competency of the superintendent. President Jorgensen summarized the evaluation. He read comments gathered from staff and board. The evaluation was very thorough this year. Sioux City is fortunate to have Mr. Williams work and live in our community.

Mr. Williams gave his heartfelt thanks to the board for this thorough evaluation. Feels our community is well served by this board. He indicated that he is proud to be this community's superintendent.

Board Member Reports

Director Mounts: Stated that in South Carolina the buses are owned by the state and that this is not working well. We should be thankful we live in Iowa. Mr. Williams stated that in Maine the state owns the school buildings, as well as in Maryland.

Director Daane: Indicted they had a good student achievement meeting regarding math and science, and literacy head teachers met with them.

Director Benson: Had an interesting Board Public Relations meeting last week. Discussed the annual report on which Denise Salem has been working.

Director Peterson: Was discussing with a friend from South Sioux the efforts our newspaper editors are making to promote the good things which students are doing.

Director Batcheller: Attended the Finance Oversight Committee meeting this morning and received the revised numbers of the revisions which will probably be revised again; but, it appears that sales tax dollars are up—which is good news for all of us.

President Jorgensen congratulated Jenny Welp on being named one of the employees of the month at *The Sioux City Journal*.

President Jorgensen announced future meetings as follows:

- Equity Committee is scheduled for August 23, 2005, at noon, in the Education Service Center.
- Board Finance Committee is scheduled for September 7, 2005, at noon, in the Education Service Center.
- Board Policy Committee is scheduled for September 7, 2005, at 3:00 p.m., in the Education Service Center.
- Finance Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2005, at 8:00 a.m., at 421 Nebraska Street.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Williams reported as follows:

Congratulated Jenny Welp and stated that he enjoyed reading the RAGBRAI series but also for how she reports on our board happenings.

We are ready for school. Teachers are in the buildings and involved in staff development. The three days that precede the formal start of the school year are given much thought. We welcome our employees back. Always hopeful at the beginning of each year for an excellent school year.

Possibility of excessively hot days. We have reviewed our procedures regarding closure of schools during excessively hot days. Will attempt to make the decision and announce to the public by 11 a.m. Elementary schools would be dismissed after lunch. All secondary buildings are air-conditioned.

Good news. The only three elementary schools that were previously listed on the watch list have now been removed from the earlier watch list notification.

Consent Action Items

Director Peterson moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion to approve the consent action items, which consisted of the minutes from board meetings held August 8, 2005, the amended human resources report, and the finance report. The motion carried 6-0, with President Jorgensen abstaining from the vote on the minutes.

Administrative Regulation for Transportation Services

Director Batcheller moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to approve for second and final reading AR709.2—Transportation Insurance Program. The motion carried 7-0.

Emergency Purchase of Two Used School Buses

Director Mounts moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to approve the emergency purchase of two 2004 72-passenger yellow school buses, at a total cost of \$100,105 from Thomas Bus Sales in Des Moines. The motion carried 6-0, with Director Batcheller abstaining.

Discussion/Information

President Jorgensen reported that in March the board did their first review of board goals, and this evening will be the final review for the past school year. Mr. Jorgensen went through the goals and stated our accomplishments for this year were as follows:

Student Achievement Committee—Pete Garlinghouse's presentation on the actual results from the prior year of testing were given to the board at a work session in July. The biggest difference from this year to last year is the focus on student achievement. Encouraged that this is happening.

Finance Committee—Glorious year simply from the extension of the sales tax and the relative ease with which the community accepted and supported this penny tax. Speaks well for the board and the projects we've put forward, finished, and are currently working on. Speaks well of our community that the money is being spent in areas that really need it. Long-term goals will be discussed this evening at a work session. Been honored and recognized several years in a row, and it's an honor and pleasure having a good chief financial officer in this district. The board president has asked that the budget be aligned with our goals. This is a wonderful board on which to serve, and good people with whom to work. Lobbied for property tax equity last year and will continue to do so this coming year with the hope that property tax equity will finally occur in our state. Very satisfied with the work of the District Insurance Committee.

Board Policy Committee: Dug in and reviewed and upgraded several policies due to the Iowa Department of Education visit. Lots of help was received from Steve Crary, Linda Madison, Jean Peters, and Marilyn Charging. New policies on transportation adopted with input from Mel McKern and his department. Cabinet has really helped. May meet with staff to receive input on policies and their being followed by all buildings. Extra/co-curricular code was revised again and directly affects our students. There are several policies which need to be reviewed this year. The Department of Education did not note any board policies that were deficit in any way. This is very unusual. We were proactive in developing a hazing policy.

President Jorgensen stated the following accomplishments:

- The new annual report will be very easy to read and feels that citizens will want to look at it. Improvements have been made on our website by our Technology Department. Continue to struggle with making our schools more inviting to parents.
- Very active and engaged board, and a pleasure to work on a board that digs in to work on issues. If we appear to micromanage, please let us know.
- Lobbying efforts and a big push next year too.
- Visited DC to lobby for Smaller Learning Communities with great contacts there.
- Been to Des Moines numerous times to lobby for the property tax equity issue.
- Revised the superintendent's evaluation process; much more engaged that in the past.
- Approved a new evaluation instrument for our teachers.
- Budget process a lot more focused on the allocation of resources. Making sure we are spending our dollars as wisely as we possibly can which directly affects student achievement.
- Completed North Middle School. Under way on the new Irving Elementary School.
- L.O.S.T. passage was a big vote, and we very appreciative of the many members of the community who worked on this.

- After this meeting we will lay out the plans for facilities planning.
- Board structure—focused on student achievement by forming a committee.
- Board goals and focusing budget.
- Improved school safety this past year with cameras.
- Improved transportation system; time will tell.
- Held town hall meetings, wish they were a little better attended.
- We're continuing to make improvements on the technology side.
- Rich Luze has upgraded in the lunchroom areas.
- Proud of what this board, school district, and administration have accomplished this year. Lots of work ahead of us, but we're on the right track.

Superintendent Williams stated that the summary is outstanding; indicative that this is a hard-working board.

Mr. Williams indicated that the district held a leadership academy that included teachers and building leadership early this summer. Parents were involved on one morning during this leadership academy.

Don Friedrichsen, District 4 Director for IASB Board of Directors, addressed the board. Had to add with all the things Ron mentioned that he feels the research shows that the more training teachers have make as big an impact on student achievement as anything. There were over 20 training sessions our board members attended during the past year. Sets an example for the staff that the board takes the time to do so. We have really good leadership. Superintendent takes part in IASB activities as well. Thanked the board and superintendent for their service.

Some discussion then took place regarding property tax equity involving farming communities. Mr. Williams stated that the actual solution might boil down to various concepts that the Legislature or IASB is able to research. Some aspects are more doable than others. The underlying concept is a discrepancy on taxable valuation between school districts. This denies children of property poor districts the advantages others have; or requires a significantly greater effort for the taxpayers to carry the burden of providing the same program. Our issue is at the core of the discrepancy in the total property tax valuation and how it is equalized among the districts. We had to invent the need for the L.O.S.T. We

challenge the state to recognize that property tax is not equal throughout the state. Boils down to an equitable education for all students in the State of Iowa. President Jorgensen also thanked Mr. Friedrichsen for the service he provides.

Superintendent Williams reported on the *American School Board Journal's* Magna Awards for 2006. We did very well on the T. E. Davidson award data so why not use this to see if we can adapt it to the Magna Awards for 2006. Board consensus was that Mr. Williams discuss this with his cabinet, and if they feel there is value and it will not distract from the daily work, it sounds great.

Adjourn

Director Batcheller moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the board adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

WORK SESSION ON FACILITIES PLANNING

A work session on facilities planning was held following the regular board meeting.

President Jorgensen stated that the purpose of this work session was to decide where we go from here. Mr. Stoneburg shared a handout that spoke to the assumptions of what dollars we can expect. Mr. Williams feels the student range will be between 14,278 and 13,200 over the next 13 years.

Mr. Stoneberg stated that it is better to have bonded and built before we receive the money as we paid 2 percent per annum for the past eight years. We should borrow to hedge off inflation rate.

Grant/McKinley—We own the land free and clear; first priority after Irving This allows the board to take some pressure off Whittier and possibly on the trailer courts in the northern part of Leeds as children could be bused to the new building.

Board consensus was that if we could get financing, that the following facilities be addressed following the completion of Irving Elementary School:

1. Grant/McKinley site
2. Leeds new building
- 3a. Riverside remodel
- 3b. Center Street land acquisition
4. East Middle School site

A study committee for the Westside will be formulated.