

INFORMAL PUBLIC HEARING

SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

JANUARY 27, 2004–6:00 P.M.

President James: Called to order the Informal Public Hearing on the Concept of Transferring Ownership of Roberts' Stadium to Morningside College. Directors Mounts and Jorgensen were excused from the board table due to their affiliation with Morningside College.

Superintendent Williams: Thanked the public for their attendance and for their input. He stated that this proposal has been under discussion since November 2003. Input received has been incorporated into discussions on this issue.

Hopes that tonight's comments may embrace the facts that are contained within the proposal. We still need to keep in mind that this is a proposal.

President James: Reported that we've had excellent coverage by our news media and that this is very much appreciated.

Citizen input was received from the following:

Thomas Peterson: Thanked the board for the opportunity to address the board. Also thanked the superintendent for his openness. Mr. Peterson was the former secretary of the Roberts' Stadium Committee. Reported that money was raised by this committee for the new track several years ago.

Indicated that in order to write a letter regarding this proposal, one would need a copy of the proposal, and he asked that the public receive a copy of the proposal.

Wished that, if there were problems, the Roberts' Stadium Committee could have been informed in order to assist in solving these problems.

Superintendent William: Stated that Morningside College has hired an engineer, at the request of the district, to see what needs to be done at the stadium, and that Bob Scott had picked up this report in December. There is no timetable for the work to be done.

Rich Vanderloo: Thanked the board, and thanked two members of the Board Finance Committee who attended a meeting at East Middle School last week. Feels there should be more time for this process.

Wants to know how and when the money will be spent.

Dick Williams: Concerned about proposal to relinquish control/ownership of Roberts' Stadium. The timeline is of great concern to him. Feels ten years is a long time to drag this out. Feels it will be cumbersome with administrative changes at the district and Morningside College during this ten-year period. Wants to see a timeline of work to be done at Roberts'.

Vince Cox: Board and Morningside College should be commended and nothing but good can come out of this discussion. This is a concern for the entire community—both long term and short term. The proposal has a lot of good terms that could help everyone. Feels the major stumbling block is that after twenty years, the college could give the district five year's notice to sell the property back to the district for \$2.5 million. Feels there should be joint ownership.

Bruce Zook: Thanked the board for this opportunity to address them. Other speakers have raised good points. He is a product of both the district and Morningside College. Thinks proposal is a win-win idea. From a user standpoint, the stadium will be in much better shape in ten years if the lease is completed. Feels that a capital campaign would have to be held as the district does not have the money to fix Roberts' Stadium. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth—and then go to a capital campaign. Stated that several business owners feel the same way. Doesn't feel we can afford to have another capital campaign and have it be successful.

Carol Beck: Thanked the board for the opportunity to address them. She is a product of public schools in Sioux City and also Morningside College. Thinks this is not a good proposal. Feels the whole thing has to do with money. Feels we have a base of givers in Sioux City.

Lynn Richardson: Has made no secret of his opposition to this proposal. Looked around at other communities to see what they do under the same situation. Feels this proposal would ignore the long-term problems associated with this proposed lease/sale. Wants the opportunity for a group to work and come forward with a competing proposal to the one from Morningside College.

Bob Prince: Is co-director of the Sioux City Relays. Sees this as nothing but an opportunity for Morningside College. Now believes that there are questions and he is not happy with the direction this is taking. Feels a better proposal can be made. Feels businesses will respond to a request for a capital campaign.

Frank Fisher: He's a proud citizen and proud of the work of boards of education. Wonders as a business person why the stadium isn't making money for the district. Can't fathom how the board could give away a \$2.5 million facility. He's very much against the proposal, and stated the facility should be run better.

Bob Scott: Has spent time with some individuals to come up with a commitment—a quarter of a million dollars over five years from folks who feel strongly about Roberts' Stadium. This process needs to be

slowed down. This decision may be the right one but we need to be sure it is the right one. Feels the public would be willing to donate to this cause. Wishes Morningside College would partner with us and cannot understand why this is a problem for Morningside College. Asks time for the public to put a proposal before the board.

Janeese Martin (Taxpayers Research Council): Pleased to see the number of citizens here this evening to give citizen input. Commended the district and Morningside College for meeting to work together in this regard. One of the primary issues that the TRC has supported this issue is the money. The number one priority of the district is the students. Operation & Maintenance has been working hard to keep our schools up and running safely.

Phil McMahon: Graduated from Central High School and Morningside College. He's a football fan and the concern he has with Morningside College is if they are going to be able to maintain a football program with the number of attendees at games. If they drop the program down the line, where does that leave the district in regard to the stadium?

Thomas Peterson: Knew what Mr. Scott had to say and knows this fund raising was done in a short period of time, and another group is willing to give \$50,000. He is concerned with the total student, and knows we can raise this money by hitting different places rather than only businesses. Can go full bore to go after all sources. Would also ask Morningside College to engage with us so that we can make this the most outstanding facility in the state. Feels we can do this together.

Superintendent Williams: Stated that he is deeply respectful of every person who has spoken this evening. There were many concerns and excellent comments made. Stated that he will step before the board on February 3, 2004, and recommend that the board receive the proposal from Morningside College. He remains convinced that the facility is both a precious monument that needs to be preserved and a living entity with the youth of this district and Morningside College having a vested interest in this continuing to be a part of this community for a long time. Believes there can be, and is, a spirit of cooperation. Believes Morningside College can lose only if it spurns the interest the school has. We are a very important part of that college and will remain so. Senses this evening that football, track, and Star Fest represent activities that we want our kids to be involved in at some time. For many years, given our taxable valuation (second lowest in the state), we've not been able to find the means to adequately take care of our facilities. Our three high schools need a major infusion of dollars. Going to have to find some money in the future to take care of our new middle schools, our high schools, and our proposed new elementary schools. Learned that taxing institutions are expected to take care of their facilities—generally with taxes, and that "not for profits" receive the first pledge dollars allocated by individuals.

Imagines that it was difficult to find a donor who saw merit in this project. He's sure it took a lot of hard work to find this donor. We cannot assume that this grant is here in perpetuity. The college might want to have its Public Relations Office restate that case.

Agrees that this discussion is an opportunity to drive forward the future of Roberts' Stadium. One way

or another it comes to the forefront. The lighting system is on its last legs. The plumbing is not much better. The track needs to be replaced soon. Our board must take this proposal very seriously and he has no hesitancy recommending to the board that this proposal be accepted.

If the board doesn't accept his proposal, he can accept this.

The state may find the means to increase funding in the future, and there will be plenty of demand for those dollars.

REGULAR MEETING

SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

JANUARY 27, 2004–7:37 P.M.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance—President James called the regular meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Present: Directors Batcheller, Daane, James, Jorgensen, Mounts, and Peterson. Absent: Director Kruse.

Approval of Agenda—Director Peterson moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried 6-0.

Citizen Input—None.

Special Meeting Announcement—President James announced that the Board of Directors will hold a special meeting on February 3, 2004, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Education Service Center, to consider public comment regarding Roberts' Stadium, and whether to invite Morningside College to tender a formal proposal for the transfer of title to the stadium to Morningside College for \$1.00 in exchange for retention of all current uses and improvements of \$2.35 million with other guarantees and considerations.

Board Member Reports

Director Peterson: Excellent Equity Committee meeting—one of the best committee meetings she has ever attended.

Director Jorgensen: Attended the Education Coalition Forum. It was a good meeting, but frustrating as there is no money.

Director Daane: Opportunity to tour McKinley and Irving Elementary Schools in his continuing effort to

get up to speed with the other board members. Struck by the age of the buildings and the use of the modular buildings. Quite an eye opener.

President James: Also attended the Education Coalition Forum Saturday. Hopes the legislators will be able to get us back the money that was cut as well as receive the 2 percent allowable growth.

Announced that future meetings are scheduled as follows:

Educational Equity Committee–February 27, 2004–11:30 a.m.–Central Campus

Board Policy Committee–January 28, 2004–11:45 a.m.–ESC

Board Finance Committee–February 2, 2004–7:30 a.m.–ESC

Finance Oversight Committee–February 23, 2004–8:00 a.m.–421 Nebraska

District Advisory Committee–February 26, 2004–5:00 p.m.–ESC

Superintendent William's Report

- Thinks we don't have enough data to be pessimistic or optimistic about what the Legislature will do.
- Reported on mail received regarding No Child Left Behind.
- In regard to the meeting on February 10, some have purchased tickets for the Music Man. Board consensus was to schedule the meeting for 4:30 p.m. and announce it to the public.
- Distributed a letter from Jason Anderson in favor of the Roberts' Stadium lease with Morningside College.

Report From Judith Burke, Director, Western Hills Area Education Agency–Judith Burke thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the Sioux City Community School District. She offered an overview of the possibility of a voluntary merger with WHAEA 12 and AEA 4. Members from both boards have met to discuss this possibility. If the two agencies decide to move toward a merger, the target date is July 1, 2006. These two agencies already share some employees. Fact sheets regarding this possibility will be sent out to WHAEA 12 school districts.

The board requested that reports from the WHAEA board members continue every two months. James Daane stated that in any discussions concerning WHAEA, he will not participate and will abstain from all votes as his wife is an employee of WHAEA.

Consent Action Items—Director Mounts moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, as corrected, that consisted of the minutes of the January 6 and 13, 2004, meetings; the human resources report; and the finance report. Mr. Crary stated that the West Middle School position was not needed as a displaced person was moved into that position. The motion carried 6-0.

Board Policies—Director Jorgensen moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion to approve for final reading Board Policies 601.10—Evaluation of Educational Program; 202.2—Adoption of Policy; 202.4—Administrative Procedures; deletion of AR202.4); 202.6—Review and Revision of Policy; 204—Meetings of the Board (+AR204); deletion of 204.1—Board Meetings and 204.4—Closed Sessions of the Board [now contained in 204—Meetings of the Board]; 205.1—Compensation of Expenses; 205.2—Professional Meetings and Association Membership; 205.3—Anonymous Communications; and 603.1—Class Size. The motion carried 6-0.

Board Policies—Director Peterson moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion to approve for first reading Board Policies 206.6—Board Liability Exposure and 405.1 (formerly 106.6)—District Employee Liability. The motion carried 6-0.

Disposition of Property Located at 607 Wright Avenue, 611 Wright Avenue, and 1113 Ninth Street—Director Mounts moved and Director Jorgensen seconded the motion to set February 10, 2004, at 4:30 p.m., as the hearing regarding the disposition of district-owned property located at 607 Wright Avenue, 611 Wright Avenue, and 1113 Ninth Street. The motion carried 6-0.

Initial Funding for the E-Rate Program—Director Batcheller moved and Director Jorgensen seconded the motion to approve the initial funding for the E-Rate Program. The motion carried 6-0. [This hearing has now been moved to February 24, 2004, at 6:00 p.m., due to changes in the bid specifications and legal advertisements.]

Discussion/Information

Board Policies: Superintendent Williams presented proposed board policies: 203.8—Conflict of Interest of Board Members; 301—Superintendent of Schools (+AR301); 306.3—School-Based Shared Decision-Making; and deletion of 300—Statement of Guiding Principles; 301.1—Superintendent's Contract; 301.3—Superintendent of Schools—Functions; 301.31—Administrative Cabinet; AR302.31—Assistant Superintendent—Functions; AR302.32—Assistant to the Superintendent—Functions; AR302.33—Building Principal—Functions; AR302.34—Assistant Building Principal—Functions; AR302.35—Director of Finance—Functions; AR302.36—Director of K-8 Curriculum—Functions; AR302.37—Director of 7-12 Curriculum—Functions; AR302.38—Director of Human Resources—Functions; AR302.39—Director of Equity—Functions; AR302.40—Director of Technology—Functions; AR302.41—Director of Physical Operations—Functions; 303.1—District Administrators; AR306.3—School-Based Shared Decision-Making; and 306.6—Professional Liability Exposure—Superintendent.

Budget: William Stoneburg discussed the rollbacks on residential as compared to commercial and

industrial property. The Fiscal Year 2005 rollback for residential property increased 2.93 percent, significantly reducing taxable residential values. This rollback was caused by a reduction in agricultural land values. The rollback contributed to total net property taxable values declining 2.2 percent for the district; with gross values (including TIF districts) declining 1.2 percent. Declining taxable values cause the tax rate per thousand to increase, even for the same dollars of tax asking. The tax rate per thousand is arrived at by dividing the dollars of tax asking by the taxable property values in the district.

Steven Crary explained that approximately 80 percent of the total budget of the school district is allocated for wages and benefits. The number of employees in the district has been declining as a result of adjustments made to reflect declining state funding and increasing wages. Our employees are a precious resource.

Linda Madison described how AEAs are funded. They have no ability to levy taxes. The state levies a per pupil dollar amount which is collected by local districts, sent to the state, and then disbursed to the AEAs. The per pupil cost is based on public school enrollment as well as accredited non-public school enrollment in the six counties served by the agency.

Jean Peters explained that we pay tuition to school districts, to other AEAs and to private schools. Last year we paid over \$800,000 in tuition to other agencies. We pay tuition for students who are placed elsewhere through the Department of Human Services. Those expenditures are offset by tuition fees for students coming into our district. We also pay special education tuition for students who open enroll in other districts. Several districts send special education students to our district. We no longer have a negative balance in special education. In 1995-1996, there was negative balance of over \$1 million for the entire special education budget.

Wrap-Up—President Anne James asked the board to mention areas where board goals were touched upon. These included community involvement in regard to Roberts' Stadium, as well as the openness fostered by Superintendent Williams; financial management issues addressed in the budget for next year; doing what is best for kids.

Adjourn—Director Batcheller moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion carried 6-0, and the regular meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.