

**SPECIAL MEETING
SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
OCTOBER 14, 2003—5:00 P.M.**

I.	Call to Order	1
II.	Approval of Agenda	1
III.	Approval of/Adjourn to Closed Session	1
IV.	Return to/Adjourn	1

SPECIAL MEETING

**SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
OCTOBER 14, 2003—5:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

President James called the special meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Present: Directors Batcheller, Daane, James, Jorgensen, Kruse, Mounts, and Peterson.

Approval of Agenda

Director Kruse moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion to approve the agenda for the special meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

Approval of/Adjourn to Closed Session

Director Peterson moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion to go into a closed session to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation as provided in Section 21.5(c) of the Code of Iowa. The motion carried 7-0, and the board retired to closed session at 5:03 p.m.

Return to/Adjourn From Open Session

President James reported that there will be no action taken in open session following the special meeting. Director Batcheller moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to adjourn the special meeting. The motion carried 7-0, and the special meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Anne N. James, President
Board of Directors
Sioux City Community School District

Alexandra B. Sprague, Secretary
Board of Directors
Sioux City Community School District

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**HEARING
SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
OCTOBER 14, 2003—6:00 P.M.**

I.	Call to Order	1
II.	Hearing and Discussion	1
III.	Recommendation	1
IV.	Adjourn	1

**HEARING
SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
OCTOBER 14, 2003—6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

President James called the special meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Present: Directors Batcheller, Daane, James, Jorgensen, Kruse, Mounts, and Peterson.

Hearing and Discussion

President James stated that notice was provided that a hearing would be held October 14, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. local time, in regard to the proposed specifications, proposed form of contract, and estimated cost for razing the former East Middle School located at 1720 Morningside Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa; and to set November 11, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., as the date and time for action on the bids for the razing of the former East Middle School.

Any interested party may appear and file objections and any information for or against same will be heard on the above-named project with the final decision of the Board of Education a matter of record.

Recommendation

Director Kruse moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion that the Board of Education set November 11, 2003, at 6:00 p.m., as the date and time for action on the bids for the razing of the former East Middle School.

Adjourn

Director Kruse moved and Director Jorgensen seconded the motion to adjourn the hearing. The motion carried 7-0, and the hearing adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Anne N. James, President
Board of Directors
Sioux City Community School District

Alexandra B. Sprague, Secretary
Board of Directors
Sioux City Community School District

**REGULAR MEETING
SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
OCTOBER 14, 2003—6:00 P.M.**

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**REGULAR MEETING
SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER
OCTOBER 14, 2003—6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order

President James called the regular meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. Present: Directors Batcheller, Daane, James, Jorgensen, Kruse, Mounts, and Peterson.

Approval of Agenda

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

Citizen Input

None.

Board Member Reports

Director Kruse: Opportunity to attend Whittier for Reading Recovery program. It was really fun and enjoyable; she learned a lot. Week before did a presentation at Longfellow on volunteering. It was delightful.

Director Batcheller: Will go to Crescent Park on Thursday for Reading Recovery, and Board Finance Committee continues to meet.

Director Peterson: Attended the Hawthorne Reading Recovery program and guided reading and it was marvelous. Can't see how we can do without this program. Even got a chance to read to the children. The Governor's Task Force on the Achievement Gap is moving along—working hard and had a real good session last week. This noon she attended a security reform luncheon along with Linda Madison. Very interesting.

Director Jorgensen: Had the pleasure of attending Leeds and sitting in on the Soar to Success Reading program. Visited Lowell and sat in on the Reading Recovery Program. Very impressed with the one on one attention. Showed how one student had markedly improved. Very valuable program. Pleasure of attending Beyond the Bell at East Middle School where hundreds of kids were bused in for the program.

Director Daane: Had the pleasure of spending two full days in conference with various department heads. As one who has not spent much time at the Education Service Center, he was able to see the amount of work that central office administrators handle insofar as responsibilities, hours, and the people they supervise. He is looking forward to learning more.

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President James: Attended the Hunt Reading Recovery for first graders. Absolutely marvelous. Saw reading being taught in a very familiar way, as well as some fine additions. Has begun receiving letters from social studies classes with good questions. Also, students are thankful for what they have.

President James announced that future meetings would be held as follows:

Educational Equity Committee—October 21, 2003, at 11:00 a.m.—Central Campus
Board Finance Committee—October 21, 2003, at 11:45 a.m.—ESC
District Advisory Committee—October 23, 2003, at 5:00 p.m.—ESC
Finance Oversight Committee—October 27, 2003, at 8:00 a.m.—421 Nebraska

Superintendent's Report

Had the opportunity on Friday to attend a community-wide breakfast in support of a speaker sponsored by the Kind World Foundation in the area of business and economics. Enjoyed the speaker very much.

Spoke to National Federated Music Clubs, and then visited Washington School.

Last night attended the City Council meeting regarding the 28E agreement between the City and the District. Conversation went quite smoothly, and the City Council, with one abstention for a conflict of interest, passed the 28E agreement.

Talking to the media yesterday and today about budget cuts. Appreciated the attention the media is giving to this issue. Tonight we know much more about the extent of those budget cuts. Don't think they will exceed \$1.4 million this year. Met with a team of advisors last night to set approximately six areas which we need to look at first. To fail to make the cuts now would make next year's cuts a bitter pill to swallow.

Those participating on the Governor's Task Force on the Achievement Gap are a remarkable and hard working group of people. Two more meetings are scheduled as of today.

Asked by the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce to fashion a No Child Left Behind position statement which may be used at a meeting with other chambers in Iowa.

Consent Action Items

Director Batcheller moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to approve the consent action items which consisted of the minutes from the September 23, 2003, board meetings; the human resources report; and the finance report. The motion carried 7-0.

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Board Policy 521.12—Action of Law Enforcement Officers on School Property

Director Kruse moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to approve the first reading of Board Policy 521.12—Action of Law Enforcement Officers on School Property. The motion carried 7-0.

Deletion of Board Policy 803.3—Purchase Orders

Director Kruse moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to delete Board Policy 803.3 – Purchase Orders, as it has been replaced by Board Policy 803.2—Purchasing. The motion 7-0.

Physical Education Recommendation

Director Mounts moved and Director Batcheller seconded the motion to approve the recommendation to offer eleventh and twelfth grade physical education by semester, and to seek a waiver through the Iowa Department of Education. The motion carried 6-1, with Director Kruse voting no.

Board Committees

Director Mounts moved and Director Kruse seconded the motion to approve the board committee appointments. The motion carried 7-0.

2004 Urban Education Network of Iowa Legislative Positions

Director Kruse moved and Director Mounts seconded the motion to affirm our revised statement for the Urban Education Network for Iowa with the listing in the priority of allowable growth as one and the class size as two. The motion carried 7-0.

Extension of Superintendent's Contract

Director Kruse moved and Director Peterson seconded the motion to approve the extension of the contract for Superintendent Larry D. Williams from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2006. The motion carried 7-0. Superintendent Williams expressed his appreciation to the board and public for allowing him to serve this district. He stated that the next few years will be very challenging. The goals for next year and a labor statement have been fashioned and added to this contract and are a matter of record—available to the public upon demand. He stated that he is working with great people and citizens.

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Discussion/Information

Larry Williams reported that he and Sue Pierce appeared before the City Council last evening regarding the 28E Agreement with the City of Sioux City. This agreement has been studied by the Board Finance Committee. The agreement concerns Outer Drive North and Buckwalter Drive and West 19th and Harris Streets at the West Middle School site.

Larry Williams reported that the school districts in Plymouth County have been meeting and conferring on bringing the Local Option Sales Tax vote to their county. Some of these individuals include Sioux City Community School District residents.

Bruce Johnson presented information on our at-risk allowable growth. Superintendent Williams stated that he would not be proposing an increase in the at-risk allowable growth, but recommending the board approve it at the same level as last year. Mr. Johnson presented information showing how these funds have assisted the district in lowering drop-out rates. Diane Nesselhauf presented information regarding the East High School Academic Enhancement Center. A student spoke in regard to how the enhancement center has assisted her.

Bruce Johnson presented the proposed course guide for 2004-2005.

President Anne James worked with the board regarding goal setting, by asking the board to choose three goals to focus on for this school year. Those chosen were lowering class sizes at all levels and health care/worker compensation (medical fund); maintaining balanced budget and ongoing sales tax issue need (to continue building); educating all students and closing the achievement gap; continuing improvement of student achievement (middle and high schools in particular) and continuing the lowering of our drop-out rate; lowering class size particularly at elementary and core subjects and process of sales tax, elementary schools, and having a communication plan regarding same; continuing work on achievement for all students and making some semblance of an excellent school district at the same time balancing the budget, absorbing these cuts, communicating to legislators and others that the two are connected; and the education piece itself and improve at all levels and continuing with funding for elementary schools by using community and legislative communication.

Need to improve: take steps to get parents more involved in working with their children, and work with legislators to get us the dollars for our students, and progress in the achievement gap; close achievement gap while not reducing the challenge for gifted students, and get the Local Option Sales Tax passed again; create a vehicle for the community to have a voice with the Legislature; class size, and closing the achievement gap; getting arms around health care and workers' comp; and better communication with public by meeting in schools in the district for board meetings. President James, Vice President Jorgensen, and Superintendent Williams will put these into some kind of format to present to the board.

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Addendum to Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Williams reported that *Money Magazine* recently had several excellent articles on insurance. He will copy the board.

Superintendent Williams announced that Doug Batcheller had written a check from his campaign fund in the amount of \$830.35 payable to the school district.

Mr. Williams stated that there is a misimpression at play at the state level. The Legislature and Governor seem to believe that since the AEAs had some carry-over dollars, the Iowa Legislature could reduce their funding in like amount without hurting them. Now from a very prominent state government office comes the pronouncement that the funding cut of 2.5 percent should not hurt public schools because they have \$400,000,000 worth of reserves. We cannot tap into those reserves this year because we've set our parameters and certified our budget. While we retain that budget authority, we can't even access those reserves for next year under state law without doing so on the back of unequalized property tax which

clearly in Sioux City works to our disadvantage more than any other city or town or school district in this state except one. We need to get a sense of realism down in Des Moines about what the law is saying that we can do. We are going to play havoc in this district playing catch up with that piece of rhetoric because the first sound bite wins the day. But it happened to be flatly erroneous.

Adjourn

Director Mounts moved and Director Kruse seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting. The motion carried 7-0, and the regular meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Anne N. James, President
Board of Directors
Sioux City Community School District

Alexandra B. Sprague, Secretary
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Following the meeting, a work session was held with the board and the first grouping of head teachers (Dewey Christensen, Caroline Donaway, Bryan Getchell, Cheryl Pappadackis, and Dan Pomeranke).