

SPECIAL MEETING
Sioux City Community School District
Educational Service Center
Minutes - April 12, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order	1
II. Roll Call of Members	1
III. Approval of Agenda	1
IV. Approval of Closed Session / Closed Session	1
V. Adjourn Closed Session / Return to Open Session	1
VI. Adjourn	1

SPECIAL MEETING
Sioux City Community School District
Educational Service Center
Minutes – April 12, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

President Alarcon-Flory called the special meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Members

Present: Directors Alarcon-Flory, Albert, Colling, Goodvin, Greenwell, Saint and Scarlett

III. Approval of Agenda

Director Goodvin moved and Director Greenwell seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Approval of Closed Session / Closed Session

Director Saint moved and Director Scarlett seconded the motion to go into a closed session to conduct a strategy meeting of a public employer concerning employees' collective bargaining as provided in Section 20.17 (3) of the Iowa Code. The District's legal counsel present for this session, either in person or by electronic means, is Drew Bracken of Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. Motion carried 7-0, and the Board retired to closed session at 5:02 p.m.

V. Adjourn Closed Session / Return to Open Session

Director Saint moved and Director Scarlett seconded the motion to adjourn a closed session and return to open session. Motion carried 7-0, and the Board returned to open session at 5:58 p.m.

VI. Adjourn

Director Colling moved and Director Albert seconded the motion to adjourn the special meeting. Motion carried 7-0, and the special meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Perla Alarcon-Flory, President
SCCSD Board of Directors

Cynthia A. Lloyd, Board Secretary
SCCSD Board of Directors

REGULAR MEETING
Sioux City Community School District
Educational Service Center
Minutes – April 12, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

I.	Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance	1
II.	Roll Call of Members	1
III.	Approval of Agenda	1
IV.	Citizen Input	1
V.	Consent Action Item(s)	1
	A. Board Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021	
	B. Human Resources Report(s)	
	C. Finance Report(s)	
	D. Iowa Reading Corps Invoice	
	E. Camp Invention for Summer School	
	F. Return-to-Learn	
VI.	Hearing(s)	1-2
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	B. FY22 NHS Sports Complex Parking Lot Project	
	C. FY22 EMS Fire Alarm Replacement Project	
	D. Title I Staffing Update	
	E. Student Supports Spring and Summer 2021	
	F. Second and Final Reading of Employee Handbook	
	G. Second and Final Reading of Board Policies	
	H. Board Discussion on ESSERS Tutoring Payment Amounts to Certified Teachers	
X.	Adjourn	5

REGULAR MEETING
Sioux City Community School District
Educational Service Center
Minutes – April 12, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

President Alarcon-Flory called the regular meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Members

Present: Directors Alarcon-Flory, Albert, Colling, Goodwin, Greenwell, Saint and Scarlett

III. Approval of Agenda

Director Scarlett moved and Director Albert seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

IV. Citizen Input

None.

V. Consent Action Item(s)

Director Colling moved and Director Albert seconded the motion to approve the following consent action items. Motion carried 7-0.

- A. Board Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021 – Dr. Paul Gausman
- B. Human Resources Report(s) – Dr. Rita Vannatta
- C. Finance Report(s) – Patty Blankenship
- D. Iowa Reading Corps Invoice – Dr. Brian Burnight
- E. Camp Invention for Summer School – Dr. Brian Burnight
- F. Return-to-Learn – Dr. Kim Buryanek

VI. Hearing(s)

- A. Proposed Sioux City School District Budget for FY22 – Patty Blankenship

President Alarcon-Flory stated notice was published in the *Sioux City Journal* on March 24, 2021 that a budget hearing would be held on April 12, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

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

Miyuki Nelson, 1935 Plum Creek Rd., asked the Board to consider postponing the discussion on the increase of the levy: 1) We are looking into, as time progresses, an increase in inflation, 2) Although it may appear the District is cash heavy right now, the District will receive a SR3 CARES Act money allocation, she asked the Board to consider evaluating how that levy decrease will be impacted by ESSER III dollars, and 3) As a taxpayer and a person who has two kids in the District, she asked for some protection on how cash on hand vs cash on hand post levy decrease will impact students, instructional materials purchases, and other costs associated with the levy.

President Alarcon-Flory stated the Board acknowledges the hearing on the proposed Sioux City School Budget for FY22.

VII. Board Member Reports / Future Meetings

Director Scarlett:

- She expressed prayers and thoughts to Austin-East Magnet High School in Knoxville, TN, regarding another school shooting.
- She attended Student Achievement Committee meeting, Education Legislative Forum, and met with the Leadership team.
- She visited with some teachers and community leaders about additional cultural competency training needed in our District.
- “Grace” was requested at our last Board meeting, and she wants to ensure all employees receive adequate and on-going training. Grace is being extended.

Director Goodvin:

- He provided explanation of a recent text message he sent to a state Senator in a failed attempt to over simplify a complex and lengthy topic. He incorrectly asked whether or not ESSER money could be used to directly affect the levy rate. That text message was never responded to, but was shared with the State Department of Education and the Superintendent without his consent or knowledge. It was a misstatement and he clearly understands this is not what the Board is asking for during their proposal tonight. This could have all been cleared up with a phone call.

Director Greenwell:

- He attended Board Finance & Facilities Committee meeting.
- He shared information regarding a claim by Dr. Gausman that he was informed by the Department of Education they would not allow us to lower our levy rate along with unnecessary clarification on a clear misunderstanding regarding ESSER funds and levy rates. He participated in a phone conversation with the DE and three Board members last week where he learned the DE provided no such directive to Dr. Gausman.

Director Alarcon-Flory:

- She attended the All Administrators meeting; noting she is grateful for the leadership in this District.
- She is grateful for the personnel who have received their vaccinations, and is pleased that Pfizer was approved for kids 12-15.
- A reminder that the Sioux City Public Schools Foundation will host their fundraiser “*Are You Smarter Than Our Fourth Graders*” on May 7th.
- She addressed equity, diversity, and inclusion; noting she is still working out the details of a work session and how to make it more effective and to have a solid curriculum that is impactful.

Future Meetings are as follows:

- School Improvement Advisory Committee – 5:15 p.m., April 15, 2021, ESC Board Room.
- Board Finance & Facilities Committee – 3:00 p.m., April 19, 2021, ESC Board Room.
- Board Policy Committee – 4:00 p.m., April 21, 2021, ESC Board Room.
- Education Legislative Forum – 8:30 a.m., April 24, 2021, Career Academy, 627 4th Street.
- Sales Tax Finance Oversight Committee – 8:00 a.m., April 26, 2021, ESC Board Room.
- Special / Special / Regular School Board Meeting – 4:30 p.m., April 26, 2021, ESC Board Room.
- Board Student Achievement Committee – Noon, April 28, 2021, ESC Board Room.
- Preschool Initiative Oversight Committee – 1:30 p.m., April 28, 2021, via ZOOM.
- Educational Equity Committee – 11:30 a.m., April 30, 2021, ESC Board Room.
- Regular School Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m., May 10, 2021, ESC Board Room.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

- He shared his perspective of conversations with the State Department of Education regarding the use of ESSER funds for property tax relief. The DE was very clear that the use of ESSER funds for direct property tax relief would not be allowable; so he notified Board members of this information. The way the District has it defined and designed is entirely appropriate and allowable. We are talking about two things: 1) Setting the levy rate, and 2) Whether new Federal money (ESSER funds) could be used for property tax relief. The DE was very clear in stating “no”.
- He is proud to announce that for the 5th year in a row, this District received a “*Best Communities for Music Education Award*” by the NAMM Foundation.
- High School Prom will hold festivities this year albeit in a slightly different fashion due to the pandemic.
- High School Commencement activities will be held May 29th with safety protocols in place.
 - NHS – 11:00 a.m.
 - WHS – 2:30 p.m.
 - EHS – 6:00 p.m.

IX. Items of Presentation, Discussion, and/or Action

A. FY2022 Budget Adoption – Patty Blankenship

Patty Blankenship, CFO, shared comparison of three options regarding the FY22 General Fund estimated revenues. Option 2 was \$1.5M of property tax reduction, and Option 3 was \$750,000 of property tax reduction.

Kris Snavelly, SCEA President, highlighted concerns with the amount of cash on hand the District has, and asked the Board to invest that in staff and kids. She also shared concerns regarding loss of teachers with longevity.

Director Goodvin moved and Director Greenwell seconded the motion to certify the FY2022 budget with an expected maximum tax rate of \$12.48167 per \$1,000 of assessed value and an income surtax rate of 3 percent.

Director Colling:

- All 3 options decrease the tax levy from what it was last year.
- We cannot promise citizens their tax bill will go down.
- We are setting the levy for one year.
- All 3 options are feasible.

Director Greenwell presented updated materials he submitted earlier today explaining why he believes Option #2 is the best option for the District.

After a roll call vote, motion carried 4-3, with Directors Saint, Alarcon-Flory and Albert voting no.

B. FY22 North High School Sports Complex Parking Lot Project – Tim Paul

Director Greenwell moved and Director Scarlett seconded the motion to accept the low bid from Vander Windt and Sons of Le Mars, IA, and awards the contract in the amount of \$136,986.00 for the FY22 North High School Sports Complex Parking Lot Project. Motion carried 7-0.

C. FY22 East Middle School Fire Alarm Replacement Project – Tim Paul

Director Albert moved and Director Colling seconded the motion to accept the low bid from Kevin O'Dell Electric, Inc. of South Sioux City, NE., and awards them the contract in the amount of \$207,885.00 for the FY22 East Middle School Fire Alarm Replacement Project. Motion carried 7-0.

D. Title I Staffing Update – Dr. Brian Burnight

Director Goodvin moved and Director Scarlett seconded the motion to approve the addition of 11 Title I teaching positions not to exceed an additional \$660,000.00. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Student Supports Spring and Summer 2021 – Dr. Brian Burnight and Jim Vanderloo

Director Greenwell reiterated inconsistency of elementary tutoring and transportation. He recommended using ESSER funds to provide transportation, and suggested broadening the opportunity for all schools to be consistent and provide whatever resources we can to struggling students. He does not believe this tutoring program is equitable based upon emails from Principals he received, and requested Dr. Gausman to obtain Elementary Principal emails regarding the tutoring program.

President Alarcon-Flory stated the Board acknowledges the plans for supporting students in need of remediation for the spring and summer of 2021.

F. Second and Final Reading of Employee Handbook – Dr. Rita Vannatta

Director Saint moved and Director Goodvin seconded the motion to approve the second and final reading of the Employee Handbook for the District for the 2021-2022 School Year. Motion carried 7-0.

G. Second and Final Reading of Board Policies – Dr. Paul Gausman

- 100.01 Education Philosophy
- 100.02 Definition of the Well-Educated Student
- 207 Board of Directors' Legal Counsel
- 432 Early Retirement Benefits
- 502.8 Reasonable Force / Physical Restraint
- 604.2 Private Instruction
- 604.3 Dual Enrollment

Director Scarlett moved and Director Colling seconded the motion to approve the above Board policies for second and final reading. Motion carried 7-0.

H. Board Discussion on ESSERS Tutoring Payment Amounts to Certified Teachers – President Alarcon-Flory

President Alarcon-Flory asked the Board discuss ESSERS tutoring payment amounts for certified teachers. \$50.00

Director Greenwell stated that last meeting he made a limited motion to increase \$30 - \$50 for tutoring program. Since that time, the Association has added this topic to the overall contract negotiations and therefore this discussion is no longer allowed in a public forum.

Motion died due to a lack of a motion.

X. Adjourn

Director Scarlett moved and Director Goodvin seconded the motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0, and the regular meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Perla Alarcon-Flory, President
SCCSD Board of Directors

Cynthia A. Lloyd, Secretary
SCCSD Board of Directors