

**EMERGENCY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Sioux City Community School District**  
**Education Service Center**  
**Minutes: January 14, 2010**

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**EMERGENCY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**Sioux City Community School District**  
**Education Service Center**  
**Minutes: January 14, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.**

Rationale: Due to recent communication from the State Department of Education, and in light of recent legislation regarding Race to the Top Memorandums of Understanding, we call this emergency school board meeting on January 14, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.

**I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

President Batcheller called the emergency meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**II. Roll Call of Members**

Present: Directors Batcheller, Meyers, Mounts, Warnstadt, and Williams.

Present via Conference Call: Directors Grupp and Johnson.

Absent: None

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**IV. Action Item**

- A. To discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Iowa Department of Education Application for Race to the Top (RTTT) Funding.

Dr. Gausman shared with the Board of Directors a power point presentation explaining what Race to the Top is, as well as what recent developments have occurred since they approved to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Race to the Top funding at the January 11, 2010, Board meeting.

- Race to the Top is a grant program that rewards states who create conditions for education innovation and reform by focusing on:
  - Standards and assessments
  - Comprehensive, longitudinal data systems
  - Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals
  - Turning around low achieving schools
- The process is highly competitive. 45 states are applying for the funds, but it is thought that only two to five states will be awarded dollars.
- Under the overall umbrella of Race to the Top, there are School Improvement Grants provided to schools identified as persistently low achieving schools.
- Schools are identified based on a formula created by the Iowa Department of Education.
- If a school is identified as persistently low achieving under Race to the Top, they may have to implement one of four models for improvement: Turnaround, Transformation, Restart, and School Closure.
- It has been suggested by educational experts that Race to the Top may become the new template for NCLB.

Dr. Gausman recommended that the Board of Directors rescind their recent decision to sign the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding.

Director Mounts moved and Director Warnstadt seconded the motion to rescind its signature on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Iowa's application for Race to the Top funds.

By roll call vote, the motion carried 6 to 0 to 1, with Director Williams abstaining.

## V. Adjourn

Director Mounts moved and Director Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the emergency meeting. The motion carried 7 to 0.

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Douglas K. Batcheller, President  
SCCSD Board of Directors

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Cynthia A. Lloyd, Secretary  
SCCSD Board of Directors