

## Board Meeting Update

October 16, 2015

Central DeWitt Constituents,

As I do every month, the following are the highlights of the October 14, 2015 regular school board meeting. It was only two weeks ago that I wrote my last school board meeting summary, but after the school board election process, we're now getting back into our regular schedule. I hope you enjoy these updates that are focused on keeping you informed of what is taking place at the school board table.

- If you would like to view any of the public documents that are available to the board, you can visit our BoardDocs site to view the agenda and the supporting documents that go with each agenda item. This information can be found [at this site](#).
- Over the past couple days, I've learned a lesson of "don't share draft numbers...wait until they're final." At the board meeting I shared our tentative certified enrollment numbers with the board, and as it turns out, they weren't quite correct. October 1 is the official "count day" for Iowa schools. We then have until October 15 to make adjustments to our enrollment, agree or disagree with neighboring school districts on which students are open-enrolled to where, and come to a final number. Even though our board meeting was just the day before the enrollment certification day, the numbers changed in the final day and hours.

Our final enrollment numbers can be found [at this link](#). As you'll see in this chart, the overall number of resident students we are serving (students residing within the Central DeWitt borders) is 5.6 less than it was last year. It went from 1456.5 students to 1450.9. That's the downside of this story. We have less resident students than we did last year, and that's what our school funding will be based upon next year. Usually people ask...how can there be .6 of a student? The reason is we receive partial funding for things such as home-school students, dual-enrolled students, etc. The positive side of our enrollment story is that when we figure in the students that we can bill other school districts for (open enrolled in students, tuitioned in students, etc.), we are serving 13.1 more students than we were last year. The total enrollment of students we're serving went from 1457.5 to 1470.6. That's a great thing that we're serving more students than we did last year, but we still need to keep working on getting families (especially with school age children) to live within our school district so we can get our certified enrollment number to change directions.

- During the Legislative Report, I reported to the Board that we are closely watching a proposal that has been made by Governor Branstad to the Iowa Administrative Rules Committee that

## Central DeWitt Community School District

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would give large corporations a huge reduction in what they pay in sales tax. This sales tax reduction has direct impacts upon all school districts in Iowa. A large portion of our school funding comes from Iowa sales tax. For our school district this would mean a reduction of approximately \$45,000 to our funding. For anyone that cares about school funding, the situation we're in should infuriate you! Think back just a few months...the legislature took way longer than they should have to make a deal on school funding. Weeks later, Governor Branstad vetoed a portion of our funding because of...well, he gave many reasons for it, and each reason was based upon who he was talking to at the time. None of the reasons were consistent. But the message was sent loud and clear that the State budget couldn't afford it. And now...that same Governor is suggesting that we should give additional sales tax breaks to large corporations...at what cost? I'm here to tell you that some of that cost will be shouldered by every school district in Iowa. Where are the priorities of our governmental leaders that are making public education into a political spectacle, instead of doing what's right for Iowa's children?  
(stepping off of my soapbox...)

- Nicole Peterson, Coordinator of Teacher Leadership for Mississippi Bend AEA, and Carla Wall, Induction Coach for the Mississippi Bend AEA Induction Consortium, were in attendance to update the board on the Induction Consortium we have in place for beginning (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year) teachers. By law, we are to have a mentoring and induction program in place for new teachers, and this is our first year of working collaboratively with the AEA to provide programming and support for these new teachers. Carla Wall serves as a full-time induction coach, and her sole responsibility is to support teachers that are new to the field of education and ramp up their induction process. A Board consisting of members of the school districts that are involved oversees the MBAEA Induction Consortium. The presentation given by Nicole & Carla can be viewed [at this link](#). Overall, this has been a great opportunity for our beginning teachers as you can view in [this testimonial video](#).
- Cyndie Johnson (School Business Manager) and I presented to the board the current status of our PPEL & SAVE funds. PPEL stands for Physical Plant & Equipment Levy, and SAVE stands for Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (formerly known as Local Option Sales Tax or the State Penny). These are funds that can be used for school infrastructure, transportation, technology, and other school equipment. A large portion of the SAVE fund goes to pay for the revenue bond we have in place to pay for our recent construction projects. The remainder can be used for the purposes listed above. The document you can find at this link shows the district's current status with these funds. The school's administrative team will be revising a list of needs in the coming month that would utilize a portion of these funds that will then be brought to the board for discussion and consideration. Within this list will be items for the board to consider as a result of our school district's name change...such things as scoreboard, school buses, names on buildings, etc. The list brought to the board will be prioritized and given a timeline over the next few years. Our current listing and account of these funds can be viewed [at this link](#).

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- Within the personnel report, the Board approved the following:

## Licensed Personnel

- Resignation of Steve Butler from the positions of Iowa Youth Symposium and Model United Nations Advisor, effective 10/6/2015.
- Resignation of Leah Mork from the position of Assistant Varsity Softball Coach, effective immediately.
- Recommendation to hire Denise McAleer as the Youth Symposium Advisor, starting 10/15/15.
- Recommendation to hire Eddie Mercado as the Model United Nations Advisor, starting 10/15/15.

## Support Personnel

- Recommendation to increase the hours of Michele Dammeier, Special Education Associate at the High School, from 6.75 hours to 7 hours/day starting October 5, 2015.
  - Resignation of Vanessa McNeely from her position as Events Coordinator for the Central Performing Arts Center (CPAC), effective November 7, 2015.
  - Recommendation to increase the hours of Colleen McDevitt, Special Education Associate at Ekstrand, from 5 hours to 6 hours/day starting October 12, 2015.
- The Board approved an application to the Iowa School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for our Special Education Deficit in 2014-2015. Quite often, the amount of funding school districts receive for special education students do not cover the expenses and services needed for our students. In this event, the district is able to apply to the Iowa School Budget Review Committee for additional spending authority. The amount of our school district's deficit in the 2014-2015 school year was \$211,827.73. Once the SBRC approves the application, it doesn't give the district any additional cash to spend, but it grants the district additional spending authority which can then be supported with cash in coming years through property tax the district collects. The application can be viewed [at this link](#).
  - The district's monthly financial report can be viewed [at this link](#).

Those are the highlights of this week's regular meeting. The next regular board meeting is on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at 6:00 pm, in the Central DeWitt Middle School Media Center. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding what I've written here...or regarding anything else, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Thank you,



Dr. Dan Peterson, Superintendent  
Central DeWitt Community School District