

Board Meeting Update

October 9, 2014

Central Constituents,

As I do every month, the following are the highlights of the October 8, 2014 regular school board meeting. I hope you enjoy these updates that are focused on keeping you informed of what is taking place at the school board table. There were some very important issues discussed and decisions made, including the following:

- 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](#).
- If you'd like to view the video recording of last night's meeting, you can view the meeting on our school board YouTube channel [at this link](#).
- Kurt Kreiter, Activities Director, gave a summary of a meeting that was held recently including administrative staff, two school board members, and representatives of the parents that had concerns and questions regarding the district's facilities rental prices at last month's school board meeting. Concerns among the parties were discussed, and an explanation of the history of our facilities rental schedule was discussed. Although there aren't changes to the rental costs being considered at this time, it was agreed that district administration and the school board will continue to evaluate this policy in the future.
- Preliminary Certified Enrollment information for the school district was presented by Tina Bartels, Business Manager. Every October 1, school districts in Iowa take a count of their students, and it is then submitted to the Iowa Department of Education by October 15. Preliminary numbers indicate that our resident students, certified enrollment, has decreased by approximately 20 students since last fall. However, as I explained, the number of students the district is actually serving has increased by 5 students. Official certified enrollment numbers will be presented at the November school board meeting. More information on these numbers can be found [at this link](#).
- There was an open discussion regarding the sale of the former Clinton County Annex building at E. 4th Avenue & 11th Street in DeWitt. This property is located just to the west of the Intermediate and Middle School buildings. The board has held several closed session meetings at past board meetings to discuss the purchase of this property. The board and administration are very interested in pursuing the purchase of this property. Although the specific use of the building is undetermined at this time, the purchase of the property gives the district many options for expansion of the programs that we are offering students. Additional space and property should be considered anytime there is a neighboring

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property for sale. There was a consensus that the board would be pursuing the purchase of the property. Bids on the property are due on October 27, and there will be an auction among those parties that submitted bids following the opening of the bids. Later in the meeting, the board went into closed session to discuss their bid and the maximum they would be willing to spend on the property. After coming out of closed session, a motion was approved to “authorize and direct the Superintendent to take such actions as are necessary, within the parameters discussed, in the closed session to carry out the Board’s intent”.

- The board approved the purchase of an intercom system that is currently being installed at Ekstrand Elementary. Since the amount is above my spending authority, the board has to approve the purchase. However, since an intercom system is critical within our school buildings, I initiated the installation of the equipment since the elementary was without an intercom system, since the original system was no longer operational since the beginning of the school year. This new intercom system will also include the installation of a phone within each of the classrooms. This purchase is inline with our district’s strategic plan and also our ALICE planning that has taken place in the district, regarding emergency planning.
- The board approved the purchase 20 apple laptops to start replacing older machines for teachers that need to be replaced. The district will also be purchasing 10 chromebooks in an effort to determine whether this type of machine will fit the needs of any of our staff and students in the future. 10 student refurbished laptops are also being purchased to be used for replacements and repairs for student laptops that need to be fixed or replaced. The last payment on the Apple lease for our student laptops is in June, 2015. During the 2015-2016 school year, the district will be investing in computers to get all of the staff laptops replaced. We are also researching our next steps for replacing the student laptops for grades 4-12, which will be in place for the fall of 2016.
- Kurt Kreiter requested that the pay for Middle School, Freshman, and Junior Varsity football officials be increased from \$50 to \$60 to be more consistent with neighboring school districts. This request was approved.
- This month’s personnel report was approved, which can be viewed [at this link](#).
- All of the district’s financial reports for July, August, and September were approved. They can all be viewed within the board information [at this site](#). Additionally the board approved a Request for Proposals of Banking Services which can be viewed [at this link](#). The step is being taken to ensure that the district is getting the best services they possibly can from local financial institutions. The RFP will be sent to all of the financial institutions within the school district. When the RFP’s are returned to the district, copies will be forwarded to all of the board members. Board members Angela Rheingans and Jennifer Naeve agreed to assist Tina Bartels and myself in analyzing the results and determining an initial recommendation that will go to the school board at the November regular school board meeting.

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Those are the highlights of last night's regular meeting. The next regular board meeting is on Wednesday, November 12, at 6:00 pm, in the Middle School Media Center. The board also has scheduled a tour of facilities on October 17 at 8:00am. Four of the board members will be attending the Iowa School Finance Information Services (ISFIS) Fall Meeting on October 22 at 5:30pm, and there will be a meeting posted on October 27 at 10am at the Clinton County Administration Building regarding the sale of the former Clinton County Annex Building. Jim Irwin and I will be in attendance, but if we need to contact other board members by phone for any reason, a meeting notice has to be posted.

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns regarding what I've written here...or regarding any else, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Thank you,



Dr. Dan Peterson, Superintendent
Central Community School District

