

Central DeWitt Community School District
DeWitt – Grand Mound – Low Moor – Welton

The Central DeWitt Community School Board of Education met for a regular board meeting on November 11, 2015 at the Central DeWitt Middle School Media Center at 6:00 p.m. Directors Hannah Perrone, Cody Huff, Angela Rheingans, Christy Kunz and President Steve Fuglsang were present along with Superintendent Dan Peterson and Secretary Cyndie Johnson. Administrative Staff present were Jen Vance, Tim Bradley, George Pickup and Kurt Kreiter. Staff in attendance were Lisa Fox and Bill Petsche. Media representation included Jan Huffman, Clinton Herald. Also present were Roger Hill and Senator Rita Hart.

Opening of Meeting:

President Fuglsang opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Superintendent Peterson requested to move the Special Education Enrollment report to next month's agenda. Noting that change Director Huff, Director Kunz moved to approve the tentative agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Director Kunz, Director Rheingans to approve the minutes of October 14, 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no public comments.

Information and Discussion Items

National FFA Convention Report:

Amy Grantz, sponsor for FFA, and the district's FFA chapter reported on their experiences at the 88th Annual FFA Conference. Fourteen students attended the conference in Louisville, KY. Positive experiences were shared and the group is looking forward to next year's conference.

Administrative Reports:

Jen Vance shared a positive email from a parent following teacher/parent conferences regarding the success of her daughter's education. She also shared comments from others noting the behavior of Ekstrand students acting respectful and courteous at an assembly.

Tim Bradley shared that he feels the District provides 'people' before 'programs' as a refreshing environment. Great facility for our students, and our staff is very responsive to helping meet the educational needs of our students.

George Pickup shared our dual credit sections are at 75 with 725 dual enrollees. We have 12 teachers for this program. He also shared the district's assessment scores are in the mid 90's. Our graduation rate is close to 100% for the first time. We teach 11 foreign languages helping meet that college requirement. We provide shared classes with neighboring districts. It was noted that 77% of our graduates are going forward with their education upon graduation. The district is looking to start a Building Trades program, with 18-20 students, soon with a plan to build a home every two years. CNA program is in its 10th year and very successful.

Senator Hart asked questions regarding the foreign language classes being taken via Rosetta Stone. George Pickup reported that 90% of the students enrolled in this format would be 4 year or master level students. These classes are monitored to assure success. Senator Hart stated that it is her hope that foreign language be started at the elementary level.

Kurt Kreiter reported that we are between seasons but the basketball, bowling are starting this month. He stated a high % of students are involved in various activities. Our facilities are being highly utilized by various groups.

Bill Petsche reported on his participation in the TLC program and discussed how the district's system is set up. This program helps with building relationships with teachers while enhancing their practices. The feedback shows that we are successful. Senator Hart is interested in seeing how this program works and hoping the program is continually funded. Senator Hart reported that Governor Branstad stated funding would be supported as long as possible. She wants to help some of the smaller districts find a way to implement the program.

Superintendent Peterson reported that beginning November 16, 2015, all visitors would be required to provide an ID before going into the buildings. This will assist with badges being returned and accountability for our visitors. Parents will be notified of this change. Senator Hart stated is fairly common practice.

Legislative Update with Senator Hart In Attendance:

Senator Hart stated education is very important to her as well as the State. She felt that education directly effects economic development and jobs. The governor's veto in education funding has caused unease and this budget is even tighter than last year. She did not anticipate new monies but hoped the State would sustain its current level of funding.

Smarter Balance assessments were discussed. Superintendent Peterson stated the district is highly supportive of the Smarter Balance assessment. Senator Hart agreed this is the way education needs to move. To help with the process Senator Hart suggested targeting those legislators that need additional education on the need. It was discussed that the best way to communicate with the legislators is direct approach or email, often and early. Phone numbers are readily available and are a positive way as well. Letter writing may not be quick enough to get a timely response. Transportation inequity, as well as a balanced per pupil cost were discussed.

FY16 PPEL & SAVE Budget Update:

Superintendent Peterson stated the budget expenditures have been prioritized. Line items were explained as well as upcoming planned purchases. An explanation of Transportation costs included cameras for the vehicles as well as a new vehicle purchase coming the end of the year. District signing changes were discussed explaining the number presented as ½ of the total amount for the project. This document will be updated each month with current numbers. There was discussion regarding bus purchases and transportation trends for the district.

Action Item(s):

Personnel Report:

Superintendent Peterson presented the monthly Personnel Report.

Recommendation to transfer Michele Dammeier, Special Education Associate, from the High School to the Intermediate School and reduce the hours from 7 to 6 hours/day starting 10/28/15. Rate of pay will remain at \$11.84/hour.

Recommendation to increase the hours of Carolynn Bretschneider, Special Education Associate at the High School, from 6.75 to 7 hours/day starting 11/2/15. Rate of pay will remain at \$11.84/hour.

Recommendation to decrease the hours of Dorothy Maynard, Transportation Associate, from 4.75 to 3.5 hours/day starting 11/2/15. This is due to a student moving out of the district. Rate of pay will remain at \$11.84/hour.

Recommendation to hire Abby Wildes as a Special Education Associate at the High School. She will work 6.75 paid hours/day at a rate of \$11.84/hour. Her first day is tentatively set for 11/30/15.

Recommendation to hire Jill Peterzalek as a Substitute Bus Driver, effective immediately.

Recommendation to hire Rhonda Roling as a Transportation Associate. She will work 4 hours/day at a rate of \$11.84 per hour starting 11/9/15.

Retirement of Joan McDonald from her position as Bus Driver, effective 12/5/15. She has been with the district for 28 years.

Recommendation to decrease the hours of Colleen McDevitt, Special Education Associate at Ekstrand, from 6 to 5 hours/day starting 11/9/15. This is due to an IEP student moving away.

Moved by Director Kunz, Director Perrone to accept the report as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Memorandum of Understanding with the CDEA to Allow for Two Girls Soccer Co-Head Coaches for 2015-2016:

Superintendent Peterson stated this agreement has been received and signed by the CDEA. Kurt Kreiter stated this is a great program for mentoring and will be utilized for one year. Moved by Director Rheingans, Director Huff to approve the Memorandum. Motion carried 5-0.

Purchase of Video Cameras for Vehicles Used to Transport Students:

Superintendent Peterson presented a recommendation to the Board for placing 4 cameras on each of the route buses and 2 on the activity buses. Total cost is \$46,724. Currently, we have cameras rotated in our buses. Motion by Director Kunz, Director Perrone to accept the proposal by Pro Vision. Motion carried 5-0

Change of District Name on Vehicles and Buildings:

Superintendent Peterson presented the costs for changing the district name on various items. The plan is to make these changes over two years. The first phase will include Building Signage and District Vehicles, with the second phase to be signs on 11th St. President Fuglsang stated he would like to see the costs of the roof repair before committing to making the changes. Scoreboards will be placed on hold for this year and addressed in the near future. Motion by Director Huff, Director Rheingans to approve what is proposed on the FY15 agenda and commit to the two-year plan. Motion carried 4-1. Votes: Huff – aye, Kunz – aye, Rheingans – aye, Perrone – aye, Fuglsang – nay.

Financial Report:

Board Secretary Johnson presented the October 2015 Financial Reports. Cash balances for most accounts are higher than the previous year. She also reported the FY15 audit has been complete and we have had our preliminary exit review with our auditors. Auditors noted less ending year entries were necessary for year-end processing. Suggestions were made for improving on our already great processes. An audit presentation to the Board will be upcoming. Motion by Director Kunz, Director Huff to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried 5-0

School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) Request for Modified Allowable Growth for Open Enrolled Out in the Amount of \$63,660:

Moved by Director Rheingans, Director Huff to approve the SBRC request for allowable growth increase in the amount of \$63,660 for open enrolled out students. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda:

Moved by Director Kunz, Director Huff to approve the following consent agenda items. Motion carried 5-0.

Open Enrollment
Professional Leave Report
Student Activity Fund Report
Abstract of Bills
Annual Appointment of Career & Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee
Members
Special Education Service Delivery Plan

Future Board of Education Meetings & Opportunities:

70th Annual IASB Convention being held November 18-19. The board will be leaving Tuesday, November 17th from the administrative building at 4:30 p.m. Return date will be Thursday evening. Dress is business casual.

Pre-Agenda Meeting, Tuesday, December 1, 2015: 7:30 am (Steve Fuglsang, Angela Rheingans).

School Board Development Session, Wednesday, December 9, 2015: 5:30 p.m.

School Board Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 9, 2015: 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

President Fuglsang adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.