

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

The Central DeWitt Community School Board of Education met for a regular board meeting on December 21, 2016 at the Central DeWitt Middle School Media Center at 6:00 p.m. Directors Christy Kunz, Hannah Perrone, Cory Huff, Angela Rheingans, and Steve Fuglsang were present along with Superintendent Peterson and Board Secretary Cyndie Johnson. Administrative Staff present were Jen Vance, George Pickup and Tim Bradley. Also present were Patrick Diedrich, Bob Goodall, Bryan Whitman, and Lisa Burke. Senator Rita Hart and Representative Mommsen were also in attendance. Media representation included Jan Huffman, Clinton Herald and Larry Lough, The Observer.

**Opening of Meeting:**

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

Board President Christy Kunz opened the Public Hearing for the 2017-2018 school calendar. Superintendent Peterson presented the calendar and explained the days/date. No public comments were heard. President Kunz closed the hearing without comment.

Moved by Director Huff, Director Rheingans to approve the tentative agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Moved by Director Fuglsang, Director Huff to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2016 board meeting as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

**Public Forum:**

There were no public comments.

**Information & Discussion Item(s)**

Representative Mommsen and Senator Hart were in attendance. Senator Hart stated it would be a change having all one party control. She is hopeful that things will continue to move forward and we can begin to work on the governing for the people of Iowa. Discussion was held over the budget and potential cuts. She stated tough decisions will have to be made. The Governor stated budget changes would not affect K-12. She is looking forward to working with the district and appreciates the continued communications. She is the new Assistant to the Minority Leader.

Representative Mommsen stated he is looking forward to this year. The agenda will start with what the Republican House has worked toward for the past two years. He stated the transition within the Governor position should work seamlessly and he is looking forward to working with the new Governor. One of the first items being faced is the appropriation of the budget. They have been directed to look for 110 million dollars this year, which means reduction in funding. This is due to projected revenue being lower than anticipated.

Discussion regarding Early Literacy, cost per pupil equalization and various school funding took place.

### **Future of Ag Education and FFA**

Patrick Diedrich and Bryan Whitman presented a possible vision for the FFA program in the District. They reported a 5-year Teacher/Student Vision for the FFA. Presented were some of the challenges and possible solutions to enhance the program. Senator Hart shared her understanding for enhancing the instruction of the Farm to School program. She stated that Ashford University is a possibility to be a great resource for such countywide program.

### **Administrative Reports**

George Pickup stated the semester is complete on December 22nd and everything is working smoothly.

Tim Bradley thanked the Board for their support and wished them Happy Holidays.

Dan Peterson thanked Gayle Pepmeier for her outstanding work on completing the project to add all Board Policies on the Board Doc software. This was a major undertaking and will benefit many.

### **Early Literacy Guidance**

Jen Vance reported on the Early Literacy program at the District. She shared the testing windows used in the program, stating proficient literacy at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is the goal. Iowa Assessments have helped identify those that need assistance with Summer School. The ability to retain a student was discussed as well as the guidelines set by the Dept of Ed. DeWitt will have a summer program and will look into new and/or continued funding.

### **Building & Trades Program Update**

George Pickup reported that Lonny Truelsen will present an update in the near future. \$120,000 is the cost for subcontractors of the model house chosen. The timeline would be to start building this summer. The home will take 2 years to build. A proposed model has been designed. It is a ranch style home, 1600 sf with 3 bedrooms. The lot for the project is located in Jacobsen Addition. The cost of the lot is \$25,000 which is a substantial discount. Superintendent Peterson stated a purchase agreement for the land will be forthcoming. Ruhl and Ruhl is the real estate company that will assist us through the selling process at a discounted rate of 5% of the selling price.

For the school year 17-18 the District will have a Trades I and Trades II class. Both are being proposed as college level courses. We currently have 49 students in 3 sections.

### **District Branding & Marketing Update**

Dan Peterson stated the grant received from the CCDA in the amount of \$56,000 will be used for Marketing and Branding. This grant requires a 25% match from the District. He has been working with Director Perrone, Director Rheingans and Shelly Greving on this

project. These efforts will consistently define the district and promote us in a positive, solid manner.

Shelly will no longer be available as she is moving. It was determined that the District would need someone else to keep this project moving forward. This person will need to oversee the project on a daily basis and be available to us locally. It has been suggested a part-time person be hired to work approximately 5-10 hours per week at the rate of \$15 per hour. A position has been posted and we are looking to see if there is an interest. We need to continue to look for additional supportive funding.

### **Action Item(s)**

#### **Promise of Iowa Public Education Campaign - Resolution of Support**

Dan Peterson reported that this is a group of IA organizations coming together to promote Iowa Public Education. This Organization is asking every Board to pass the Resolution of Support for this Campaign. A short video was watched. Dan Peterson recommended accepting a Resolution of Support. Moved by Director Fuglsang, Director Rheingans to approve the Resolution of Support. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **2017-2018 School Year Calendar**

Dan Peterson presented the calendar noting that August 23, 2017 will be the start of the school year and May 30, 2018 the end date. Moved by Director Huff, Director Perrone to accept the calendar as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Early Graduation Requests**

Seven students have met the guidelines to graduate at the end of the semester. Motion to approve made by Director Fuglsang, Director Rheingans. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Personnel Report**

#### **Licensed Personnel**

Recommendation to pay Julie Murphy \$25.00/hour for serving as Drama Co-Director during the High School Musical October-November 2016. She turned in a total of 51 hours.

Resignation of Tom Portz from his position as Assistant Varsity Boys Soccer Coach, effective immediately.

Recommendation to hire Tom Portz **and** Madison Cousins to fill the current vacancies within our girls soccer program and become Co-Head Varsity Coaches exactly as we had it set up with Coach Small and Coach Higgins last season. Their combined stipend of .16 would amount to \$2361.41 each. We have had both positions posted for some time and I have gone through an extensive search to fill those vacancies. I believe this situation best serves our current program and team and sets our coaching staff up for success.

Recommendation to hire Allison Hansen as a Special Education Teacher at Ekstrand, starting January 4, 2017. She will be on BA step 1 of the salary schedule for a prorated salary of \$19,017.88.

Resignation of Samantha Pyle as .875 Music Teacher at the Intermediate School, effective 5/25/17.

Recommendation to hire Kathleen Wilke as a High School Language Arts Teacher, starting January 4, 2017. She will be on BA step 8 of the salary schedule for a prorated salary of \$21,759.92. Mrs. Wilke taught at Central DeWitt a few years ago and we are very happy to have her return.

### **Support Personnel**

Resignation of Bernice Meyer from her position as Transportation Associate, effective 11/13/16.

Recommendation to hire Bernice Meyer as a Driver starting 11/14/16. She will start at Step 2, salary of \$17.33/hour.

Retirement of Cindy Corson from her position as Secretary at the Intermediate School. Her last day will be 12/22/16. She has been with the district for 24 years.

We are proposing to have Rachelle (Shelli) Griffin, Special Education Associate at the Middle School, start her day at 7:30 each morning to ensure supervision with students coming to school prior to the 8:15 start time. She will ensure struggling students are utilizing this time to complete work for the day and also ensure all special education students in the program are prepared for the day. This will increase her contract from 6.5 hours/day to 7 hours/day starting November 17, 2016.

Recommendation to hire Jill Peterzalek as a Bus Driver at a rate of \$17.06/hour starting November 28, 2016.

Recommendation to increase the contract time for Rhonda Roling, Transportation Associate, from 4 hours/day to 6 hours/day starting November 28, 2016. She is also doing the Pre-K route.

Resignation of Antonette "Netty" Schneider from her position as Office Associate, effective 12/22/2016.

Recommendation to hire Antonette "Netty" Schneider as Secretary at the Intermediate School starting January 4, 2017. She will work 8 hours/day at \$13.45/hour.

Moved by Director Huff, Director Fuglsang to accept the Personnel Report as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

### **FYI - Vacancies Currently Posted:**

Office Associate for Ekstrand Elementary School  
Marketing Coordinator  
Assistant Varsity Boys Soccer Coach

### **Retirement Incentive Participants**

Three teachers have applied for Early Retirement. Those retiring include the following:

James Eberle  
Carol Gisel  
Darol Snyder

Moved by Director Fuglsang, Director Rheingans to accept those applying for the Retirement Incentive Program. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Financial Report - Final June 2016**

Cyndie Johnson presented the Final June, 2016 Financial Report. This report shows the year end adjustments made by the auditors. Motion by Director Huff, Director Peronne to accept the June 30, 2016 financial Report as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Financial Report – November**

Cyndie Johnson presented the November, 2016 Financial Reports. A short presentation on the explanation of several of the District's various funds was given. Motion by Director Perrone, Director Fuglsang to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Modified Supplemental Amount Application for Dropout Prevention in the amount of \$207,260**

Moved by Director Huff, Director Fuglsang to approve the SBRC Request for Modified Allowable Growth for Dropout Prevention in the amount of \$207,260. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Request For Proposals for District Audit**

Cyndie Johnson presented an RFP for the District's Audit Services. This is proposed to be sent out to 25+ vendors. Moved by Director Fuglsang, Director Rheingans to accept the RFP as submitted and to begin the process to receive bids. Motion carried 5-0.

### **District Property, Liability, and Workers' Compensation Insurance with Iowa Public School Insurance Program (IPSIP)**

Dan Peterson explained the process of how we have purchased our Property Liability and W/C insurance. Our current carrier of IPSIP. Prior to IPSIP we were with EMC for many years. IPSIP provided a quote that caused us to look at them and eventually move our coverage to them. We are at the end of our third year and will begin receiving rebates from IPSIP beginning August 2017 and August 2018. Dan recommended we continue with IPSIP this year until another company proposes something that is fiscally determined to be in our best interest. Discussion was held and the history of the decision to change was held. Motion by Director Huff, Director Perrone to approve the recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Consent Agenda Item(s)**

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

Open Enrollment  
Professional Leave Report  
Student Activity Fund Report  
Abstract of Bills

### **Future Board of Education Meetings & Opportunities**

Pre-Agenda Meeting Wednesday, January 11, 2017: 8:00 am (Cory Huff, Christy Kunz)

School Board Development Session Wednesday, January 18, 2017: 5:30 pm

School Board Regular Meeting Wednesday, January 18, 2017: 6:00 pm

Pre-Agenda Meeting Wednesday, February 8, 2017: 8:00 am (Christy Kunz, Angela Rheingans)

School Board Development Session Monday, February 13, 2017: 5:30 pm

School Board Regular Meeting Monday, February 13, 2017: 6:00 pm

President Kunz adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

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Christy Kunz, Board President

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Cyndie Johnson, Board Secretary