

Board Meeting Update

May 16, 2016

Central DeWitt Constituents,

As I do every month, the following are the highlights of the May 11, 2016 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.

- 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](#). You can also view the video recording of the school board meeting [at this link](#).
- Matthew Marvin, one of our high school students, presented his plans for landscaping at Ekstrand Elementary. Matthew is working to become an Eagle Scout, which this project will help him attain. He has been working with Keith Walker, our Director of Operations, to come up with a plan to landscape on the north and west sides of the building. This will help with the general aesthetics of the building, and it will also help in areas that are currently getting washed out by roof and air conditioner drains. Matthew's plan is to complete the landscaping project this summer, and we are excited to see the finished product!
- Heather Haley – Intermediate Teacher, Catalina Paar – Spanish Teacher, and Stefanie Chase – Instructional Coach, were present to give the board an update on the work our Standards-Based Grading Committee has been working on throughout the school year. Their full presentation can be viewed [at this link](#). It is intended that we will continue moving, as a school district, towards Standards-Based Grading as a system. More information will be coming out on this in the future as it is developed.
- We recognized May 2-6 as being Staff Appreciation Week at Central DeWitt. I couldn't be more proud of the staff we have in place here. They do incredible things for our kids every single day. As you come in contact with our staff members, be sure to thank them for what they do!
- May is also School Board Recognition Month throughout Iowa. We have an incredibly supportive school board that I get to work with, and they are truly focused on the children they serve. It's a volunteer position that doesn't get a lot of thanks, and they are required to learn and know a great deal about many things (finances, facilities, instruction, curriculum,

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331 E. 8th Street, PO Box 110, DeWitt, Iowa 52742-0110

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governmental procedures, hundreds of pages of board policies...just to name a few). Some of you may not know, but our current school board members are the following:

- Steve Fuglsang – President
- Christy Kunz – Vice President
- Cory Huff
- Hannah Perrone
- Angela Rheingans

So next time you see one of our school board members, please thank them for their service to our kids, staff, parents, and community. They do an incredible job for us!

- I presented the 2015-2016 Iowa Core Summary Report to the Board. The Iowa Testing Services provided this report, which can be found [at this link](#). The report gives a view of how our schools and grade levels performed on the Iowa Assessments, as compared to the schools in Mississippi Bend AEA, and the State. You'll see in this report that we performed quite well district-wide when compared to other schools. As I always say, we are certainly pleased with the performance of our students on these measures, and we are quite proud of the work our teachers are doing, but we will always have room for improvement.
- The Board approved a list of equipment that is going to be sold at an upcoming auction at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. The list of items can be found [at this link](#). These items are no longer of any use to the school district, and we find it best to move these things while they hold some value, rather than keeping them in storage. It is required that we have Board approval for anything the district sells, and it has to be sold in a way that is open to the public. More information on the date and time of the auction will be communicated in the future.
- Under the Personnel Report, the Board approved the following:
 - Resignation of Megan Till from her position as Assistant Varsity Volleyball Coach
 - Recommendation to hire Robin Monaghan for the Special Education teaching position at the High School
 - Resignation of Javier Ramirez Bautista from his position as Head Varsity Boys Soccer Coach
 - Recommendation to hire Jeff Bernhardt to fill our vacancy of Boys Head Varsity Soccer Coach
 - Resignation of Kirk Machovec from his position as Middle School Assistant (7th Grade) Football Coach
 - Recommendation to transfer Brianne Magill from her current position as Full-Time 4th Grade Teacher to .67 FTE Art Teacher at the Intermediate School
 - Recommendation to hire Kaitlin Carlin for the 2nd Grade Teaching position at Ekstrand
 - Recommendation to hire Rachel Truelsen for the 6th Grade Teaching position at the Intermediate School
 - Resignation of Karin Mairet from her position as Middle School Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher

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- Retirement of Connie Wall from her position as General Food Service Worker at the Intermediate School
 - Recommendation to hire Lisa LeConte as the Media Center Associate at the High School
 - Resignation of Laurie Wildes from her position as Junior Class Sponsor
 - Recommendation to hire Amy Haack to provide Extended School Year Services for an IEP preschool student this summer
 - Recommendation to hire Cynthia McTier and Jeanine Simmons as Summer Custodial/Painters
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- The Student Fee Schedule for 2016-2017 was on the agenda, but I asked the Board to table this decision until next month. After viewing the recommended fees for the coming year, there were some fees I think might be a bit excessive, and I want to do some additional research before making a recommendation to the school board. This is especially true of the high school music-related fees that are being recommended. You can view the fees that have been recommended to me [at this link](#). You'll also see that our Business Manager, Cyndie Johnson, has also reached out to some of our area and WaMaC Conference schools to get their fee schedules, which are listed on that document. I want to spend some additional time, in the coming month, researching these and additional school fee schedules in an effort to be fair to our students and parents...but also in a way that is supportive of the high quality programs we offer. It simply appeared to me that our recommended fees might be higher than they need to be, and this alarmed me in a way that I wanted to take a deeper look into this decision before asking the Board for approval.

Those are the highlights of this month's regular meeting. The next regular board meeting is on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, at 6:00 pm, in the Central DeWitt Middle School Media Center. The Board will also be present and participate in High School Commencement on May 22 at 3pm. 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