

Board Meeting Update

May 15, 2015

Central Constituents,

As I do every month, the following are the highlights of the June 10, 2015 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](#). 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](#).
- The Board met in closed session at 5:00 pm to conduct my annual evaluation as superintendent. The Board came out of closed session to hold their regular meeting at 6:00 pm, and then following the regular meeting, they we went back into closed session to complete my evaluation.
- At the beginning of the regular board meeting, Board President Steve Fuglsang gave our new Business Manager & Board Secretary, Cyndie Johnson, her Oath of Office to serve as the Board Secretary & Treasurer.
- During the administrative reports, Director of Operations, Keith Walker, presented a report from Knapp-Warden, LLC. This is the architectural and engineering company we have used for several projects. We hired Knapp-Warden to do a full report of the architectural, structural, mechanical and electrical status of the former Clinton County Annex Building that was purchased earlier this year. In order to consider our options in the future for this building and property, we needed to know the current status of that building. Their report provides a very detailed account of the building that sits on the corner of 11th Street & 4th Avenue East. This report will be used in the future as we continue talking about uses of that property. The full report can be viewed [at this link](#).
- Keith Walker presented a State Fire Safety Report that was recently sent to the district after an unannounced visit to the school district. There were minor infractions during the visit, as you can see [on this report](#). All of the infractions have been addressed.
- The principals presented this year's Iowa Assessment information and Measures of Academic Progress results. The report can be found [at this link](#). As we find every year, there are parts of our results that give us some concern, and there are also many areas that we can celebrate success and student

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growth. Overall, the student scores are very good, but we as a school district know that we have more work to do, which will always be the case.

- With a school board election coming up this fall, it is important to point out some dates that are coming up:

- July 6 – First day to file nomination papers with the board secretary.
- July 30 – Last day to file nomination papers. Deadline is 5pm.
- September 8 – School Election Day

This is an extremely important process, and I have been very blessed to work with an outstanding school board for my seven years in our school district. It is now time to be thinking about who you would like to represent you on the school board in the future. We have three school board seats that are up for reelection, and at this time, none of the current school board members that are up for reelection are running. Those members include Jim Irwin, Christy Kunz, and Jennifer Naeve. Please be in thought about whom you would like to have as your representatives on the school board. The nomination process will pass quickly.

- The next topic the board discussed and acted on was the school district's official name. This is a topic that was discussed for several meetings approximately one year ago. At that time, there was a great deal of confusion and stirring about the district name, how we were being recognized at state events, and the numerous names we are called as a school district. Our official name since the beginning of our school district has been Central Community School District. However, since there are so many "Central's" in the State of Iowa, we are referred to as Central Clinton at the state level. I would ask that you spend some time looking at the documents on this topic [at this link](#). The documents you'll find there include information from our district attorney regarding changing the name of our school district, information that was sent out to students and the public regarding our district name, and you will also find information on a survey I conducted with our high school students last year regarding their wishes for our school district name. I found it very interesting that 70% of our high school students wished for our school district name to be changed to Central DeWitt Community School District. I would also point out that this is not a decision the school board can make. It was explained at that time that in order for a change to be made, the board would need to receive a petition from our community members to change the school district name, which would then be placed on a ballot for the public to vote. We reopened this discussion last night because that is exactly what has happened. Over the past couple weeks, I was contacted by a member of our community, Pam Duncan, that wished to bring a petition to the school board. Last night the board was presented with a petition with enough signatures of our community members to send this to a vote of the public. The petition and signatures can be found among the documents at the above link as well. The school board's role in this was to acknowledge the receipt of the petition and agree to send it to the Clinton County Auditor so that it can be included in the September 8 election. Only one petition for a school district name change can be submitted at a time, and it will be a simple majority vote with a yes or no answer to the following question:
 - Shall the name of the Central Community School District, in the County of Clinton, State of Iowa, be changed from the Central Community School District, in the County of Clinton, State of Iowa to the Central DeWitt Community School District, in the County of Clinton, State of Iowa?

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I would point out that the “in the County of Clinton, State of Iowa” section of the school district name is a requirement when naming a school district. So even though our district name would either remain Central Community School District or be changed to Central DeWitt Community School District, those following sections are always included in the legal name of our school district. This is a vote where the school board as a whole and the school district will not have an opinion. Legally, we cannot have an opinion. Certainly you will find that individuals of our school board or staff will have an opinion on this matter, but collectively we cannot. I would ask that you give this topic some thought and talk it up! Is this a question that you will support as a voting member of our school district? Or would you prefer our name to stay the same? Again, the vote will take place on September 8, along with our school board election, and my encouragement for every is simple...please vote! As with all decisions like this, we want the vote to be a true representation of the thoughts and opinions of our community.

- The board approved a sharing agreement between Maquoketa, Bellevue, Andrew, Delwood, Easton Valley, Northeast, Midland, Central, and Calamus-Wheatland School Districts to continue to provide special education services to students with intense behavioral needs at the Hillcrest location in Maquoketa. This is a one-year agreement, and as I indicated in last month’s school board update, we will be evaluating and planning to house our own program starting in the 2016-2017 school year. The agreement and other information can be found [at this link](#).
- The personnel report for this month was approved, including the following recommendations:
Licensed Personnel
 - Resignation of Kale Petersen from his position as Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, effective immediately.
 - Resignation of Stefanie Latimer from her position as 7-12 Head Dance Team Coach, effective immediately.
 - Recommendation to transfer Ms. Terri Smith from her current position as Elementary Art Teacher to the position of Middle School Technology STEM Teacher, starting with the 2015-16 school year. Her current step and lane will be the same.
 - Recommendation that Val Betz and Beth Scheckel split the FCCLA stipend that was recently approved by the board. They have been doing this for a few years already. This stipend to be split is .03 of the 2015-16 master contract.
 - Recommendation that Grady Gallagher receive the FBLA stipend that was recently approved by the school board. This is a role Bill Petsche has had for a few years. Grady will be our new Business Education instructor next year. This stipend is .03 of the 2015-16 master contract.
 - Recommendation to employ Jacquelyn Daters as the Parrott Press Sponsor for June 2015 at a stipend of \$500.00.
 - Resignation of Lori Regenwether from her position as 8th Grade Girls Track Coach, effective immediately.
 - Recommendation to hire Brittany Wedeking as the Middle School Drama Club Sponsor for the 2015-16 school year. This was a position that was split the past couple of years and with the resignation of Ms. Anderson, we would like to return the contract to one person in Mrs. Wedeking. The stipend is .07 of the 2015-16 master contract.
 - Recommendation to hire Tim Bradley as our new Intermediate & Middle School Principal. Tim comes to us from Pleasant Valley School District where he has served as an Elementary Principal for the past 12 years. Prior to that, he has experience both as a Junior High Dean of Students and 6th Grade Language Arts & Reading Teacher. Tim

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is very excited to join our team, and he will begin the transition soon. He will start July 1, 2015.

- Recommendation to hire Amanda Benson as the Ekstrand Art Teacher for the 2015-16 school year.
- Amanda is a recent graduate of UNI as well as a Central grad. She will start at BA step 1 of the 2015-16 master contract.
- Recommendation to hire Julie Strittmatter as a High School Language Arts Teacher. She has been a long-term substitute in our district the past year and has one year teaching experience out of state prior to coming to DeWitt. Ms. Strittmatter will also receive a stipend for the Central Yearbook Advisor .13 and the HS Newspaper .05. She will start on BA step 2 of the 2015-16 master contract.
- Recommendation to hire Laura Cavanagh as a Special Education Teacher at the High School. She is currently teaching at North Scott Community Schools. Mrs. Cavanagh should be placed on BA12 step 13 of the 2015-16 master contract.
- Recommendation to hire Jason McEwen as an Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach. Jason is a former head girls basketball coach for Clinton High School and has an extensive basketball background. He will be a great addition to our program. The stipend is .11 of the 2015-16 master contract.
- Recommendation to hire Mike Miller as the K-6 Assistant Principal. He will start this new position on July 1, 2015.

Support Personnel

- Retirement of Delores Flathers from her position as School Bus Driver. She had retired back in 2005, then came back and worked for another nine years. She's worked a total of 42 years with our district.
 - Recommendation to hire Michele Dammeier as a High School Special Education Associate for the 2015-16 school year. She will work 6.75 hours/day at the rate of the 2015-2016 master contract. (She was previously employed as a Special Education Associate at the Intermediate School but that position is being eliminated since the student is going to the High School.)
 - Retirement of Pam Kennedy from her position as Special Education Associate at the Middle School, effective May 29, 2015. She has worked for Central CSD for 17 years.
 - Recommendation to hire Mary Broadfoot as a Special Education Car Route Driver for the 2015-2016 school year. She will work 4.25 hours/day at the pay rate of the 2015-16 master contract.
 - Retirement of Jon Deverwaere from his position as High School Custodian. His last day of work will be July 22, 2015. He has worked as a contracted employee for Central CSD for 4 years.
 - Recommendation to increase the hours of Heather Reed, Ekstrand Special Education Associate, from 4.5 per day to 6.5 per day starting with the 2015-16 school year. The reason for this request is a heavy need incoming kindergarten class.
- The board approved the purchase of additional English/Language Arts curriculum materials for the coming school year. The purchase proposal can be found [at this link](#).
 - The purchase of the PaperCut system was approved by the board. This will allow us to have much more printing and copying security and monitoring as a school district. It will also allow for some cost savings of unneeded printing into the future. The proposal and additional information can be found [at this link](#).

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- The board approved the purchase of new lunch room tables for the Intermediate School. The tables that are currently there are original to the building and are needing to be replaced. The purchase proposal for the new tables can be found [at this link](#).

Those are the highlights of last night's regular meeting. The next regular board meeting is on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 6:00 pm, in the Central 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 Community School District

