

Board Meeting Update

October 1, 2015

Central DeWitt Constituents,

As I do every month, the following are the highlights of the September 30, 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](#). Unfortunately, the board meeting wasn't able to be video recorded. We're having some trouble with our video recording system, but we are committed to getting it running for future meetings. I apologize for this inconvenience.
- There were actually two board meetings last night. There was a meeting of the retiring board, and a meeting of the new board, which included the changes in board members due to the recent election. The meeting of the retiring board was fairly brief.
- The [year-end](#) and [monthly](#) financial reports were presented by Cyndie Johnson, our Business Manager. They can be viewed at those links.
- The board reviewed and accepted the results of the recent election. The official results can be found [at this link](#). Christy Kunz, Hannah Perrone, and Cory Huff were elected to the school board. The voters also approved the measure to change our school district name from Central Community School District to Central DeWitt Community School District with 89% approval. Thank you to all those that voted in this election. We wanted there to be a good turn-out for the vote, and our constituents came through. Thank you!
- The retiring board then took the time to reflect on everything that has been done and accomplished over the past year. Jennifer Naeve and Jim Irwin, outgoing board members, spoke of their time on the board as well. It was a great time to step back from the regular board meeting and reflect on the great things that have been accomplished in our school district. Every great thing we do as a school district is because of the incredible community, parent, teacher, and staff support we have in this school district. It is also possible because of the tremendous leadership we have on our school board. Jennifer Naeve gave 4 years of service, and Jim Irwin served for 11 years on the school board. We cannot thank them enough for sharing their leadership, talents, and expertise. We also need to thank their families for

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sharing them with us over these years. Our school district is better because of the service of Jim & Jennifer. Please join me in thanking them.

- The new board was called to order by Cyndie Johnson, since the new board starts without a president and vice president. Christy Kunz, Hannah Perrone, and Cory Huff were immediately given their oath of office.
- This meeting of the new board is considered the annual meeting of the board, and there are a lot of appointments and managerial decisions that have to be made on an annual basis.
 - Steve Fuglsang was elected as Board President.
 - Christy Kunz was elected as Board Vice President.
 - Cyndie Johnson was appointed as Board Secretary & Treasurer.
 - First Central State Bank was named as the District Depository for the coming year.
 - Brett Nitzschke of Lynch-Dallas Law Firm was appointed as District Legal Counsel.
 - Steve Fuglsang was appointed as Legislative Liaison.
 - Angela Rheingans was appointed to serve as the Board's Delegate at the Delegate Assembly at the Iowa Association of School Boards annual conference in November.
 - Angela Rheingans was appointed to the Clinton County Conference Board.
 - Hannah Perrone was appointed to the Central Performing Arts Center Board.
 - Cory Huff and Angela Rheingans were appointed to the School Improvement Advisory Committee. The full SIAC appointee list can be viewed [at this link](#).
 - Regular board meetings were scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 6pm, in the Middle School Media Center.
- The Board discussed the impacts of the vote to change the name of the school district. District employees will be moving forward immediately with no-cost items. Various viewpoints were discussed regarding how quickly to move forward with other things, such as the district name on school vehicles, building signage, score boards, etc. I will be working to develop a plan and recommendation, based on priorities and funding available, that I will then bring to the board at their October school board meeting.
- Bill Petsche, Susan Bormann, and Matt Ohnemus, all who are serving as Instructional Coaches in the district, were in attendance to give the Board an update on our Teacher Leadership & Compensation Plan.
- The Board approved a proposal from Josh Greubel, High School Band Director, to take a trip to Chicago with his band students in January to see a Broadway Show. The band typically takes a big trip to Florida, New York, etc. every four years, and they take a shorter trip like this on the off years.
- The full personnel report for this month can be viewed [at this link](#).

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- The Board held a work session on the evening of September 29 to work on the district goals for the coming year. The Iowa Assessments goals are developed by the teachers in the district, all of the goals are then presented to the School Improvement Advisory, and then they come to the school board for consideration. The Board approved the goals for 2015-2016, which can be found [at this link](#).
- The Board approved a Retirement Incentive Plan for this year's teachers. Teachers who are 55 years of age and have at least 5 years of experience in our school district are eligible for the plan. Teachers who apply by December will receive a \$25,000 stipend paid over three years, and if they apply by March, they will receive a \$15,000 stipend paid over three years. There is a benefit to the school district to know who is retiring earlier, so that we can start our planning for filling these positions. These stipends are paid out of the management fund, not the general operating fund. However, if there are savings between the retiring teacher and the teacher that replaces them, the savings is realized in the general operating fund. This financial savings is the primary reason for offering these plans. Cyndie Johnson and I will be meeting with the teachers that are eligible in the coming months to make sure they are aware of their options. The full retirement incentive plan can be found [at this link](#).

Those are the highlights of last night's regular meeting. The next regular board meeting is on Wednesday, October 14, 2015, at 6:00 pm, in the Central DeWitt 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 DeWitt Community School District