

**INTERSTATE 35 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
405 E. NORTH STREET  
TRURO, IA 50257-0079

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

6:00 P.M.

High School Library

July 18, 2011

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order - President Leah Gray called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – Julie Brownlee, Leah Gray, Dan Kirkpatrick, and Ken Stanley – present. Absent – Bryan Arzani.
- III. Welcome and Recognize Visitors – There were no visitors in attendance.
- IV. Approval of Agenda – Dan Kirkpatrick moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried 4-0.
- V. District Priorities – The Superintendent reviewed the following district priorities with the board to keep in the forefront as the board makes decisions that continue to move the district forward:
  - 1) Articulate and support a cohesive student-centered PK-12 vision for continuous school improvement
  - 2) Promote effective teaching and relevant learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - 3) Foster a culture of high expectations for student success
- VI. Open Forum – There was no one present to address the board during Open Forum.
- VII. Consent Agenda –
  - ❑ Approval of past minutes: June 20, June 27
  - ❑ Approval of monthly bills
  - ❑ Approval of personnel
    - Re-assignment – Kelly Myers (Dean of Students)
    - Hires – James Sleep (9-12 science); Sarah Vaagen (2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom); Brett Douglas (high school assistant baseball); Sarah Engel (middle school assistant softball); Danielle Woods (wrestling cheerleading)Motion to approve consent agenda by Julie Brownlee, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. Motion carried 4-0.
- VIII. Reports to the Board – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistant Principal Geoff Tessau reported that he and Transportation Director Randy Jones worked on revising the current list of rules and consequences for bussing incidents. The new consequences escalate faster for repeat offenses now, resulting in a behavior contract with the Assistant Principal after the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense. Breach of this contract can result in indefinite suspension of bus privileges. In addition the current incident report form will be discontinued and replaced with a form that was used in the past that was much more user-friendly and specific to bus incidents.

Athletic Director Ray Condon presented the participation numbers for summer sports:  
High School Baseball – 30, High School Softball – 12, Middle School Baseball – 20, Middle School Softball – 17. High School baseball plays in the sub-state game on Tuesday at

Atlantic vs. St. Albert's. High School Softball played in the regional final on Wednesday and lost to West Burlington. Fifty kids were involved with the speed and agility workouts this summer. The evaluation instrument for coaches is finished, and Condon will begin evaluations of head coaches. The district was able to get some used weight room equipment from Acceleration Iowa at a deep discount. Thanks to Jason Smith and the student council for their donation of \$1500 towards the total purchase of \$3000. Condon reported that events will now be posted on Schedule Star instead of One School Street. The new site will provide the user with event details including the location of the event, start time, and driving directions. Condon concluded his report recognizing the following players for their accomplishments this past summer season: 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference Softball: Tess Brownlee, Caitlin Weeks, Allison Seibert, Brooke Brommel. 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference Softball: Jenna Sandquist and Kelsey Bregar. 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference Baseball: JD Fickes, Cory Strable, Logan Tibbits, and Ethan Calvert. 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference Baseball: Ryan Deuel and Kyle Johnson.

Principal Casey Christensen was present to deliver his report to the board. Christensen along with Principal Jeff Snider met with building secretaries on July 13<sup>th</sup> to work through new job roles for next year. Additions to the Pre-Kindergarten playground are underway including a new concrete pad for pedal toys. Christensen thanked the Pre-K teachers for their vision, Mr. Sundermeyer for his support of the project, Steve Maxwell and crew for donating time and resources, custodian Kenny Erwin for his help and concrete expertise, and students Jake Zuercher, Dallas Houchins, and Brady Gray for their help on the project. A new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher will be hired by the next board meeting. Christensen interviewed five candidates out of over sixty applicants. Christensen thanked teachers Tim Bogs and Nicci Truman for helping with the interviews. Christensen concluded his report looking ahead to a busy August with many changes taking place, and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as the Middle School co-principal this past year. Christensen applauded Principal Jeff Snider for his hard work getting up to speed to take over next year as the Secondary Principal.

Principal Jeff Snider was not present at the meeting, but did provide a written report to the board. Highlights of Snider's report include: recognizing custodial staff for their efforts during the summer cleaning process, congratulating players, coaches, and parents on the successful summer activities season, working on a web-based electronic registration form, switching to e2020 for credit recovery rather than Odysseyware, working with Asst. Principal Geoff Tessau and Edline to improve communication with parents, hiring Kelly Myers as Dean of Students, working with Principal Casey Christensen, Asst. Principal Geoff Tessau, and building secretaries to determine new office configuration, and opening a twitter account at I35Schools to share some of the great things going on Interstate 35.

Assistant Principal Geoff Tessau was up again to share some of the new things going on with technology. Tessau reported that a new wireless system is scheduled to be installed the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>. The system will cover the entire building, and is being built for density to support any future plans for 1:1. In order for the new wireless system to operate as effectively as possible, Tessau recommended upgrading the wired backbone to 1000 Mb/s. The current backbone is a mixture of 100 Mb/s and 1000 Mb/s switches from at least 5 different manufacturers, and Tessau's recommendation would be 1000 Mb/s WebSmart

switches from Amer.com for a total cost of approximately \$7,000. The new iMac lab is coming along. The electrician will be here this week to provide junction boxes for power, the new tables are here and are being assembled, and new (to us) chairs have been bought. Once the flooring is laid, the tables will be installed, along with the power poles and internet cabling. After talking to an Edline rep about the services the district currently receives, and evaluating which of those it is using, it was discussed that we need to use these services to their full advantage. The current district website is hosted and maintained by another person, even though we are paying for hosting with Edline. An Edline site would be able to be maintained in-house, leading to cost savings for the district. To have an Edline site built involves a one-time design fee of about \$1,000. Tessau received quotes for the new Point Of Sale equipment for the lunch lines. In order to run two lines, a software upgrade is needed for the one line that is using older equipment. There are 2 versions of software: MealTracker which is currently deployed here, and a new version eTrition. eTrition is web based and offers additional features, one of which we are subscribing for with another company.

Business Manager Jennifer Jamison reported to the board next. Jamison's reviewed the financial reports, noting that nearly all of the expenditures have now been recorded for the fiscal year. Some additional revenues will be received in July and August and will be accrued back to June. The General Fund is still on target to maintain the board's goal of \$1 million in remaining fund balance. Now that the state legislature is finished for the year and allowable growth has been set at zero percent, Jamison contacted the Department of Management to adjust the cash reserve levy in order to keep the tax rate stable at \$18.42 per \$1000 of taxable valuation. The result was a \$10,000 reduction in cash reserve levy than what was originally adopted. Jamison recently attended a meeting called by the Department of Education in regards to Special Education finance. The result will be an increase in the General Program Expense for Special Education, which will increase the Special Education balance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, so this is good news!

Superintendent Sundermeyer shared report to the board. Sundermeyer provided a legislative summary: preschool funding set at \$58.4 million (.5 weighting) and limits administrative costs at five percent, categorical and allowable growth rates set at zero percent for FY12 and two percent for FY13, and a \$20 million cut from the AEAs in FY2012 and \$10 million in FY13. Sundermeyer will be attending the Iowa Education Summit July 25-36 at HyVee Hall in Des Moines. The theme for the summit is World-class education – World-class work force. Sundermeyer reminded the board of the deadlines for the upcoming school board election on September 13, 2011. The deadline to submit papers to run for school board is August 4, 2011 by 5:00 p.m. A link to find out more is available at <http://www.ia-sb.org/BoardOperations.aspx?id=11192>. Sundermeyer concluded his report with a presentation he shared with teachers this past spring regarding the district's 2010-11 student achievement results.

- IX. Roadrunner Recognition – Sundermeyer recognized the following individuals and groups: *The baseball and softball teams and their coaches* for their recent tournament runs.

Steve Maxwell for his time, equipment and expertise on the preschool concrete project. Also thanks to Casey Christensen for seeing this idea through and summer janitorial staff Jake Zuercher, Colton Hurst, and Kenny Erwin for their help in preparing the area.

finally, the entire custodial, grounds, and paint crews deserve our thanks and gratitude. They have been working diligently and efficiently to get the building ready for the start of school.

- X. IASB Legislative Priorities – Motion to approve priority number 3 – common core, number 6 – preschool, and number 10 – allowable growth by Julie Brownlee, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried, 4-0.
- XI. Preschool Fees, 2011-12 - The Legislature reduced funding to 0.5 per student (from 0.6) for four-year olds, but because the per pupil amount has now been rolled into the state foundation formula, the district will receive more funds this year than the “grant year.” Recognizing this funding source was tenuous, proactively we decided to go back to three sections. These background facts caused us to re-examine the fee structure. Administration is comfortable reducing the 4-year-old tuition significantly to \$80 per month for all-day tuition and \$50 for half-day tuition and have maintained a waiting list if registered families are unable to live up to their financial responsibilities. Ken Stanley asked how the district determines who is on the waiting list since 5-year olds receive full funding from the state. Sundermeyer responded that applications are taken on a first-come first served basis. Motion by Dan Kirkpatrick to approve preschool fees for the 2011-12 school year, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried, 4-0.
- XII. FFA Leadership Out-of-State Trip – In accordance with Policy 606.5, “Student Field Trips and Excursions,” Mr. Meggers is seeking Board approval of out-of-state trips for his FFA students during the first week of August. Motion by Julie Brownlee to approve the FFA leadership out-of-state trip, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried, 4-0.
- XIII. 2011-12 Mentoring and Induction Program Agreement – The State of Iowa requires new administrators to participate in a mentoring and induction program (Chapter 284A). At the conclusion of this year’s drawn-out legislative session, the budget compromise resulted in the elimination of state funding for administrator mentoring as well as a dramatic reduction in funding for teacher mentoring. Administration recognizes the value of this service and will work with SAI to grow and develop professionally. Motion by Julie Brownlee to approve the 2011-12 Mentoring and Induction Program Agreement, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried, 4-0.
- XIV. Bids for Products and Services – A list of annual bids was provided to the board for various services. The board selected the following vendors for the 2011-12 school year:
- Fuel – Agriland, LP, Diesel, and Ethanol blend
  - Oil – Agriland
  - Bakery Products – Interstate Brands Companies
  - Dairy – Anderson Erickson
  - Garbage – McCoy Sanitation
  - Pest Control – Orkin
- Motion by Julie Brownlee to approve the vendors listed above, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried, 4-0.

- XV. Superintendent Contract Consideration – Following the Superintendent’s evaluation, the board is able to take action on his contract. Motion by Julie Brownlee to renew a 3-year contract with a total compensation package increase of 3.5% for next year, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. Motion carried, 4-0.
- XVI. Upcoming Dates
- August 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – School Registration for 2011-12
  - August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – New Teacher Orientation
  - August 18<sup>th</sup> – City State Bank will provide breakfast
  - August 22<sup>nd</sup> – PK-12 Open House, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
  - August 24<sup>th</sup> – First day of school
  - August 24-26 – 1:15 dismissals, professional development
- XVII. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items
- Board Policies, 300s & 700s (August)
  - Student Handbooks (August)
  - Goal setting work session (September/October)
  - Athletic Training Facility
  - Student IDs
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Interstate 35 School District (2011-12)
- XVIII. Adjourn – Dan Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn. Motion approved 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Leah Gray, Board President

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Jennifer Jamison, Board Secretary