

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

6:00 P.M.

High School Library

November 28, 2011

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order - President Leah Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – Bryan Arzani, Julie Brownlee, Leah Gray, Dan Kirkpatrick, Ken Stanley – present. Absent – none.
- III. Welcome and recognize visitors – District patrons Tina Burkhead, Jenny Dickinson, Tracy Hutton, Ellen Pontolilo, and Erin Thornburgh were in attendance.
- IV. Approval of Agenda – Superintendent Sundermeyer asked to move item XVI – Good Cause Consideration up to item X after Roadrunner Recognition. Motion to approve the revised agenda by Bryan Arzani, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried 5-0.
- V. District Priorities – President Gray 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 (Ensure/Engage in) effective teaching and relevant learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - 3) Operate with fiscal integrity, efficiency and effectiveness
- VI. Open Forum – No one wished to address the board during open forum.
- VII. Consent Agenda –
  - A) Approval of past minutes: October 18, October 24, November 16
  - B) Approval of bills
  - C) Approval of personnel
    - Hires – Don Monaghan (Asst. 7/8 Girls Basketball)
    - Transfers – Rick Tuttle from Shuttle to Route DriverMotion to approve consent agenda by Julie Brownlee, seconded by Bryan Arzani. Motion carried 5-0.
- VIII. Reports to the Board
  - A) Digi Girls – Brooke Brommel and Hailey Travis reported to the board about a conference they recently attended which was sponsored by Microsoft, and focused on young women in technology. Teacher Kris Zuercher accompanied Tiffany Brown, Brianna DeAngelis, Brooke Brommel, and Hailey Travis on the trip where one of the students won an Xbox gaming system with Kinect.
  - B) Iowa Youth Survey – This report was tabled until the December meeting.
  - C) School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) – Superintendent Sundermeyer reported the SIAC’s feedback regarding district priorities and compared their results to the board/administration and teachers. Brian Arzani was encouraged by the results and thought the SIAC meeting was one of the best he has attended since serving on the board. Arzani urged the groups to continue the 2-way feedback when monitoring progress made.

- D) Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) Convention – President Gray reported on some of the sessions she attended at the recent IASB convention. Gray especially enjoyed Jamie Vollmer’s presentation and shared some of Vollmer’s talking points ([www.jamievollmer.com](http://www.jamievollmer.com)). Bryan Arzani attended the IASB delegate assembly the day prior to the convention. The district receives one vote, and Arzani serves as the district’s voice on the various lobbying efforts for the upcoming legislative session.
- E) Directors and Administrators - Head Cook Mary Ann Evison was in attendance and reported to the board regarding the power outage on November 9, the switch to new lunch system on November 14, and the state review on November 22 and 23. Evison thanked Deann Strange for tirelessly working to get all the data into the system.

Transportation Director Rick Zimmerman reported to the board that he met with many parents during conferences earlier this month regarding route changes. He said many of the drivers agree that the realigned routes are working better. Zimmerman has been busy servicing busses for the winter and driving a lot of the routes and is feeling more comfortable in his new position.

Maintenance Director Denny Clark was in attendance and provided updates on an upcoming energy audit from Alliant Energy. Clark included quotes from five vendors to examine refinishing the High School gym floor. For purposes of safety, Clark is looking into the addition of some exterior lighting around the building. He also mentioned working on a long-range plan for carpet replacement in the PK-8 section.

Athletic Director Ray Condon previewed winter sports. Numbers for winter sports are as follows:

- HS Wrestling – 30 (inc. stats and mgrs.)                      MS Wrestling - 10
- HS Boys Basketball - 20 (2 managers)                              MS Boys Basketball - 23
- HS Girls Basketball – 16    MS Girls Basketball – 17

Fall Awards Night and Winter Meet the Team Night were held in conjunction with each other on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Condon has received both positive and negative feedback, but would like to continue to do try this in the future. A storage building at the football field is still under consideration. Finally, the Boosters are going to donate \$10,000 toward the cost of a new timing system for the track. The new system would allow for hosting district events which, in turn, brings more revenue into the district through gates and concessions.

Condon and Secondary Principal Jeff Snider have begun preliminary discussions on a schematic design for an athletic training facility which will include indoor basketball (not full court) and volleyball courts, indoor track, batting cages, and an area for weight training and plyometrics. Some follow-up questions about more specific details were asked and not able to be answered due to the project very much in the beginning planning stages. As the footprint and possible costs are determined, a committee will be established to work through the specs of layout, equipment, etc. Ken Stanley felt that his role along with Arzani was to provide a vision for the facility, and it was up to administration to bring a proposal forward.

District patrons Tracy Hutton, Ellen Pontolilo, and Erin Thornburgh left the meeting.

Assistant Principal Geoff Tessau shared his report with the board. Tessau hosted an Edline Open House during conferences for parents to get questions answered and learn how to navigate the system. Tessau also held a session for staff during November's Professional Development day on teacher websites. Tessau plans to hold another Edline training session for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents on December 7. The new lunch point of sale machines were installed on November 14, and the transition went smoothly. Tessau has added a link to the district website allowing anyone to sign up for daily announcements from the school. Finally, Tessau discussed the technology specialist position and what that should look like going forward.

Principal Casey Christensen presented his report to the board. His staff has been trying to collect the remaining K-5 registration fees. The AEA representative applauded the district's special education efforts with the low number of citations and the quick turnaround to correct them. Christensen and Leann McFarland have been organizing and old and current special education files to locate them in a central area for access. Christensen thanked McFarland and the special education teachers for their help with this. The K-2 students put on a Thanksgiving concert to a packed house on November 22. Thanks to Mrs. Shauna Pickering for directing such a wonderful concert, the teachers for helping supervise, and the parents for their support. On November 21 the entire PK staff were trained and licensed for CPR which keeps the PK program in compliance with NAEYC standards. Christensen reported the parent-teacher conference attendance numbers by classroom in the board packet, the elementary celebrated red ribbon week the last week of October to help raise awareness about drug and alcohol addiction, and a team of teachers from the elementary will represent the district at an IDM reunion scheduled for December 16.

Principal Jeff Snider's report thanked everyone for the hard work and effort put into the I-35 acres project. Snider reported parent-teacher conference attendance by grade. The musical *Bah Humbug* was a huge success and showcased our student's talent; great job for all involved. Snider then briefed the board about the process to select a more aligned, rigorous, and inquiry-based math curriculum for the 9-12 grades. Snider stated the current curriculum needs a drastic update, but with the adoption of 6-8 the curriculum, *Mathematics in Context*, it's headed in the right direction. A few concerns about the new 6-8 curriculum have been received, however, according to the publisher, this is typical. Superintendent Sundermeyer read an excerpt from the teacher implementation guide for *Mathematics in Context*. "Why is my child struggling more than before? The transition to MiC can challenge what it means to do well in mathematics. Students who produced accurate, fast answers to computation problems in a traditional classroom might experience difficulty when they are expected to justify, explain, and reason mathematically. Likewise, students who struggled with arithmetic might begin to shine when multiple strategies are available to solve problems and computational understanding is valued."

Business Manager Jennifer Jamison reviewed the October financial reports with the board. With the receipt of semi-annual property taxes, all funds are in a good position for this time of the year. Jamison reported that textbook fee collections are double what they were at this time last year, and Medicaid revenues are beginning to be collected now that all paperwork is in order. The Capital Projects fund received last fiscal year's reconciliation payment in November; therefore, the fund balance will increase substantially in that fund next month. The lunch fund received its federal and state reimbursement check for September in early November as opposed to late October as in previous years. Jamison also reported on various projects she has been working on including expanding online fee payments to the activity and general fund, flexible spending account for health and dependent care enrollment, and year-end training for W2s and 1099s.

Superintendent Sundermeyer shared the expectations, supports, and evidence of progress for two of the district's three priorities. Also discussed was the focus on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and technology through various sessions at recent teacher Professional Development days in October and November. Sundermeyer reported the forecasting demand for High School through College Jobs for years 2008-2018 which shows that the fastest growing cluster will be in Information Technology, increasing 22% by 2018. In addition, jobs that require only a high school graduate or less will grow more slowly than those that require post-secondary education. The board was also provided with updates on the ITBS/ITED score distributions in mathematics for last school year along with the math portion of the Annual Progress Report which addresses mathematics in grades 6-8. Sundermeyer concluded his report with an update on certified enrollment. A last-minute decision by the Department of Education resulted in a reduction of 15 five-year-old pre-kindergarten students which in the past were allowed to be counted in certified enrollment. This results in a reduction in revenue for next school year of approximately \$90,000. The district disputes the Department of Education decision and has sought legal counsel in the matter.

IX. Roadrunner Recognition – Superintendent Sundermeyer recognized the following individuals and groups:

Deann Strange for the many extra hours she spent getting everything ready to go, so we had a smooth transition from our old system. And to Mary Ann Evison and Geoff Tessau for their roles in making this happen, and Joyce Baughman, Cindy Kennedy, and Tina McCuddin for adjusting to the new system so quickly.

Cast and crew of Bah, Humbug! for the tremendously well-received and attended performances in early November. It was a great premiere for the new Music Productions class co-taught by David Webster and Shauna Pickering. Also, a great concert by the K-2 students Tuesday night. The collaboration paid off again with student-produced videos, lighting, etc.

Kenny Erwin and Laurie Jones for their planning and perseverance in getting the outdoor fitness stations assembled and installed before winter hits. We look forward to seeing them in use by students and community this spring.

Geoff Tessau for conducting informational sessions on the new features of Edline for secondary parents during conferences. He has a similar meeting set up for fifth grade parents on December 7.

National Honor Society inductees Valerie Bedwell, Forrest Beeler, Shandara Beener, Rachel Brownlee, Jessica Deuel, Bailey Dixon, Holly McKinney, Taylor Parish, Jenna Sandquist, and Caitlin Weeks for earning the national recognition that honors service, character, leadership, and scholarship.

Jenna Sandquist for performing at the All-State Music Festival in Ames this past month.

Deana Lensing for being selected as a member of the All-Iowa Honor Dance Team.

Allyson Young, Brayden Egli, Jordan Charron, Tanner Beem, Cheyenne Loomis, Sal Arzani, Jamal White, Briar Vogel, and Amber Crow for being named November Students of the Month.

- X. Good Cause Consideration – Teacher Heather Dutrey submitted a request for personal sick leave to be used during her daycare provider’s absence. According to the Teacher Master Contract, “other temporary leaves of absences with pay may be granted by the board with good reason.” Motion to deny the good cause request by Bryan Arzani, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XI. Early Graduates – Policy 505.6 allows for early graduation, and Mr. Snider has recommended the following students for reaching the criteria: Maria DeAngelis and Samuel Elliot. Motion to approve the early graduation requests by Bryan Arzani, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XII. School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) Application – This is a state-appointed group that approves circumstances for school districts to increase their spending authority, including allowable growth for on-time funding. Motion by Dan Kirkpatrick to approve the SBRC Application, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XIII. SBRC FY2011 Special Education Negative Balance – Due to the ARRA stimulus funds expiring, the district ran a deficit of \$258,287 for last year’s special education programming. As such, we can apply to the School Budget Review Committee to be able to recoup these costs in terms of spending authority. Superintendent Sundermeyer reported that the district has already proactively downsized the number of teachers in special education, looking at our ratio compared to other comparison schools for the current school year. Motion by Bryan Arzani to approve the SBRC FY2011 Special Education Negative Balance, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. Motion carried, 4-1.
- XIV. Board Policy 501.14 – 507.8, Second Readings – Motion by Julie Brownlee to strike 507.6 “Student Insurance” and approve the second and final reading of policies 501.14 through 507.8, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. Motion carried, 5-0.

- XV. Upper Iowa Student Teaching Agreement – Upper Iowa has asked for us to host student teachers and/or practicum students from their Education Department. In such a situation, this type of agreement is required by the Iowa Department of Education. Motion by Dan Kirkpatrick to approve the Upper Iowa Student Teaching Agreement, seconded by Bryan Arzani. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XVI. Shared Transportation Agreement – No longer needed.
- XVII. Upcoming Dates –
- December 5 – 9-12 Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
  - December 7 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Edline parent meeting
  - December 12 – 6-8 Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
  - December 19 – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> musical, 6:30 p.m.
  - December 19 – Regular Board meeting
  - December 22 – 1:15 dismissal
  - January 2 – snow day make-up
- XVIII. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items –
- Iowa Youth Survey (December)
  - Elementary IDM/RTI (January)
  - Athletics/Fine Arts/Academics comparison of expenditures – Ken Stanley
- XIX. Exempt Session, Chapter 21, for negotiations strategy session – Motion by Bryan Arzani to go into exempt session to discuss negotiations strategy, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried, 5-0. Exempt session began at 9:07.
- XX. Adjourn – Ken Stanley moved to adjourn. Motion approved 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Leah Gray, Board President

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Jennifer Jamison, Board Secretary