

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

High School Library

December 19, 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 patron Tina Burkhead was in attendance.
- IV. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the 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 21st 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: November 28
 - B) Approval of bills
 - C) Approval of personnel
 - Resignation – Rick Zimmerman, Transportation Director

The Board thanked Zimmerman for his service during the transition which brought a different perspective to the position, and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Motion to approve consent agenda by Dan Kirkpatrick, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried 5-0.
- VIII. Reports to the Board
 - A) Iowa Youth Survey – Secondary counselor Angela Steinlage and Elementary counselor Devin Ebert presented the results of the 2010 Iowa Youth Survey. The survey, conducted with students in grades 6, 8, and 11, helps various decision makers, agencies, and schools identify youth development needs, implement relevant, targeted interventions, and assess outcomes. Steinlage and Ebert reviewed the results in all areas, spending more time on positive family relationships, school student/staff support, and bullying. Arzani asked what could be done to improve the results, and Steinlage said that she has read what other districts are doing such as Des Moines Public Schools’ bullying program, as well as attending professional development to help students with these issues. Ken Stanley asked about cyber bullying and when it comes into the school domain. Steinlage said that if the cyber bullying carries over into the school setting, then it’s a school issue. At that point, the school will involve parents and law enforcement where necessary. Superintendent

Sundermeyer said that classes addressed cyber bullying at various times during October which is internet safety month.

- B) I-35 Acres Project – Vocational Agriculture teacher Dennis Meggers updated the board on the I-35 acres project. Approximately 12 acres of corn was planted last season. The Endres volunteered their time and equipment to harvest the grain. Steve Queck assisted in planting and applying herbicide. The area provides an outdoor classroom for middle school science as well as high school agriculture. The project has been a positive, hands-on experience for students.

Ken Stanley left the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Transportation Director Rick Zimmerman gave his last report to the board. Arzani described his tenure as a win-win all the way around, allowing Bobbie Finley to rise to the occasion. Finley said that before Zimmerman started there were things she didn't know which she has learned. Some of the areas Finley is considering include: outsourcing certain repairs, utilizing local vendors for state inspections, and running routes 3 and 7 without shuttle 1. Support Staff Union President Mary Ann Evison asked about the contract for the new director, and whether it would be a support staff position. Sundermeyer replied that he is still working on the contract details at this time, so is not certain whether it would be a support staff contract position or a confidential position which is not under a negotiated agreement.

Head Cook Mary Ann Evison provided a written report in the board packet. Highlights included: equipment breakdowns to be repaired over break, January menus completed and include new items from the state cookbook upon which Evison will seek feedback from students, visiting nearby school to assist with complying with new purchasing regulations, and the latest health inspection results where the only item of noncompliance was a leaky faucet in the handwashing area. Evison added that she is waiting on the results from the recent State review. The main concern is procurement, but Mary Ann is seeking clarification as to whether items from the co-op are exempt from the three-bid rule as they have already been bid out by the co-op.

Activities Director Ray Condon updated the board on the timing system and hurdles purchased with a donation of \$10,000 from the Booster Club. The varsity boys' basketball record is 3-3 and the girls are 4-3. Condon reviewed the new concussion legislation that went into effect July 1, 2011 requiring parental consent before a player can play or practice. MidAmerican Energy's Nancy Von Felt recently sponsored a basketball game handing out free items, making announcements, and donating \$250 to the Booster Club. Condon is seeking more of these types of opportunities in the future. Leah Gray wished to thank MidAmerican for their support, and suggested that Condon add an announcement to the website for those that may want to sponsor an event.

Superintendent Eric Sundermeyer briefed the board on custom rebates received from Alliant Energy for the new boiler controls. With the new controls in place, the boilers are only running about two-thirds the time as in the past which should provide a 33 to 45 percent savings in energy bills. In addition, Alliant has provided a cash rebate in an

amount still being determined. Mary Ann Evison thanked the maintenance department for the additional lights behind the building. It was recently discovered that there was no warm water in the elementary building since it was built. This has also been fixed.

Assistant Principal Geoff Tessau's written report appeared in the board packet. Highlights of that included: technology specialist position, mailing list, and additional internet bandwidth. Tessau added that of the nine applicants for the technology specialist position, one stood out with eight years of previous experience in a casino environment. Since the applicant lacked experience in an education setting, they will be hired on a probationary basis until it is determined to be a good fit for both the district and the applicant.

Principal Casey Christensen was not at the board meeting, due to the 3 and 4th grade winter concert being held at the same time. Christensen's written report to the board included the following: preschool grant application for \$2,500 to purchase five additional Ipads, preschool webpage complete, Special Education District Service Delivery Plan (DSDP) update and destroying old special education files, EDLINE parent meeting on December 7 for 5th grade parents, winter concert, and announcements featuring student achievements outside of school.

Principal Jeff Snider's written report was included in the board packet and highlights in were as follows: penny wars sponsored by the 6-8 grade student council raised over \$2,200 to benefit local families through Jesus' Right Hand, can drive in the 9-12 for Jesus' Right Hand, Dance Team State Competition, 9-12 Advisory letters to troops, 6-8 and 9-12 Band and Vocal winter concerts, Drake Honor Band participants: Ben Merrick, Kaley Chicoine, Marie James, Holly McKinney, and Valerie Bedwell and special congratulations to Kaley Chicoine for being selected first chair clarinet in the honor band, sixth grade field trip to Science Center's Ancient Egypt exhibit, eighth grade field trip to State Historical Museum in conjunction with Pearl Harbor anniversary and upcoming WWII unit, site visit experience, and semester tests. Snider reiterated the exceptional success of the penny wars in grades 6-8, and gave more insight after participating in a site visit to a nearby district.

Business Manager Jennifer Jamison reviewed the November financial reports with the board. General Fund revenues are up \$400,000 compared to last year-to-date and expenditures are \$13,000 less than last year-to-date. Jamison expects to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget and additional fund balance. Included in the reports this month was a summary of expenditures in all funds across the functional areas required to stay within based on the published budget. The expenditures compared to budget are within the expected percentages for this time of year. Jamison will continue to monitor this and update the board should an amendment be necessary. Finally, Jamison shared her analysis as requested by Ken Stanley regarding the percentage of expenditures for instruction, special instruction, fine arts, and athletics. In the General Fund instructional function, approximately is 74.8 percent is spent on regular instruction, 21.8 percent on special education instruction, and the remaining 3.4 percent is split between athletics and activities at 3 percent and fine arts at .4 percent of general fund instructional

expenditures. The fine arts and activities/athletics expenditures include salaries and benefits of coaches and sponsors as well as non-personnel expenditures such as supplies and equipment.

Superintendent Sundermeyer reported on the following:

- Modified Allowable Growth for Dropout Prevention – the district will not request any additional allowable growth for dropout prevention, rather it will utilize existing carryover. A Service Summary Report will still be completed for reporting the use of these funds to the state legislature.
- Sundermeyer will form a District Leadership Team for second semester. The purpose of the team will be to broaden the base of leadership within the school, assist with development of professional learning communities, model leadership for other members of the learning community, and focus on student learning and achievement data.
- Sundermeyer shared the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) document, *Change: Lessons Learned “In Their Own Words” – Interviews with New Superintendents and Their District’s Board Presidents in Iowa*, in which he and Leah Gray participated. The result was summary of seven key factors and how they impacted these first-year relationships.
- Sundermeyer concluded the report with a few updates: 1:15 dismissal on December 22, school resumes on January 2, and December 22 will be a jeans day for staff who wear holiday attire followed by an all staff picture after students dismiss.

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

Stephen Kness, Shauna Pickering and David Webster for showcasing the music department this month with concerts every Monday in December.

Roxanne Beeler and Devin Ebert for coordinating a PBIS elementary initiative to provide for needy families in the area during the holidays.

Student Council advisor Megan Schmelzer and the 6-8 staff and student body for raising a phenomenal \$2,228.37 to donate to Jesus’ Right Hand in a Penny War for the ages!

Jason Smith and Lori Jordan for organizing a local Coaches vs. Cancer campaign where people can buy different-colored ribbons to support the fights against cancer.

District residents Cindy Cassidy and Bryan Nelson for their time and expertise in helping with the recent technology specialist interviews.

Laurie Jones for locating a district patron’s gloves weeks later after she had lost them at the K-2 music concert (reported by Ruby Fogwell)

Jim Miller for installing a new, draft-proof interior door in the bus shed.

- X. School Audit Services Request for Proposal – The district contract for audit services with Nolte, Cornman, and Johnson has expired, therefore, services must be bid out again for the next three-year period. The dates on the RFP are such that the board can approve the RFP in December and name the auditor in January. Motion to approve the School Audit Services Request for Proposal by Bryan Arzani, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried, 4-0.
- XI. Upcoming Dates –
- January 2 – make-up day from power outage
 - January 6 – 1:15 dismissal, end of first semester
 - January 16 – No school, professional development
 - January 23 – Regular Board Meeting
- XII. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items –
- Elementary IDM/RTI (January)
 - Superintendent Evaluation (January)
- XIII. Adjourn – Dan Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn. Motion approved 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Leah Gray, Board President

Jennifer Jamison, Board Secretary