

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6:00 P.M.

High School Library

September 26, 2011

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order - President Leah Gray called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – Bryan Arzani, Leah Gray, Dan Kirkpatrick, and Ken Stanley– present. Absent – Julie Brownlee.
- III. Welcome and recognize visitors – Visitors in attendance: Tracy Hutton and Jody Taylor
- IV. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda by Bryan Arzani, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. 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 21st Century
 - 3) Foster a culture of high expectations for student success
- VI. Open Forum – No one was in attendance to address the board during open forum.
- VII. Consent Agenda –
 - ❑ Approval of past minutes: August 22, August 27, September 7
 - ❑ Approval of bills
 - ❑ Approval of personnel
 - Hires – Rick Zimmerman (Transportation Director); Shane Campbell (substitute bus driver); Jeff Shipley (substitute bus driver); Art Smith (special education route); Vicki Westerly and Heather Dutrey (Prom Co-Sponsors); Megan Schmelzer (6-8 Student Council); Andrew Messer (Math/Science Club)
 - Resignations – Johnna Ekleberry (shuttle driver)Motion to approve consent agenda by Dan Kirkpatrick, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried 4-0.

Julie Brownlee joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.
- VIII. Reports to the Board

Teacher Janet Walkup was in attendance to present to the board on the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program and how she meets the needs of students beyond the regular education program. Walkup reviewed the various programming options offered by TAG as well as shared with the board her schedule and the standards and benchmarks she holds for the TAG program at Interstate 35. Leah Gray asked how one would know if we have a good TAG program. Walkup responded that it’s more of a self-evaluation, but that during a Department of Education site visit the TAG options are reviewed against statewide standards. Bryan

Arzani asked what should a student expect to gain after having been in the TAG program. Walkup responded that they should be able to gain creative thinking and problem solving skills that complement what they attain from their general education classes.

Tracy Hutton, member of the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) presented the board with SIAC's Annual Improvement Goals for FY2011-12:

Reading – Demonstrate at least a 5 percent increase in the 11th grade low socioeconomic status subgroup. This past year, the cohort group was at 50 percent proficient in reading comprehension.

Math – Demonstrate at least a 4 percent increase in those considered proficient for the 7th grade overall mathematics scores. This past year, the cohort group was at 62 percent proficient in math total.

Science – Demonstrate at least a 4 percent increase in the 10th grade male subgroup. This past year, the cohort group was at 63 percent proficient in science.

Bus Driver Bobbie Finley was in attendance to report to the board regarding transportation. Finley has been serving as the Interim Transportation Director over the past month, and reported on some improvements she has noticed that need attention including: discipline, safety evacuations, getting to know students, refresher on safe driving habits, communication with parents, and length of routes. Leah Gray was happy to hear that busses still did evacuation drills. Dan Kirkpatrick suggested involving the local Fire Departments in the evacuation drills as well.

Athletic Director Ray Condon reported to the board the current participation numbers for fall sports, the upcoming meeting with One Source Fitness on September 29th to discuss plans for the Athletic Training Facility, the purchase of 40 hurdles by the Boosters, the possible purchase of an automatic timing system for the track by the Boosters, thanks to Jim Miller and Frank Stroh for the field maintenance, and the addition of another storage building at the football field.

Head Cook Mary Ann Evison was present to deliver her report to the board. Breakfast participation is steadily increasing. Some favorite menu items included: hot dogs and potato wedges and hamburgers and french fries for lunch, cinnamon rolls and breakfast pizza for breakfast. Water has been popular on the hot days as well as ice cream. The cooks serve on average 698 lunches and 119 breakfasts daily. Evison has been serving lunches in the preschool rooms this year, and the project is going well. Evison received notification that the Department of Ed would be reviewing the district's lunch program this year. Evison and cook Angela Stroh will attend a meeting next week to prepare for the DE's visit. New point of sale machines will be implemented in mid-November. Staff will attend a full day of training for the new system. Food prices have increased on most items. Ground beef has increased substantially causing Evison to investigate alternative ingredients and recipes. Evison will consider increasing milk prices later this year. Evison concluded her report with a number of nails and screws she gathered from a magnet rolled across the back parking lot, which were the cause of flat tires from a number of Evison's staff recently.

Buildings and Grounds Director Denny Clark briefed the board on various items. The card system for doors will be activated soon. The new heating system control panel has provided greater energy efficiency. Based on numbers from Alliant Energy, the district's usage has dropped by 17 percent. A separate panel is to be installed in the High School Gym which will save an additional 33 percent. Clark is also looking into the STAR program where the district could get up to 90 percent of its energy costs back. In addition, Alliant Energy offers rebates on the new equipment recently installed in the amount of \$3,000. With the savings, Clark is hoping to bring the HVAC system onto the new controls in the future. Academy Roofing was here a couple of weeks ago and fixed all leaks except for the Superintendent's conference room. The district has offered to purchase 3 loads of gravel in the amount of \$540 for the Little League fields as the parking gets used during home football games. The district is investigating adding more cameras throughout the campus. Finally, Clark proposed the addition of new 12 foot tables for the High School Commons. The current tables are getting worn out and hard to fold and unfold. The lunch fund would share in the cost of the tables which are \$853 each. Dan Kirkpatrick asked about the sewer smell at the football field after games. Clark said that the septic system has not been pumped for at least a few years and would planned to address it before the varsity's next home football game. Kirkpatrick also asked about the possibility of adding portable toilets at the fields to accommodate larger crowds.

Assistant Principal Geoff Tessau delivered the Technology Director's report for Jade Pospeshil who was absent. Highlights of the report are as follows:

- Computer lab updates
- Improved throughput due to installation of Gig switches
- Student data migration to new servers complete (thanks to Mr. Meyer for his hard work and countless hours on this project)
- New wireless network installation complete and functioning well
- Teacher laptops all updated and maintenance performed
- Addition of four new mimios and more LCD projectors in classrooms
- Working with High School student techs to assist Technology Director
- Various conferences attended and information attained
- Microsoft Settlement winding down
- Google Apps integration in classrooms
- Future initiatives: imaging solution/asset inventory, increase bandwidth, and more laptop carts

Secondary Principal Jeff Snider then shared his report with the board. Snider reported students had a great time building relationships with each other as well as understanding the importance of working together as a team at the sophomore retreat held the first week of September at Camp Dodge. Teacher Jason Smith and the student council, specifically President Staci Morris, deserve kudos for their organization of activities for Homecoming week which included: daily minute-to-win-it activities, arranging dress-up days, setting up the coronation, as well as the Homecoming dance itself. Snider will be taking a group of students up to Ames the first week of October for the Pursuing Victory with Honor Summit. The conference is a great opportunity for student-athletes to see the power of quality leadership in both athletics in both athletics and the classroom. Snider wished to thank the

Boosters for sponsoring this endeavor. Newly implemented this year is the I-35 Secondary Student(s) of the Month. Each month male and female students from grades 6-8 and grades 9-12 will be selected and given recognition through a photo display in the building, Student of the Month Certificate, and a letter sent home. Snider praised Dean of Students Kelly Myers for helping to create a positive school climate, proactively promoting positive student behaviors, monitoring attendance, and collaboratively coordinating student consequences, including, but not limited to, detentions and Saturday Schools. Snider reported that office behavior referrals are down 50 percent compared to last year at this time. Tracking attendance has been a major goal in an effort to increase student accountability. Snider referred the board to Teacher Jason Mehrhoff's Journalism Class blog at <http://roadrunnerreport.blogspot.com/>. Finally several teachers will be attending a conference soon to gather ideas for technology integration with a focus on improving student achievement. Keynote speaker at this conference is the State of Iowa Education Director, Jason Glass.

Elementary Principal Casey Christensen reported that the preschool year is off to a great start. Leann McFarland has taken on the role of PK secretary and is doing a great job. Christensen and McFarland continue to organize the program, giving special attention to the collection of tuition. Christensen also reported about the authentic and student driven learning activities at the preschool, such as the praying mantis in Mrs. Dickinson's room. DIBELS testing has taken place for K-5 students using the new DIBELS NEXT program. The data from this testing is used for adjusting instruction, grouping students for ALOHA, identifying Title I students, and state reporting. The IDM testing team of Roxanne Beeler, Jenny Jones, Sarah Engel, and Heather Wells (and her sub Angel Lewis) did a great job coordinating the testing and interpreting the data. Christensen thanked the office staff for their extra efforts with the bus situation and entering of registration information. The elementary has implemented a "Student of the Week" program where an elementary student is recognized for outstanding character in the community, school, and at home. The three students of the week thus far were: Austin Waybright, Ethan Adair, and Fletcher Jackson. Finally, Christensen thanked McFarland and Dorothy Huss for helping arrange the display case to celebrate 50 years of I-35 schools. Items will be changed monthly throughout the year. Staff and community members are asked to share old Roadrunner shirts, pictures, gear, or articles to display and return when done. Other activities to celebrate this anniversary are in the works as well.

Assistant Principal Geoff Tessau shared his report. Tessau recognized Bobbie Finley for helping to keep things running the past few weeks. In addition, Tessau thanked parents, students, and drivers for their flexibility and understanding with juggling schedules for the St. Charles shuttle busses. While all the interviewed candidates would have done a fine job, one stood out from the rest, bringing over 12 years of experience as Transportation Director and outstanding mechanical skills. Tessau looks forward to working closely with Mr. Rick Zimmerman when he starts next month. Tessau is beginning his mentorship program with School Administrators of Iowa. Tessau's mentor is with Van Meter schools. Since Van Meter is currently a 1:1 laptop school, this will be a great relationship as I-35 considers making this next step. Tessau reported that the iMacs will be reimaged this week, with students able to start logging onto the Mac side next week and start using some of the iLife

programs. Teachers Julie Kordick and Hannah Ludwig assisted with this by searching for low/no cost programs that could be added to the iMacs when they are reimaged.

Business Manager Jennifer Jamison reviewed the financial reports with the board. The General Fund exceeded the board's goal for fund balance in FY2010-11, finishing with over \$1.2 million in combined fund balance. The Certified Annual Report, Transportation Report, and Special Education Supplement were all submitted to the Department of Education by the September 15 deadline. The Special Ed balance finished with a deficit of \$258,000. Jamison stated that the district's external auditors will be here to conduct the annual audit on the 27th.

Superintendent Eric Sundermeyer shared the Annual Progress Report insert for October's Roadrunner Report and the projected enrollment with the board. Preliminary enrollment appears to be down 20 due to dropping a preschool class last Spring because of uncertain funding from the state, but will have official certified enrollment by October 14.

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

Bobbie Finley, Jim Miller, and Frank Stroh for encouraging decorating of their buses and driving the masterpieces in the Homecoming Parade. And, of course, Mary Siebert for her coordination of the parade.

Clarke of Osceola Superintendent Ned Cox and their Transportation Director Rex Marker for opening up their substitute roster list to us as we continue to bolster our own crew of drivers. It has been a great partnership, and we will continue to seek ways to collaborate with them and other neighboring schools for the benefit of all.

Doug George, Ross Cornelison, and Bobbie Finley for their innovation and problem-solving to absorb the afternoon St. Charles shuttle route.

Bart Brass, Rick Finley, Ricky Finley, and Charlie Hoffman for donating their expertise and labor to help maintain and repair a few school vehicles while we have been without a district mechanic.

The entire transportation department for stepping up and taking the lead during this transition period. Ross Cornelison (Bus #7) and Bobbie Finley (6) have both taken on additional duties and have performed exceedingly well, but each bus driver has played a part in making the past couple of weeks go smoothly. They are: Tom Cunningham (2), Doug George (3), Rick Tuttle (4), Larry Smith (5), Jim Miller (8), Frank Stroh (9), Julie Brommel (10), Peral Swartslander (14), and Art Smith (16). Ross Roberts, Don Monaghan, Bryan Eddy, John McDunn, and Dave Twilligear have also helped by substituting this week. Be sure to thank them for their efforts when you see them.

Bill Brookhart, of Jackson Medical Supply in Winterset, for providing us a great discount on heart rate monitors to move our secondary PE departments into fitness for the 21st Century.

PTO/BEEP Club for their continued support of our school district. Their recent Entertainment book fundraiser has been a huge success, and we appreciate all the time and effort they put into making this happen.

Casey Christensen, Denny Clark, and the custodial staff for leading us forward in a stronger recycling program. Tubs have been purchased and procedures put in place so we will be making more regular trips to Des Moines.

Mary Ann Evison, Bobbie Finley, Rick Gray, and Raeann Thomas and her second grade classroom for their willingness to help out during KCCI's visit to report on the early dismissal for heat. It was a great news story, and we have received many positive comments. Jim Miller and Frank Stroh for mowing and painting the lines on the football field. This is an additional responsibility they have shouldered this year, and they have done so willingly and with a great deal of pride.

Casey Christensen, Janelle Gutzmer, Cathy Poole, and Angela Steinlage for their contributions of data for the Annual Progress Report.

Casey Christensen, Jeff Snider, and Geoff Tessau for making professional development on the 26th go off without a hitch.

- X. Review of School Board Election Results – Board Secretary Jennifer Jamison read the results of the canvass of votes by the Warren County Board of Supervisors. The winners of the election were: Ken Stanley (District #10) - 122 votes, Julie Brownlee (District #2) – 132 votes, and Leah Gray (At-large) – 111 votes. Bryan Arzani moved to acknowledge receipt of the results, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XI. Adjourn – Bryan Arzani moved to adjourn. Motion approved 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Leah Gray, Board President

Jennifer Jamison, Board Secretary