

**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 17, 2012

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order - President Leah Gray called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- II. Roll Call – Bryan Arzani, Julie Brownlee, Leah Gray, Dan Kirkpatrick, Ken Stanley, and student council representative Jamal White – present. Absent – none.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance – The board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed for the victims of the recent school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.
- IV. Welcome and recognize visitors – District patrons Darrell Beem, Cindi Cassady, Chris Cummings, Jenny Dickinson, Travis Egli, Keith Ostling, and Nicole Williamson; students Dakota Brown, Cecilia Christensen, Kelly Fink, and Maddie Williamson; teacher Janet Walkup; Sheriff Craig Busch; and district administrators and directors.
- V. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda by Dan Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bryan Arzani. Motion carried 5-0.
- VI. 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) Engage in effective teaching and relevant learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - 3) Operate with fiscal integrity, efficiency and effectiveness
- VII. Open Forum – Chris Cummings asked if kids are safe at our school. There was an incident last year that some parents knew about. When Cummings asked at the time if law enforcement was contacted, he was dismissed and made to feel like an idiot worrying about it. Cummings asked for a status report on locker room cleaning after the last board meeting. In the past there was discussion about a key card system. Cummings inquired about whether the system was being used. Cummings also requested a follow up on the football program discussion from a previous board meeting as well as the Athletic/Activities Director (AD) position next steps.

Darrell Beem next addressed the board. Beem said there was a rumor the district was breaking ground on a weight room/lifting facility and Beem was hoping there would be public access to the facility as well. Beem has visited Fremont Mills and Pleasantville facilities and they have public access and lots of windows to showcase the equipment. Beem said hopefully the district can move on with that and keep the community involved. Sheriff Craig Busch stated that he wanted to stop by and say the Sheriff's office is here to help in any way it can. The Superintendent and Sheriff have set up a meeting after the winter break to discuss protocols and expectations from the school. Superintendent Sundermeyer

asked Busch if Todd Brown was still working in connection with the Sheriff's office, and Busch stated that he was.

Sundermeyer addressed some of the questions from the first two patrons. He stated in regard to the incident last fall, each one is handled individually. The key card system is in place. The system works like a hotel key card security system, but only allows access to the commons. From there, the card holder would need to have a key to access other areas in the building. Cummings asked how long ago the system was installed. Sundermeyer stated that it had been over a year. There are a lot of keys out there, and if you put the card system in place, those keys would need to be surrendered. Cummings said that the district should push to get the card system done for safety. It was also asked if there could be card access for each door in the building. Sundermeyer said that would be a whole different system and would be quite costly. The AD position has been posted internally with no response. Administration will be looking for public input regarding the qualities desired of the position and endorsements, etc. There are no teaching positions open at this time to go along with the AD stipend, so the opening poses a challenge and also opportunity. Regarding the athletic training facility, Stanley, Arzani, and Sundermeyer met last week with architects. It is not the intent to miss this opportunity with the facility and AD opening. At this time there is a tremendous amount of intensity and focus on that. The locker room cleaning schedule is in place. December 26-28 will have devoted days to cleaning with 4-5 staff members. Julie Brownlee asked if classrooms have been getting extra cleaning. Sundermeyer replied that attendance has been down lately due to illness, and the custodial staff is doing what it can to keep classrooms clean and sanitized. Ken Stanley stated that everyone is concerned about security and the possibility of seeing 10 SWAT team members coming into the school. Is the day coming when we have a security guard on duty at the school? Sundermeyer stated that the Iowa Code states that no one at the school is allowed to have a firearm, and Sheriff Busch added except a certified peace officer. Dan Kirkpatrick asked when kids are coming into the school is there someone at those doors, or can kids just walk around freely? Are there only 1 or 2 doors where kids can enter, or are they allowed to come in any door? Kirkpatrick was concerned about before school and within the first few hours of the school day. Sundermeyer replied that doors are locked at 9 a.m. each day. Principal Casey Christensen said that in the morning there are two associates out front and one associate at the preschool entrance. Parents are only allowed into the preschool entrance with their preschool student. If they are visiting the building at any other time of day, they must use the main entrance. Principal Jeff Snider reiterated that doors are locked at 9 a.m. There are three entrances students may use in the morning: the two doors into the commons and the west doors of the activity/athletic entry way. The only open doors after 9 a.m. are near the Superintendent's office and the main entrance of the elementary school. Sheriff Busch added that there is no way to completely control people entering the building. Kirkpatrick asked if there is a need for metal detectors. Cummings stated that the district needs to have a plan after someone's here, if there is a threat there needs to be a cohesive plan in place.

Talented and Gifted Teacher Janet Walkup presented to the board the First Lego League competition team of Dakota Brown, Cecilia Christensen, Kelly Fink, and Maddie Williamson. Walkup received a STEM grant which covered a computer and registration fees. The district had already purchased the kits last year. The FLL competition was held on

December 1, 2012 at the Science Center of Iowa. Team members presented their creation and explained what the competition is about and what they learned from their experience.

VIII. Consent Agenda –

A) Approval of Past Minutes: November 26 and November 29, 2012

B) Approval of Bills

C) Approval of Personnel

- Hires – Steve Hauge (substitute bus driver); Mistie Jurgensen (shuttle route driver); Jordan Edgerly (HS Assistant Boys Track); Carl Spoerl (HS Assistant Girls Track); Dustin Patterson (MS Assistant Boys Track)
- Transfer – Charles Sims (shuttle to regular route)

Dan Kirkpatrick moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Julie Brownlee. Motion carried, 5-0.

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

The I-35 wrestling team and its coaches for coming from behind to win the POI Conference championship this weekend.

Becky Abbott for caring for our rash of illnesses the past couple weeks and emphasizing hand hygiene and keeping students home if they are contagious.

Geoff Tessau and Interstate Communications' Dave Sherlock for developing and refining a system in order to get new and updated school content on the local access channel.

The entire special education department and administrative team for working together and exhibiting flexibility with substantial mid-year roster changes due to student needs.

The I-35 musical students and staff for their successful fun of concerts this semester, culminating with the fourth grade musical Thursday night.

Students Dakota Brown, Cecilia Christensen, Kelly Fink, and Maddie Williamson for participating in First LEGO League competition – one of Iowa's STEM programs which we received grant monies to support.

X. Financial Forecasting – Matt Gillaspie, Piper Jaffray – Gillaspie presented the board with options for funding future projects as well as opportunities to refinance current bonds to save interest expense. Gillaspie began with the current General Obligation refunding bonds that were issued in May of 2012. These bonds aren't callable until May 1, 2015, thus can't be paid off or refunded any earlier than this date. The PPEL Capital Loan Notes will become callable May 1, 2013, so the district could refund those bonds to realize interest savings of approximately \$50,000. The Local Option Sales Tax revenue bonds issued in 2008 were first callable May 1, 2012, and can be paid off with a 30 day notice from existing fund balance and sinking funds held at Bankers Trust. At the time these bonds were originally issued, the district had to provide coverage of 1.3 times, meaning that for every \$1 borrowed; the district must collect \$1.30 in revenue. Now that the sales tax is statewide, the coverage is 1.2 times, which is desirable because it will allow the district to borrow more against the sales tax. The only way, however, to lower the coverage is to pay off the existing LOST revenue bonds and

issue new bonds under the new coverage limits. If the current bonds are paid off, it would save the district \$15,000 in interest savings. A revenue bond issue of \$8.6 million is possible under Gillaspie's assumptions of no growth in enrollment or sales tax revenue over the period of the bonds without need for a public vote.

- XI. Southwest Community College Services Agreement – An I-35 student has received special permission from DMACC to attend SWCC's welding program beginning second semester. The agreement is needed to complete the arrangement. Motion by Bryan Arzani to approve the Southwest Community College Services Agreement, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. Motion carried, 4-0.
- XII. Daily Substitute Teacher Rate – A recent survey of area schools shows the district has one of the lower daily rates for substitute teachers. By raising the current rate \$10 per day to \$105, the rate would equal Winterset and exceed Indianola by \$1. The rate change would result in an increase to expenditures of approximately \$10,000, but by doing so will hopefully attract more high-quality subs to the district. Motion by Julie Brownlee to increase the daily teacher substitute rate to \$105 per day beginning second semester, seconded by Bryan Arzani. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XIII. Bread Bid from Earthgrains, d.b.a. Sara Lee Fresh – Due to the closure of Interstate Brands/Hostess, the district must find another provider for bread products. Bimbo/Earthgrains has agreed to step up and help for the rest of the year and have honored their prices from this summer. Motion to approve bread bids from Bimbo/Earthgrains/Sara Lee by Dan, seconded by Bryan (and Jamal). Motion carried, 5-0.
- XIV. First Reading of Board Policies, 700 Series – This series of policies refers to the Noninstructional Operations and Business Services of the district. Policies have been reviewed with staff in these areas. This is the first reading of this series, with final approval slated for January's meeting. Head Cook Mary Ann Evison asked about policy 710.1 – as it relates to use of the food service facilities under supervision of the head cook to employee groups, parent-teacher meetings, civic organizations meeting for the purpose of better understanding the schools, and senior citizens. Evison was directed to draft a set of procedures for outside organizations utilizing district food service facilities. Motion to approve the first reading of board policies, 700 series, with option 1 for policy 711.6 for next meeting by Julie Brownlee, seconded by Dan Kirkpatrick. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XV. Reports to the Board  
Head Cook Mary Ann Evison was asked about the newest changes to the National School Lunch Program. Evison stated that they were allowed to do a little more meat and a little more grain within the same calorie counts as before for high school students.

Transportation Coordinator Bobbie Finley wasn't present at the meeting, but her report was included in the packet and highlighted plans to institute a Student Transportation Award Recognition System (STARS) to promote good behavior on the buses.

Activities Director Ray Condon's report was provided in the board packet and included updates on basketball and wrestling wins, dance team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in state competition, coaches vs. cancer game is to be held January 12<sup>th</sup>, thanks to volunteers helping to take tickets, and thanks to Jeana Schultz for running the stat board for basketball games. Condon was asked about staffing and Keith Ostling thanked Condon for finding new uniforms for the middle school girls' basketball team.

Elementary Principal Casey Christensen's report included the following topics: PK equipment shed, Professional Development, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade annual feast, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade COGATS tests, playground update, First LEGO League, and Students of the Week. When asked if he would like to highlight anything, Christensen wanted to recognize the Students of the Week. He also provided an update on the playground equipment. The COGATS are a test that measures verbal, nonverbal, and quantitative reasoning ability, and results will be shared with parents by Mrs. Walkup.

Secondary Principal Jeff Snider's report included the following: financial aid planning December 12<sup>th</sup>, semester finals, winter concerts, senior class picture, equine assisted learning, high school foods baking with preschool, and professional learning. Snider added that his staff just reviewed lockdown procedures last week which was coincidentally just before the school shootings in Newtown. Katie Downes is putting together a video of the equine assisted learning program. Snider also discussed semester tests and possible rescheduling due to upcoming severe weather.

Assistant Principal Geoff Tessau's report included changes to special ed class rosters due to two high needs students that recently moved into the district, CCTV, and internet outages. Tessau stated that the CCTV files are now being transferred to Interstate Communications via their Dropbox account. In addition, now that the site visit is finished, Tessau will be developing a Special Education delivery plan. Cindi Cassady asked if a title of the event being played on CCTV could be included. Tessau will investigate options to add a title.

Business Manager Jennifer Jamison's report included reviewing the fund financial reports and the need for a budget amendment most likely in January. Jamison reviewed the lunch revenues from October 2011 compared to October 2012 detailing student participation and reimbursements per meal for both years. In addition, Jamison reviewed the transportation expenditure history from the past three years and the current year-to-date. Overall, salaries and benefits expenditures have decreased and purchased services have increased about the same amount, but fuel costs are causing current expenditures to outpace the previous year's expenditures. This doesn't appear to be due to price or consumption, but timing of payments.

Superintendent Eric Sundermeyer's report included a pop quiz regarding education reform and assessments in Iowa, IPI protocols, and allowable growth discussions at the state level.

XVI. Upcoming Dates:

- December 21 – Two-hour early dismissal
- January 3 – School resumes from winter break
- January 11 – end of first semester, two-hour early dismissal

XVII. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items

- Week of January 7 – special board meeting
- January – Facilities walk-through
- January – IPI teacher leaders data presentation
- January/February – 2013-14 school calendar
- Ken – facility needs assessment in correlation with funding discussion

XVIII. Adjourn – Bryan Arzani 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