

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

6:00 P.M.

High School Library

April 8, 2013

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order - President Leah Gray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call – Bryan Arzani, Julie Brownlee, Leah Gray, Dan Kirkpatrick, Ken Stanley – present. Absent - none.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance – The board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Welcome and recognize visitors – District patrons Kelli Bregar, Kelsi Bregar, Tina Burkhead, Jenny Dickinson, Tracy Hutton, Joe Stewart, and district administrators and directors.
- IV. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve the agenda by Dan Kirkpatrick, 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) Engage in effective teaching and relevant learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
  - 3) Operate with fiscal integrity, efficiency and effectiveness
- VI. Public Hearing: Certification of FY2014 Budget – President Leah Gray announced that it was the time and place for a public hearing regarding the FY2013 budget amendment, and declared the hearing open. There was no one present to speak in favor of or against the budget amendment. Business Manager Jennifer Jamison summarized the budget for the audience, and provided a valuation and tax rate history. The recommended tax rate is \$18.49, an increase of 13 cents. Taxable valuations increased by 2.7% overall from last fiscal year. At this time allowable growth is not known, but a rate of 2% was used for budget purposes. The tax rate can be lowered in either the management fund or cash reserve levy once allowable growth is determined, but it cannot be increased. Gray then declared the hearing closed at 6:09 p.m. Motion by Ken Stanley to approve the FY2014 budget, seconded by Bryan Arzani. Motion carried, 5-0.
- VII. Public Hearing: Early Start Date Waiver Request Resolution – President Leah Gray announced that it was the time and place for a public hearing regarding the 2013-14 early start date waiver. There was no one present to speak in favor of or against the early start date waiver, so Gray then declared the hearing closed at 6:13 p.m. In order for school boards to receive the waiver, they must recognize significant negative educational impact. Julie Brownlee introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set out and moved its adoption; seconded by Bryan Arzani after due consideration thereof by the Board, the President put the question upon the adoption of said Resolution and, the roll having been called the following Directors voted: Leah Gray, Julie Brownlee, Ken Stanley, Bryan

Arzani, and Dan Kirkpatrick – yes. Nays – none. Whereupon the President declared said Resolution duly adopted as follows:

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code Sec. 279.10(4), the State of Iowa has granted school districts and nonpublic schools the ability to request a first day of school earlier than the mandated start date; and

WHEREAS, the request is made upon a determination by the board that the later start date would have a significant negative educational impact, and

WHEREAS, the Board, in consultation with its community, has determined a later start date would have a significantly negative impact on the educational program due to the direct and indirect impact on student learning and student learning needs, more specifically,

- Avoiding the delay of the end of school, due to weather, going into mid-June when students are significantly less likely to be learning than they are in late August.
- Facilitating dual credit courses for high school students, ensuring they are equipped with post-secondary and career ready skills, with post-secondary institutions by having the calendars aligned.
- Allowing for effective and evidence-based professional development to be spread throughout the school year, rather than front- or end-loaded, in order to improve instruction.
- Giving teachers and other staff, a small break between the end of the school year and the beginning of summer coursework in June.
- Honoring the community's desires and needs in the calendar adopted.
- Any other criteria specific to the school district – local control.

WHEREAS, the Board believes that student achievement first and foremost should drive all education policy decisions. Any alterations to the current school start date should have data showing how the later start date is more vital to the state of Iowa than the success of its students, its future. The decision on school calendar should be made with that in mind as well as the recognition of the community's involvement and support of the calendar.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

VIII. Discussion on Promotional Flyer – Ryan Ray from Ray and Associates presented via Skype the results of the stakeholder surveys and interviews. The following characteristics were determined to be the most desirable based on survey results and are listed by rank with the survey number for reference:

- Will inspire trust, has high levels of self-optimism, and models high standards of integrity and personal performance. (6)
- Possesses the leadership skills required to respond to the challenges presented within a rural school community. (3)
- Demonstrates effective communication skills to include speaking, listening, and writing (7)
- Possesses excellent people skills, presents a positive image of the district and will listen to input and make a decision when necessary. (combine 1 and 15)
- Is strongly committed to a “student first” philosophy in all decisions. (17)

- Has knowledge of and successful experience in sound fiscal practices and management of district resources, including appropriate participation of others in planning and decision-making. (combine 10 and 14)
- Has demonstrated the ability to enhance student performance, especially in identifying and closing or narrowing the gaps in student achievement. (30)
- Has successful experience in the selection and implementation of educational priorities consistent with the interests and needs of students, staff, board and community. (20)
- Is committed to the importance of both the academic and activity programs. (21)
- Knowledge of emerging research and best practice in the area of curriculum/instructional design and practice. (33)
- Can delegate authority appropriately while maintaining accountability. (13)

It was discussed the order in which to list the characteristics and determined there was no specific data showing whether to list by rank or importance or randomly, so it was determined to keep them in rank order. The board also reviewed the flyer and Leah Gray suggested changes to the requirements to clearly communicate candidates should have experience, but could be from out-of-state. Finally, the board reviewed the application form. Leah Gray wanted it known that candidates will have a background check performed at the expense of the district.

- IX. Tentative Agreement with I-35 Education Association – Administration recently settled with the teachers’ association at a total package of 4.11%. The package includes a raise to the base of \$1,925 and a minor increase in the district’s contribution to insurance premiums. There was also cleanup of some language issues. Superintendent Sundermeyer acknowledged Bryan Arzani, Dan Kirkpatrick, Tim Bogs and Eric Borlaug for making the sessions productive and setting a positive negotiations environment. Motion to approve Tentative Agreement with I-35 Education Association by Julie Brownlee, seconded by Bryan Arzani. Motion carried, 5-0.
- X. Early Retirement Applications – The board received three requests for early retirement from Joyce Baughman, Mary Ann Evison, and Terry Phillips, per board policy 407.3a and 413.6. Leah Gray stated that Early Retirement is not something that is offered every year. As more people qualify, it may be necessary to limit the number of early retirements going forward. Motion by Julie Brownlee to approve the early retirement applications, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XI. Educational Service Agreements with DMACC – These agreements allow students to participate in classes offered at DMACC’s career academy and the Warren County Career Academy, also for DMACC credit. The district also receives supplemental weighting (state aid) for students attending Career Academy courses. Motion to approve Educational Service Agreements with DMACC by Dan Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bryan Arzani. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XII. Cooperative Sponsorship for Bowling 2013-14 – This application allows Interstate 35 to join Clarke of Osceola and offer boys bowling as a sport for the 2013-14. If there is any interest in adding girls bowling, administration will bring that forward to the board for approval at the April 30 meeting. Motion to approve cooperative sponsorship for bowling for the 2013-14 school year by Bryan Arzani, seconded by Ken Stanley. Motion carried, 5-0.
- XIII. Consent Agenda –  
 A) Approval of Past Minutes: March 14 and March 21

B) Approval of Bills

C) Personnel

- Resignations – Kelly Myers (HS science); Joyce Baughman (associate); Mary Ann Evison (head cook); Terry Phillips (custodian)
- Hires – Amanda Berry (route bus driver); Alexandria Wieck (HS Spanish and assistant HS volleyball) pending satisfactory background check

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

XIV. Open Forum – Change for Interstate Student Presentation – Students Josh Hughes and Caitlyn Borne presented to the board their site entitled “Change for Interstate”. The site provides input to what students are thinking with an online presence. They currently have 181 likes on Facebook, reaching over 26,000 people. The largest demographic is females 18-24 and second largest demographic is females 35-54, which for the community’s size is a decent outreach. The students want to be as positive and productive as they can. Some current topics discussed on the site include: student safety and weather calls, 9<sup>th</sup> hour at the end of the day, and signups for electives and more choices. The group has met with Mr. Snider and Mr. Sundermeyer and has shared this information. Bryan Arzani wants the group to be a part of what the district is doing on an ongoing basis, and recognizes the value of this group. The board was impressed with their desire to report to them and thanked them for the great exchange of information. There were no others interested in addressing the board during open forum.

XV. Upcoming Dates:

- April 11 – Special Board meeting, noon (telephonic)
- April 30 – Superintendent applicant screening
- May 3-4 – Superintendent semi-finalist interviews
- May 6-7 – Superintendent finalist interviews
- June 3 – Last contract day for teachers

XVI. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items

- Preliminary Iowa Assessments Results (Reading; Math)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade 83.3%; 75.0%
  - 4<sup>th</sup> grade 75.0%; 80.8%
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade 70.5%; 75.4%
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade 74.3%; 54.1%
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade 74.3%; 85.9%
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade 66.1%; 54.2%
  - 11<sup>th</sup> grade 92.5%; 89.6%
- Board policy updates – Early Retirement; Student Expulsion
- Facilities walk-through

XVII. Adjourn – Bryan Arzani moved to adjourn. Motion approved 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Leah Gray, Board President

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Jennifer Jamison, Board Secretary