

INTERSTATE 35 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 26, 2015

The Interstate 35 Community School District Board of Education held a work session, Monday, January 26, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Library in Truro, Iowa.

Vice-President Leah Gray called the work session to order at 5:35 p.m. Directors Tracy Bean, Leah Gray, and Dan Kirkpatrick were in attendance. Directors Brian Arzani and President Julie Brownlee were absent. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fiene and Board Secretary Ted Bauer.

Motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bean to approve the agenda; motion carried 3-0.

Fiene gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Attendance Center Rankings (ACR). The ACR was enacted by the Iowa Legislature in 2013 to rank attendance centers throughout the state. The first phase includes student proficiency rates in math and reading and student academic growth. Eventually, the ACR criteria will include attendance rates, parental involvement, employee turnover, community activities and involvement, closing achievement gaps score, graduation rate, and college readiness. The first phase was released to superintendents on January 23 and will be accessible to the public on January 30. Fiene will present additional information as it becomes available.

Fiene continued presenting information on tax levies and further explained how he is recommending adjusting levy rates to move more money to teaching and learning (Instructional Support Levy) in the general fund and have less money for non-instructional purposes (Management Fund), while maintaining a consistent overall tax rate. Fiene presented information showing how Interstate 35 CSD's levies compare to state minimums and maximums. By using the Annual Property Tax Revenue Calculator by the Iowa School Finance Information Services (ISFIS), Fiene showed how changing one levy to another levy can positively impact the tax pie without raising the overall tax levy. The analogy was given that the overall school tax levy was the pie; we are not changing the size of the pie, we would be cutting different size slices.

Fiene discussed the 2015 state legislative session and efforts to advocate for increased funding for public education. Fiene explained the need to have our board members, staff, and community contact our state legislators to convey the need to increase funding for public education at a rate higher than the 1.25% proposed by Governor Branstad. Fiene explained that legislators pay greater attention to people not directly associated with the school and encouraged community members to contact our local legislators.

Options for the 2015-16 school calendar were discussed. Fiene will be organizing a calendar committee comprised of teachers, administrators, and support staff. An electronic survey will be made available for parents to provide feedback on the current calendar and input to plan future calendars. District leaders will continue to monitor the start-date issue and develop the calendar to fit within the guidelines.

Fiene updated the board on curriculum alignment and review process. The district has been using the Rubicon Atlas program which assists districts in verifying that the curriculum is properly aligned. Beginning February 13, the district will be updating in Rubicon Atlas; this will be an ongoing

continuous improvement process. Further, K-12 math is beginning its complete review cycle; this too is an ongoing continuous improvement process.

At 6:43 p.m., motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Bean to adjourn; motion carried 3-0.

Leah Gray, Vice-President

Ted Bauer, Board Secretary