

**INTERSTATE 35 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**June 29, 2015**

The Interstate 35 Community School District Board of Education held a work session meeting on Monday, June 29, at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Library in Truro, Iowa.

President Julie Brownlee called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Directors Tracy Bean, Julie Brownlee, and Leah Gray were in attendance. Bryan Arzani was absent. Dan Kirkpatrick arrived at 5:37 p.m. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fiene and Board Secretary Ted Bauer.

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

Fiene started the meeting by discussing future infrastructure needs of the district. Three priorities that have come from the Building and Grounds Committee include a bus/maintenance building, additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) shop space, and an auditorium-performing arts center. Several months ago Fiene was approached by an individual who was interested in helping the district build a new bus/maintenance facility. He shared that he recently met with the individual and his representative to discuss a possible lease-to-own bus garage on our grounds. The funds to pay for the lease would come from our SAVE fund over a specified number of years. Fiene stated that it would have to be beneficial to the district to move forward with this type of arrangement over traditional borrowing against the SAVE fund and that he is still learning more about it. Fiene reminded everyone that it is still just a discussion item and wanted to share the information. The CTE shop space is very small and dated. If new shop space is built, the existing space could be repurposed for different needs including kitchen and general storage. Fiene indicated that combining the bus/maintenance building and the CTE shop space into one building may be a good idea, even though the building requirements of the shop space used for education may be different. The auditorium-performing arts center has been discussed for a long time at Interstate 35 Schools. With the bond indebtedness paid off in 2017, the time to consider building a new auditorium-performing arts center is now. Fiene suggested that the board consider hiring an architect, as this type of project takes time to plan and involves a lot of different people.

Fiene also discussed the solar energy concept in public schools to generate electricity and reduce energy costs. He explained that he attended an ISFIS conference and has given information to the ISFIS contact to see if our energy costs are even high enough that we could see a significant savings.

Fiene discussed propane-powered buses and the advantages and potential savings to purchasing them over diesel-powered buses. Even though the initial purchase price (funded by SAVE or PPEL) is \$4,000 - \$5,000 higher for a propane-powered bus and the district would need to have a propane-filling station on site or accessible, the payback can be substantial to the general fund. Fiene explained that even though propane-powered buses get less fuel mileage, there are significant fuel savings because propane normally costs less than diesel.

Fiene explained that the voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) expires in 2018. This levy is for a 10-year period. Fiene recommended that the district plan a special election in plenty of time prior to the expiration of PPEL, as it would provide the district with the opportunity to try again.

Motion by Kirkpatrick to adjourn, seconded by Bean; motion carried 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

---

Julie Brownlee, Board President

---

Ted Bauer, Board Secretary