

**WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Minutes**  
Regular Meeting  
January 9, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:**

Board President Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Board Room – District Administration Office, Farley, Iowa, with a moment of silence and reading of the District Vision Statement and Goals.

**Roll Call:**

Present were President Bob McCabe, Vice-President Jeanne Coppola, Mark Knuth, Gary McAndrew, Chad Vaske and Superintendent Jeff Corkery.

**Approval of Agenda:**

The following changes to the Agenda were announced:

Consent Agenda: New Hire Matt Meier – Girls Varsity Assistant \$2,724 – Cascade HS;

Equipment Purchase – Copy machine – Cascade HS \$14,500 – Konica Minolta;

Field Trip to Chicago, Illinois – Cascade 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Motion by McAndrew, second by Knuth to approve the Agenda with the noted changes. Motion passed 5-0.

**Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:**

Open Forum: No comments were received from the public. Student ambassadors from the Western Dubuque High School were introduced.

**Approval of Minutes and Bills:**

- a. December 12, 2011 workshop and regular sessions. Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Bills and Claims for the month of December: Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to approve the bills. Motion passed 5-0.

**Reports:**

Principals Reports: Topics included – Christmas activities in the schools, Board visit at Cascade HS, white board installation complete at Epworth El., food pantry donations, study tables and Saturday school going well, 2012-13 high school registration begins on January 25<sup>th</sup>, Career Fair – January 26<sup>th</sup>, Kids Expo – March 24<sup>th</sup>, curriculum studies and committee work.

Cascade Junior Senior High Building Highlights: Instructors Tom Gleason and Mike Sconsa along with Principal Greg Vanderlugt provided information on the schools Reading Program initiatives that have been in place for many years. Topics covered included Content Area Reading, Student Staff Reading, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Reading, MAP Goal Setting, Accelerated Reading Program, Battle of the Books and Book Clubs.

Superintendent Report: The District's School Improvement Advisory Committee will be meeting on January 23rd to finalize identified goals and achievements for the District's new five-year Strategic Plan. Open House is planned on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm for the new Drexler MS/City of Farley/County Library. It was announced that Board President Bob McCabe was awarded the Iowa Association of School Boards Award of Achievement certificate at the Association's annual convention in Des Moines on November 17<sup>th</sup>. IASB developed the awards program to recognize board members who put forth extra time and energy to strengthen their boardsmanship abilities through formal in-service programs and services to other board members. Mr. Corkery noted that Governor Branstad's legislative proposals on reduced PreK funding and testing for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for achievement appears to be counterproductive. He indicated that teacher quality is not an issue in schools; the bigger issues in education are family problems, poverty and students considered to be at-risk.

Mr. Corkery reviewed discussions concerning district maintenance, building improvements and infrastructure needs that were covered in the evening's earlier workshop session. The following information was presented.

- A building construction listing totaling over \$16 million for the following:  
Cascade HS: Gymnasium, locker rooms, music rooms and office renovation;  
Western Dubuque HS: Auditorium, music rooms, office renovation and  
District-Wide technology upgrades.
- Maintenance projects including roof repairs, boiler replacements, energy lighting upgrades, security systems, computer wiring/networking upgrades, GPS bus radio system, vehicles and grounds improvements totaling over \$7.5 million over the next 10 years.
- Funding for the projects would come from a voted Physical Plant and Equipment Levy and a Bond Issue referendum. The projects would be paid for from a combination of sales tax and property tax revenues and initial projections indicate that there would be little or no increase in the property tax rate.
- Meetings are planned in the near future with community and staff to review the plans and obtain feedback on the proposals.
- An April 3, 2012 referendum date would be considered if planning and approval move forward at a favorable pace.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion by McAndrew, second by Coppola to approve the Consent Agenda with the noted changes. Motion passed 5-0.

- a. Financial Reports of District
- b. Personnel
  1. Resignations
  2. Employment
    - a) Josie Kennicott – Assistant Varsity Track – WDHS \$1,362.00
    - b) Brian Kuhle – Assistant Varsity Track – WDHS \$1,362.00
    - c) Matt Meier - Track-Girls Varsity Assistant – Cascade HS \$2,724
- c. Out of State Travel: Field Trip – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cascade – Chicago, Illinois
- d. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings: None

- e. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Requests: Copy Machine Cascade HS \$14,500 –  
Konica Minolta BIZHUB 751
- f. Resolutions: None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- a. Setting of Public Hearing on Calendar: Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to set the public hearing on the proposed 2012-13 school calendar for February 13, 2012. Motion passed 5-0. August 20<sup>th</sup> is the proposed 1<sup>st</sup> day of school and May 29<sup>th</sup> the last day of school.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Coppola, second by Knuth to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. on January 9, 2012.

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David A. Wegmann  
Board Secretary

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Robert McCabe  
President, Board of Education