

# WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

January 14, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

### Call to Order:

Board President Bob McCabe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room – District Administration Office, Farley, Iowa, with a moment of silence in memory of the twenty children and six adults who lost their lives in the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut and the 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 additions to the published Agenda were presented.

Consent Agenda:

#### Resignations:

Alec Amosson – Musical Director WDHS

David Tharp - Instructor Cascade HS

Julie Westercamp – Instructor WDHS

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

Open Forum: No comments or communications were received.

### Approval of Minutes and Bills:

- a. December 10, 2012 Regular Meeting. Motion by McAndrew second by Vaske to approve the Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Bills and Claims for the month of December: Motion by McAndrew, second by Coppola to approve the bills. Motion passed 5-0.

### Reports:

#### Principal Reports:

Topics discussed were: Literacy goals and achievements; classroom libraries; Quiz Bowl; writing traits; Academic Excellence Awards to the Cascade HS Dance team; all of the Cascade athletic teams reached the distinction of receiving awards from the IHSAA and the IGHSAU for outstanding GPAs; DMIS talent show; Sandy Hook fundraiser; PBIS; Movie Nights; friendship dance for Relay for Life; Security Plans; Winning Workplace Award from Telegraph Herald to Epworth Elementary School; Epworth Elementary selected by the Iowa Dept. of Education for National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing. WDHS band trip to Cotton Bowl; parent night- Premier Tooling; NICC/Cascade HS/WDHS development of curriculum programs for area workforce needs; assistive technology.

#### Superintendent Report:

Mr. Corkery provided the Board a summary of Governor Branstad's education reform plan for Iowa schools. He noted that many education stakeholders are uncomfortable with the proposals due to systemic changes in educator work hours, pay and evaluations. Current funding is already well below what is needed and does not compare well with national statistics.

Western Dubuque High School – Building Highlights:

Gretchen Kratochwill, Creative Writing course instructor at WDHS and student Brooke Bockenstedt discussed the course purpose and the many educational activities that the students participate in to enhance their writing skills. Activities include: Writers Night Out; reading their own authored stories to elementary students; composing the Bobcat Bulletin; AP Style writing; editor duties and journal publications.

Classroom Technology Report:

Coby Culbertson Technology Director and Jim Roberts – District-Wide Classroom Technology Advisor provided a report and video covering the many aspects of educational technology in the district. Topics covered included: Technology integration into the classroom; WD Role Model; Strategic Plan; Teacher Needs; Whiteboards; Teacher Survey Feedback; On-Line Technology Tool Grid for troubleshooting and classroom resources. Overall their assessment of the District's continuing effort to get useful technology into the classroom has been very successful. Staff response has been overwhelmingly supportive of the efforts.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion by Knuth, second by McAndrew to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the changes as noted. Motion passed 5-0. The newly formed Western Dubuque Fine Arts Foundation provided the Board with an overview of their purpose and goal of fundraising to assist with the costs of the new Auditorium. Capital items that were discussed included: A seat purchase campaign; main curtain drop; digital HD projector; giving tree for cash donations; naming rights; sound clouds; lighting equipment and other items that would not be included in the District's bid documents. It was the consensus of the Board that their purpose and efforts are appreciated and acceptable.

- a. Financial Reports of District
- b. Personnel
  1. Resignations
    - a) Dianne McDermott – High School Language Arts – WDHS
    - b) Alec Amosson – Musical Director WDHS
    - c) David Tharp - Instructor Cascade HS
    - d) Julie Westercamp – Instructor WDHS
  2. Employment
    - a) Amy Streck – Spring Musical Asst. Vocal Director– CHS  
\$1,109.20
- c. Out of State Travel: None
- d. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings: None
- e. Fund Raising Project Request
  1. Western Dubuque Fine Arts Foundation – Auditorium upgrades -
- f. Resolutions
  1. Para Educator
  2. School Counselors

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- a. Approve Preschool Fees for 2013-14: Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve a fee of \$95/month. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Approve final payment for Dyersville Safe Room construction project. Motion by McAndrew, second by Vaske to approve the final payment of \$38,810.38 for the Dyersville Safe Room Project. Motion passed 5-0.

- c. Closed Session: Iowa Code 20.17(3) for discussion of collective bargaining issues. Motion by Coppola, second by Knuth to enter into closed session per Iowa Code 20.17(3). Roll Call vote: McCabe – yes, Coppola – yes, Knuth – yes; McAndrew – yes and Vaske – yes. Motion passed 5-0. The Board entered into closed session at 7:45 pm and returned to open session at 8:36 pm. Board member McAndrew was not present for the closed session.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Vaske, second by Coppola to adjourn. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. on January 14, 2013.

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David A. Wegmann  
Board Secretary

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Robert McCabe  
President, Board of Education