

WESTERN DUBUQUE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Minutes

Regular Meeting

May 13, 2013 – 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 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:

Motion by Coppola, second by McAndrew to approve the Agenda as published. Motion passed 5-0.

Welcome to Visitors, Press, Staff, etc.:

Open Forum: No comments or communications were received.

Approval of Minutes and Bills:

- a. April 8, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion by McAndrew, second by Knuth to approve the Minutes. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Bills and Claims for the month of April: Motion by Coppola, second by Vaske to approve the bills. Motion passed 5-0.

Reports:

Principal Reports:

Topics discussed were: Acknowledgement and thanks to the School Board for their time, effort and involvement in their difficult and challenging roles as school board members. Coin drive for libraries, reading activities/awards, year-end duties, mock casualty drill at Cascade HS, spring concerts, DMIS – outdoor education week and zoo trip, Math Olympiads, robotic competition, alphabet countdown, reading/run day, families for lunch, staff retirements, positive parent involvement, Stars over Iowa award to WDHS FFA students, state track participants, assistive technology upgrades, planning for next year, curriculum mapping and 3 year teacher professional development plans.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Corkery presented the Board with Certificates of Appreciation and videos from students at Peosta Elementary and the IASB acknowledging their service. Mr. Corkery indicated his disappointment with the Iowa Legislature and Governor for their delay in setting school funding for the coming school year. By law school funding is supposed to be completed 1 year in advance.

Other Comments:

- Mr. Corkery also requested support for the September 10, 2013 NICC vote for continuation of their facilities levy of 20.25 cents.
- Noted the response from the Iowa HS Athletic Association to the District's letter concerning athletic class size issues.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Knuth, second by Coppola to approve the Consent Agenda items. Motion passed 5-0. Superintendent Corkery noted Dawn Shiro's resignation as the District's Curriculum Director and expressed his appreciation for the knowledge and expertise that she brought to the District. Dawn has accepted a position with the Norwalk Community School District.

- a. Financial Reports of District
- b. Personnel
 - 1. Resignations
 - a) Greg Deutmeyer – 8th Grade Asst. Football - CIHS
 - b) Melissa Ehrisman – Pom Advisor – WDHS
 - c) Chad Gehl – 8th Grade Football – CJSHS
 - d) Dawn Shiro – Director of Curriculum
 - 2. Employment
 - a) Paul Cleary – Spring Weight Room Supervision – WDHS \$831.90
 - b) Shana Kester – Varsity Asst. Softball – CHS \$2,218.40
 - c) Joshua Lucas – English Teacher – WDHS – Lane M.A., Step 8, of the 2013-2014 Teacher’s Salary Schedule
 - d) Doug Rolwes – Sophomore Girls Basketball – WDHS – 12% of the 2013-2014 Schedule C Supplemental Duty Base
 - e) Keri West – Asst. Middle School Track – DMIS \$1,109.20
- c. Out of State Travel
 - 1. WDHS Band – Pearl Harbor Day Parade, Hawaii
 - 2. WDHS FBLA – National FBLA Leadership Conference, Anaheim, California
 - 3. WDHS Vocal Music Department Summer trip to Orlando, FL.
- d. Policy Revisions 2nd Readings
- e. Equipment/Fund Raising Project Request
- f. Resolutions
 - 1. Proclamation recognizing Iowa School Board Recognition Month
 - 2. Proclamation recognizing National Teacher Day

Old Business: None

New Business:

- a. Approve handbooks: Motion by McAndrew, second Vaske to approve the Elementary, Middle School and High School handbooks. Motion passed 5-0. The Athletic handbooks will be reviewed at the June School Board meeting.
 - 1. Elementary
 - 2. Middle School
 - 3. High School
 - 4. Athletic
- b. Approve Start date waiver request resolution:

Start Date Waiver Request Resolution

Director McAndrew introduced and caused to be read the Resolution hereinafter set out and moved its adoption; seconded by Director Vaske 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:

Aye: McCabe, Coppola, Knuth, McAndrew and Vaske

Nay: 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 (Western Dubuque - August 19, 2013) earlier than the mandated start date; and

WHEREAS, the request is to be 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

- *Completion of the semester after winter break will require teachers to spend a week in January refreshing students' memories, effectively adding days of instruction.*
- *Allowing those students graduating at semester to attend post-secondary instruction starting in January.*
- *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.*

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 the 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:

Passed and approved this 13th day of May, 2013.

- c. Approve IASB Legislative Resolutions:
President McCabe requested that the Board select their top five Resolutions from the IASB list and submit them to him for compilation and action at the June School Board meeting. The adopted Resolutions will be submitted the Iowa Association of School Board Delegate Assembly for consideration at their fall meeting.

- d. Closed Session: Iowa Code 20.17(3) for discussion of collective bargaining issues.
No closed session was held.

Adjournment: Motion by Coppola, second by Knuth to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on May 13, 2013.

David A. Wegmann
Board Secretary

Robert McCabe
President, Board of Education