

Independence Community School Board Minutes
Regular Meeting
February 22, 2010

A regular meeting of the Independence Community School Board was called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Chairperson Dawnye Sturtz in the Administration Office, Independence, Iowa.

Members Present: Chairperson Dawnye Sturtz, Vice-President Charlie McCardle (arrived at 8:50 pm), Director Kathryn Jensen, Director John Christensen (left at 9:45 pm), Director Stacy Henderson

Superintendent Present: Devin Embray

Board Sec./Treas. Present: Charmaine Wickwire

Press Present: Steven Smith öThe Newsö
John Klotzbach öIndependence Bulletin Journalö

Visitors Present: Interested Patrons

SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

Jake Freeman was recognized and honored for his work on an inspirational assignment for Real Living class which resulted in a video öParkersburg Tragedies.ö On behalf the district, the Board of Education would also like to thank teachers John Neil and Teresa Nennig for helping Jake with this project.

Dustin Toale was recognized and honored for being a finalist in the Iowa State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division öKnow Your Constitution Project.ö Dustin's teacher, Joel Dinger, was also recognized by the Board of Education on behalf of the district.

The following students were recognized for being selected to participate in OPUS Honor Choir: Rachel Barloon, Mitch Ciesielski, Devan Cummings, Sydney Embray, Hayden Reynolds, and Peter Thedens. Teachers Roger Barloon and Tim Purdum were thanked for their assistance with these students.

The following students were recognized for their participation in the All State Festival in Chorus: Hannah Butler, Mari Butler, Luke Crawford, Kasey Domer and Christopher Kurt. The following students were recognized for their participation in the All State Festival in Band: Kayla Fleming, Christian Junker, Whitney Schommer and Kristin Thompson. Teachers Roger Barloon and David Lang were thanked for helping the students in their All State Festival preparation.

FRIEND OF EDUCATION

The First Presbyterian Church was thanked for their donation of school supplies to West Elementary.

CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON CONSENT ITEMS

4-A APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve the January 14, 2010 Special Session, the January 18, 2010 Work Session, the January 18, 2010 Public Hearing , the January 18, 2010 Regular Meeting, the January 27, 2010 Special Session, and the February 8, 2010 Public Meeting. All voted öaye.ö

Motion Henderson, second Jensen to approve the following Agenda Items B, C, D, and E. All voted öaye.ö

4-B APPROVAL OF AGENDA with the amendment to replace the words öGirls Track Coachö with öGirls Tennis Coachö in Item D.

4-C APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES

Second Reading Approvals

- 802.5 Buildings & Sites Adaptation for Persons with Disabilities
- 802.6 Parking
- 802.7 Vandalism
- 802.8 Energy Conservation
- 802.9 Contract for Maintenance Services
- 803.1 Disposition of Obsolete Equipment
- 803.2 Lease, Sale or Disposal of School District Buildings and Sites
- 803.3 Vacant Facilities
- 804.1 Facilities Inspections
- 804.2 Warning System & Emergency Plans
- 804.3 First Aid
- 804.4 Facilities Security
- 804.5 Employee Safety Inservice
- 804.6 Bomb Threats
- 804.7 Asbestos Containing Material

First Reading Approvals

- 900 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations
- 901.1 Public Examinations of School District Records
- 901.2 Board of Directors and Community Relations
- 902.1 News Media Relations
- 902.2 News Conferences and Interviews
- 902.3 News Releases
- 902.4 Students and the News Media

902.5 Employees and the News Media

902.6 Live Broadcast or Videotaping

4-D NEW HIRES

Erica Baedke	Asst. Var. Girls Soccer Coach	\$2,338	2/23/10
Amanda Bock	Asst. Var. Girls Tennis Coach	\$2,967	2/23/10
Joe Schmitz	Head Var. Volleyball Coach	Cat 8, Step 8	7/1/10
Scott Soukup	Head Var. Boys Track Coach	\$2,810	2/23/10

4-E RESIGNATIONS

Dan Lawless	Asst. Var. Girls Soccer Coach	1/29/10
Loren Pink	Asst. Var. Softball Coach	2/11/10

4-F TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS – CERTIFIED STAFF

Motion Christensen, second Henderson to terminate the following staff as a result of budgetary decisions for the 2010-2011 school year:

Jason Drucker, High School Science
Sonia Himlie, Early Childhood Center Four Yr. Old Preschool
Brian Loughren, East Elementary Physical Education
Byron Reeder, High School Math
Amanda Sedlacek, High School Spanish
Lori Simon, West Elementary Fifth Grade
Kathy Thein, High School Special Education
Rachel Thomsen, Buchanan County Success Teacher

Roll Call Vote: Henderson voted ðaye,ö Jensen voted ðaye,ö Christensen voted ðaye,ö Sturtz voted ðaye.ö Motion carried 4-0.

4-G TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS – CLASSIFIED STAFF

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to terminate the following staff as a result of budgetary decisions for the 2010-2011 school year:

Rick Alber, High School Custodian
Jeanne Bachmann, Middle School .5 FTE Secretary
Stewart Bagley, Middle School Custodian
Cynthia Barenz, East Elementary Media Associate
Nichole LaMarsh, ECC Special Education
Pamela O'Loughlin, West Elementary/Middle School Medical Assistant

Roll Call Vote: Henderson voted ðaye,ö Jensen voted ðaye,ö Christensen voted ðaye,ö Sturtz voted ðaye.ö Motion carried 4-0.

4-H APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion Henderson, second Christensen to approve the financial reports. All voted ðaye.ö

Director of Finance Wickwire noted the following:

The earlier reported \$138,132 deficit for the FY09 Special Education balance is now certified as a positive \$5,046.

The request to the SBRC for authority to cover the elimination of Phase I was declined for lack of sufficient exhibit.

The second half of the preschool funding has been cut 7% by the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

This time is reserved for patrons and Board members to speak to items not on the agenda and to request to speak to any items on the current agenda.

Sandy Merritt, West Elementary Principal/District Curriculum Director, reported on student, parent, and teacher surveys.

REPORTS

Building Administrators, Activities Director, School Improvement/Curriculum Director, Technology Director, Food Service Director and Transportation/Buildings and Grounds Director reported on their respective buildings or areas of assignment.

OLD BUSINESS

TERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATOR

Motion Christensen, second Henderson to approve the contract termination of Activities Director Steve Kalous due to budgetary decisions for the 2010-2011 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Henderson voted ðaye,ö Jensen voted ðaye,ö Christensen voted ðaye.ö Sturtz voted ðaye.ö Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

2010-2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve the 2010-2011 School Calendar. All voted ðaye.ö

BUCHANAN COUNTY SUCCESS CENTER GRADUATE

Motion Jensen, second Henderson to approve an early graduation student from the Buchanan County Success Center. All voted ðaye.ö

RENEWAL OF SOCCER CONTRACT

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve the renewal of the existing cooperative program agreement with East Buchanan for boys and girls soccer for the 2010-2011 school year which includes 2011 summer activities. All voted ðaye.ö

FUND RAISING REQUESTS

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve the following fund raising requests. All voted aye.

GROUP	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT	PURPOSE	START UP COSTS	TARGET AMOUNT	DATE
High School Musical	Sell T-Shirts for \$11-\$13 in school	Musical T-Shirts for the cast and crew		\$0	03/15/2010
West Elementary	Recycling dumpster to be placed at Wal-Mart	Raise money for projects, field trips, track and field day			
High School Library	Sell withdrawn books from the library for \$1.00 - \$2.00	Recoup some of the money spent to purchase them for new books		\$50.00	02/16/2010 through 05/2010
East Elementary 1 st Grade; Mrs. Reidy's Class	Collect pop cans and do odd jobs for parents to collect money	Symbolically adopt an orca whale to support whale research		\$70.00	03/01/2010 through 03/31/2010
High School Student Council	Sell Winter Dance Tickets for \$7.00	Donate half of profit to Haiti earthquake victims	\$75.00 to print tickets at Copy Works	\$800 to split between Haiti and Student Council	Week of 02/22/2010
High School Boys Soccer	Sell sponsorship, name on poster and program	Raise money for jerseys, poster, balls, and other equipment		\$1,000 - \$3,000	02/23/2010 to 03/06/2010
West Elem Principal's Advisory Council (Student Council)	Voluntary donations for a movie being shown in the building	Provide financial support to the Red Cross (Haiti)			Month of March
High School Football Team	Sell raffle tickets for \$2.00 for 2 half hogs & processing and 42" TV (all donated)	Raise money to purchase computer software and new head sets for sidelines		\$1,500	When tickets are printed through 04/30/2010

Director McCardle arrived at the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

A recess was taken from 8:59 to 9:10 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF RETIREMENT PACKAGE

Motion Jensen, second Henderson to reopen the severance package to all 2009-2010 employees, ignore the Rule of 88 clause, give employees a ten day window beginning Feb. 23 to make a decision, and not reopen a severance package for the 2010-2011 year. Future severance packages past 2010-2011 will be based on the financial needs of the district.

Henderson voted ðay,ö Jensen voted ðaye,ö Christensen voted ðnayö, McCardle voted ðaye,ö Sturtz voted ðaye.ö Motion carried 3-2.

EAST ELEMENTARY AND NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Three entities have approached the district with an interest in East Elementary. Supt. Embray is to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the board's review. Any interested entities are to complete the RFP for the board's consideration.

A meeting is set for Thursday, March 4, 2010 to hold a work session with the architects to discuss the facility options that are available to us as we look at a 7-12 configuration for the high school.

Director Christensen left the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

FARM LAND RENT

Motion Henderson, second Jensen to open negotiations with the current renter for the land owned by the school. All voted ðaye.ö

SNOW MAKE-UP DAYS

With the possibility of missing more days, the board may consider lengthening the school day or scheduling Saturdays to lessen the time in June. Superintendent Embray plans to survey staff and parents on this issue. Currently, the district has missed 6 days with June 1, 2010 the last student day.

RENAMING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Discussion was held suggesting that the Board of Education consider renaming West Elementary and the Middle School (the new East and West Elementary buildings). This will be placed on a future agenda for a final decision.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Henderson, second Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. All voted ðaye.ö

Dawnye Sturtz
Chairperson

Charmaine Wickwire
Secretary