

Independence Community School Board Minutes
Regular Meeting
July 27, 2009

A regular meeting of the Independence Community School Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dawnye Sturtz in the Administration Building, Independence, Iowa.

Members Present: Chairperson Dawnye Sturtz, Vice-President Charlie McCardle, Director Kathryn Jensen, Director John Christensen, Director Kevin Robb (via poly com)

Superintendent Present: Devin Embray

Board Secretary Present: Charmaine Wickwire

Press Present: Tari Robertson, "The News"
John Jensen, "Independence Bulletin Journal"

Visitors Present: Interested Patrons

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion McCardle, second Christensen to approve consent agenda items 2-A through 2-E. All voted "aye."

2-A Approval of the June 30, 2009 Special Session and the June 30, 2009 Work Session.

2-B Approval of agenda.

2-C Approval of Transfers/Reassignments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Previous Assignment</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>	<u>Date</u>
Krista James	ECC/Central Office Assoc.	Central Off. Assoc./Receptionist	8/13/09

2-D Approval of New Hires

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Date</u>
Robert Espe	Asst. Jazz Band Coach	\$2,810	11/2009
Kris Gruber	7 th Gd. B Basketball Coach	\$1,461	01/2010
Sonia Himlie	4 Yr Old Preschool Teach.	\$28,100	08/19/09
Steve Kalous	HS Activities Director	\$60,000	07/01/09
Jenny Peters	Asst. March. Band Coach	\$1,967	08/01/09
Pam Shannon	HS Food Service	\$8.75/hr.	08/21/09
Jennifer Sornson	HS Principal	\$78,000	07/01/09
Larry VanLaningham	Sp. Ed. Assoc. – Bus	\$8.75/hr.	08/24/09

2-E Approval of Financial Reports

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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

Sue Henkes, teacher, addressed the Board with results of a staff morale survey.

The new high school principal and activities director were introduced and welcomed.

Director McCardle reported on weight room improvements.

Superintendent Embray reported that the original school bell was secured and would be stored until it could take its place in front of a new high school building.

Director Jensen shared a recap of the most recent P4P meeting, addressed Big Brothers Big Sisters' need for funding, and reminded everyone of an August 31, 2009 meeting between the county, city and school.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve the high school band to travel to Indianapolis, IN, on November 13-15 for the Grand National Marching Band Championships. All costs associated with the trip will be paid for by the students and instructors attending. All voted "aye."

2010 IASB LEGISLATIVE ACTION PRIORITIES

Motion Jensen, second McCardle to approve action items numbers 1, 11, 12, 15, and 20. Jensen, McCardle, Christensen, Sturtz voted "nay" and Robb voted "aye." Motion failed 4-1.

Motion Jensen, second McCardle to approve action items numbers 1, 11, 12, 15, and 20 with an amendment. All voted "aye." Items are as follows:

#1 Supports preserving the integrity of the statewide penny sales tax for school infrastructure, including the tax equity provisions of buying down the highest additional levy rates to the state average.

#11 Supports setting allowable growth at a rate that encourages continuous school improvement and reflects actual cost increases experienced by school districts. The allowable growth rate should be set no lower than 6 percent. Equivalent state categorical funding is not a substitute for adequate allowable growth. Our priority is to increase and maintain the state cost per pupil and the spending authority associated with it to build a strong base for future education resources. 2009 priority

#12 Supports a school foundation formula that adequately and timely funds changes in demographics, including declining and increasing enrollment challenges.

#15 Supports the locally elected school board as the final authority to utilize and allocate funding that best meets the needs of students and the district.

#20 Supports legislation allowing school bond issues to be passed by a simple majority vote and to permit the local school board to levy a combination of property taxes and income surtaxes to pay the indebtedness. Supports an expansion of state revenues to provide sufficient, dependable resources to adequately support public education as Iowa's number one priority. IASB opposes erosion of the existing tax base. IASB supports a full accounting every two years by state government of the costs of all exemptions, credits or deductions for the income tax, sales tax or property tax.

The Board amends number twenty with the following:

Delete the first sentence of number twenty and replace it with "Supports legislation allowing school bond issues to be passed by 55% majority vote providing:

- **May have safety or health code violations on existing building that are identified and documented and;**
- **There have been at least five attempts to pass a bond referendum in the last ten years and;**
- **At least three prior bond referendum attempts, in the last ten years, must have a minimum of 55% or higher in support of the vote.**

Supports the local school board to levy a combination of property taxes and income surtaxes to pay the indebtedness."

The remainder of the priority item number twenty will remain the same.

NEW BUSINESS

FUND-RAISING REQUESTS

Motion McCardle, second Christensen to approve the following fund-raising requests:

HS Cheerleaders	Sell Cookies	Purchase Uniforms, State Wrestling Exp.	Target - \$750	Fall 2009
Middle School	Magazines	Purchase Athletic Uniforms, Equip., Officials, Field Trips Assemblies, Movie License	Target - \$15,000	9/3/09- 9/15/09

All voted "aye."

RESOLUTION NAMING DEPOSITORIES

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to name Security State Bank and Banklowa as depository banks for the Independence Community School District. All voted "aye."

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to enter into a purchase agreement with the City of Independence to purchase playground equipment that is no longer permissible by law for our Early Childhood Center for \$1.00. The city would assume all responsibility and removal of equipment from our property. The Early Childhood Center has been awarded a grant for appropriate equipment to be installed. All voted "aye."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve a leave of absence request from an associate due to a family illness. All voted "nay."

Motion McCardle, second Christensen to postpone another consideration of this leave of absence to the next regular Board meeting. All voted "aye."

CORRECTION TO EARLY RETIREMENT POLICIES

Motion McCardle, second Robb to approve the first reading and waive the second reading of amended Board policies 407.3, 407.4, 407.4E1, 407.4E2, 407.4E3, 413.2, 413.3, 413.3E1, 413.3E2, and 413.3E3 regarding the removal of the "cash option" for licensed employees and classified employees. All voted "aye." Policies may be reviewed in the Administration Building.

MOVING EXPENSE STIPEND

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve a moving expense stipend up to \$1,500 for Jennifer Sornson and Steve Kalous. The moving costs must occur before July 1, 2010 with documentation of appropriate expenses being provided prior to reimbursement to the individuals. All voted "aye."

CANVASS OF VOTES

Motion Christensen, second Robb to approve the Public Measure B Independence School District Revenue Purpose Statement as follows:

"For the public measure
Public Measure B Independence Community School Revenue Purpose Statement

To adopt the revenue purpose statement to authorize the expenditure of revenues from the State of Iowa secure an advanced vision for education fund received by the Independence Community School District.

Buchanan	
For the question, there were:	Four hundred ninety-four (494) votes
Against the question, there were:	Four hundred ninety-five (495) votes
 Total	 Nine hundred eighty-nine (989) votes

We therefore declare the public measure “To adopt the revenue purpose statement to authorize the expenditure of revenues from the State of Iowa secure an advanced vision for education fund received by the Independence Community School District” not to be adopted.”

On roll call vote: Jensen voted “aye,” McCardle voted “aye,” Christensen voted “aye,” Robb voted “aye,” Sturtz voted “aye.” Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion McCardle, second Robb to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All voted “aye.”

Dawnye Sturtz
Chairperson

Charmaine Wickwire
Secretary