

Independence Community School Board Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
May 24, 2010

A regular meeting of the Independence Community School Board was called to order at 7:16 p.m. by Chairperson Dawnye Sturtz in the Brandon Community Center, Brandon, Iowa.

Members Present: Chairperson Dawnye Sturtz, John Christensen,  
Charlie McCardle, Kathryn Jensen,  
Stacy Henderson

Superintendent Present: Devin Embray

Board Sec/Treas Present: Lynnette Engel

Press Present: Steven Smith, "The News"  
John Klotzbach, "Independence Bulletin Journal"

Visitors Present: Interested Patrons

**FRIENDS OF EDUCATION**

- A. First Presbyterian Church was recognized for donating to the Mentoring Program and for donating school supplies, sanitary supplies and nursing supplies to East Elementary.
- B. The Mustang Foundation was recognized for their monetary donation to East Elementary for their trip to Heartland Acres this spring.
- C. The Independence Community School Board was recognized for their time, resources and energy in helping make our district the best it can be.

**SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION**

- A. Independence High School Jazz Band was recognized for finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Iowa State Jazz Contest. Members include Lyndzi Roth, Mari Butler, Julia Grover, Christian Junker, Hannah Butler, Briana Jimmerson, Mercedes Johnson, Benjamin Crawford, Kevin Mills, Kayla Fleming, TJ Peters, Luke Crawford, Kyle Harms, Christopher Kurt, Peter Haverkamp, Regina Hoffman, Aaron Allen, Kasey Domer, Matt Leisinger and Jacob Toale. Thanks to David Lang for sponsoring these students.
- B. Students from Real Living and Personal Finance classes were recognized for scoring in the top 20% on the National Financial Literacy Challenge. The national average on the test is 70%; Independence's average was 83%. Students that participated are: Tyler Beier, Zach Brimeyer, Logan Geater, Madi Gates, Derek Hahn, Cameron Hayward, Joshua Hunter, Dystany Johnson, Christian Junker, Amy Keierlieber, Jordan Kirkbride, Christopher Kurt, Matt Leisinger,

- Daggett Main, Andrew Niedert, Austin Pink, Lauren Rathbun, Dan Ryan and Amy Shannon. Thanks to Teresa Nanning for sponsoring these students.
- C. The following students were recognized for their achievements in the Iowa Reading Association Creative Writing and Poetry Contest.

**POETRY CONTEST WINNERS INCLUDE:**

McKenna Kirchhoff, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ó 1<sup>st</sup> place for "Our Beautiful World". Thanks to Nancy Black for sponsoring McKenna.

Stephanie McMillan, 8<sup>th</sup> grade ó 3<sup>rd</sup> place for "Things are Changing". Thanks to Jackie Berryhill for sponsoring Stephanie.

**CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST WINNERS INCLUDE:**

Allyson Hearn, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ó 3<sup>rd</sup> place for "Ginger, My Talking Dog". Thanks to Chrissy Kimball for sponsoring Allyson.

Grace Bertelli, 5<sup>th</sup> grade ó 2<sup>nd</sup> place for "The Hidden Stones". Thanks to Lori Simon and Megan Rawlins for sponsoring Grace.

Zoe Harrison, 6<sup>th</sup> grade ó 2<sup>nd</sup> place for "Charles's Request". Thanks to Sue Henkes for sponsoring Zoe.

- D. Kelly Crossley was recognized for her hard work and dedication on getting the Farm to School program up and running.
- E. The following students were recognized for competing among 284 students at the State Invent Iowa Competition - Tia Whited, Megann Bohlken, Avri Ruffcorn and Kirstie Martin. Thanks to Megan Rawlings for sponsoring these students.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON CONSENT ITEMS**

Motion McCardle, second Jensen to approve the following consent items 4-A, 4-B with acknowledgement of the addendum, the deletion of a transfer reassignment, and the addition of a BCSC graduate, 4-C, 4-D, 4-E and 4-F. All voted "aye."

**4-A APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the April 19, 2010, Work Session; the April 19, 2010, Regular Meeting; the April 22, 2010, Special Session; the April 26, 2010, Special Session; the May 6, 2010, Special Session; and the May 13, 2010, Special Session.

**4-B APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**4-C TRANSFERS/REASSIGNMENTS**

NAME	PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT	NEW ASSIGNMENT	DATE
Melissa Peyton	East 5.5 hr Sp Ed Student Assoc	East 7.0 hr Sp Ed Student Assoc	08/23/2010
Diane Shonka	MS 7.0 hr Sp Ed Student Assoc	East 7.0 hr Sp Ed Student Assoc	08/23/2010
Wanda Standridge	MS 6.5 hr Kitchen Manager	HS 5.5 hr Food Service Worker	08/20/2010
Jami Tekippe	Asst to Dir of Finance/Payroll	West Elem 8.0 hr Secretary	08/04/2010
Sherry Kilby	Asst to Dir of Finance/Acct Pay.	Asst to Dir of Finance/Payroll	07/01/2010

#### **4-D NEW HIRES**

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY	DATE
Bill Duffy	High School Sp Education Teacher Strat I	BA+15 Step 8	08/19/2010
Bill Duffy	Head Football Coach ó Grades 9-12	Cat. 9 Step 11	05/24/2010
Melissa Knight	BCSC and High School Guidance Counselor	BA+30 Step 0	08/12/2010
Mikka McRoberts	1.0 FTE Cheerleading Sponsor	Cat. 7 Step 0	05/25/2010
David VanGroll	West Elem Sp Education Teacher Strat II	BA Step 0	08/19/2010

#### **4-E RESIGNATIONS**

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	DATE
Pam Frisch	MS 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach	05/10/2010
Stephanie Funke	High School Spanish Teacher	End of 2009-2010 School Year
Val Maximovich	4.0 hour Preschool Administrative Assistant	05/14/2010
Cecelia Peterson	East Elem 5.75 hr Special Ed Associate	End of 2009-2010 School Year

#### **4-F APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

#### **5. 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 the District Data Report regarding the ITBS/ITED and MAP testing. She also spoke on the Department of Education Site Visit Exit Report.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Appoint New Board Secretary/Treasurer**

Motion by Henderson, second Jensen to appoint Lynnette Engel as the new Board Secretary/Treasurer. All voted ðaye; McCardle was absent for this vote. The Oath of Office was administered to Lynnette.

##### **B. Proposed Amendment to the 2009-2010 Certified Budget**

Motion Jensen, second Christensen to approve the Amendment of the 2009-2010 Certified Budget. By roll call vote: Henderson voted ðaye,ö McCardle voted ðaye,ö Jensen voted ðaye,ö Christensen voted ðaye,ö and Sturtz voted ðaye.ö Motion carried

5-0.

**C. Fundraising Request**

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to approve the following fundraising request. All voted öaye.ö

GROUP	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT	PURPOSE	START UP COSTS	TARGET AMOUNT	DATE
HS Baseball	Race Track Cleanup	Purchase bats for upcoming season		\$500	Race Season

**D. Home School Assistance Program Handbook**

Motion Jensen, second Henderson to approve the Home School Assistance Program Handbook for 2010-2011. All voted öaye.ö.

**E. Staff Handbook**

Motion McCardle, second Jensen to approve the Staff Handbook for 2010-2011. All voted öaye.ö.

**F. Affirmative Action Plan**

Motion Jensen, second McCardle to approve our Affirmative Action Plan. All voted öaye.ö.

**G. Transportation Director Sharing Agreement with Jesup Schools**

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of sharing the Transportation Director position with Jesup Schools. The Board was open to the idea of continuing talks with Jesup about this possibility.

**H. Curriculum Coordinating Council Membership Guidelines**

Motion Christensen, second Jensen to amend the CCC membership guidelines to include eight parents/community members and 2 students. All voted öaye.ö.

**I. 2010 Independence High School Graduates**

Motion McCardle, second Jensen to approve 2010 Independence High School graduates upon completion of the graduation requirements. All voted öaye.ö.

**J. 2010 Buchanan County Success Center Graduates**

Motion McCardle, second Christensen to approve 2010 Buchanan County Success Center graduates upon completion of the graduation requirements. All voted öaye.ö.

**K. 2010-2011 Certified Negotiations Settlement**

Motion Henderson, second Jensen to ratify the ITA District negotiations settlement at a 2.85% total package increase. Henderson, McCardle and Sturtz voted öaye.ö; Christensen and Jensen voted önay.ö. Motion carried 3-2.

**L. Updated Architect Contract**

Motion McCardle, second Jensen to approve an updated Architect Contract. All voted  
ōnayō. Motion is denied.

**M. Soccer Complex/Long Range Vision Plan**

Discussion was held to update the Board on the recent developments in obtaining a  
soccer complex on school owned land. This will affect the long range vision plan. The  
Board was open to continue discussions as things progress.

Exempt Session for negotiation strategy was held immediately following the regular  
meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Christensen, second Henderson to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. All voted  
ōayeō.

Dawnye Sturtz  
Chairperson

Lynnette Engel  
Secretary