

**Independence Community School Board Meeting**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**December 18, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Independence Community School Board was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Eric Smith at the Administration Building, Independence, Iowa on December 18, 2017.

Members Present: Chairman Eric Smith, Brian C. Eddy, Kim Hansen, Jennifer Sornson and Gina Trimble.  
Superintendent Present: Jean Peterson  
Board Secretary: Laura Morine

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  - A. Call to Order
  
2. FRIENDS OF EDUCATION
  - A. Shalom Circle – Immanuel Lutheran Church for donating coats, hats, and gloves for the students at East Elementary and the Early Childhood Center.
  
3. LIVE THE MUSTANG WAY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION
  - A. *Successful is the person who gives his/her best always. We would like to recognize the following employees for Living the Mustang Way:*
    1. Christina Garrigus-Jones: being a positive role model for our students and staff at the Early Childhood Center
    2. Mary Kohlhaas: being kind and caring to every student and staff member and willing to do whatever job is asked of her
    3. Amanda Parker: being a positive influence on our young singers helping them develop their musical talents and involving them in a mini-musical
    4. Laurie Anfinson: being a tremendous help in the After School Intervention Program, especially in the area of science
    5. Tiffany Lampe: being a caring paraprofessional who always has the students' best interests at heart and is very involved in the After School Intervention Program
    6. Lisa Preuss: being a valuable help in the After School Intervention Program, especially in the area math
    7. Roger Barloon and David Lang: being team players by providing assistance for events, activities, and projects in the auditorium and throughout the district without hesitation
    8. Kris Martin: being a great communicator, caring about students, and helping all students be successful in our At Risk Program
  
4. CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Eddy, second by Hansen to approve items 4A-E but removing Policy 603.5 from the first reading and also removing agenda item 8.F - Travel request to Chicago as it is a duplicate. Motion carried unanimously.

  - A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on November 20, 2017 and the work session on November 27, 2017.
  - B. Approval of Agenda

C. Approval of Board Policies (\*changes noted)

**Second Readings:**

|    | POLICY #          | POLICY NAME   |
|----|-------------------|---|
| 1. | 603.1             | Basic Instruction Program   |
| 2. | 603.2             | Special Education   |
| 3. | 603.3             | Multicultural and Gender Fair/Non-Sexist Education                    |
| 4. | 603.4 and 603.4E1 | Health Education and Human Growth and Development Student Excuse Form |
| 5. | 603.6             | Career Education  |

**First Readings:**

|    | POLICY #          | POLICY NAME  |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 1. | 505.6*            | Graduation Requirements<br><b>(I am requesting the Board waive the second reading of this policy.)</b> |
| 2. | 603.7 and 603.7R1 | Teaching About Religion and Teaching About Religion Regulation – Religious Holidays                    |
| 3. | 603.8 and 603.8R1 | Academic Freedom and Teaching Controversial Issues   |
| 4. | 603.9             | Global Education   |
| 5. | 603.10            | Citizenship  |
| 6. | 603.11*           | Summer School Instruction  |

D. Resignations

| NAME            | ASSIGNMENT                              | DATE       |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Sheila Kruger   | ECC .5 FTE PK4 Academic Interventionist | 12/21/2017 |
| Jason Lang      | Head Boys Track Coach                   | 12/03/2017 |
| Emily Van Etten | JSH 5.5 hr Cook/Food Service Worker     | 11/29/2017 |

E. New Hires (*pending acceptable background checks*)

| NAME      | ASSIGNMENT                    | SALARY     | DATE       |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Leon Vick | Bus Garage 4.25 hr Bus Driver | \$14.55/hr | 11/27/2017 |

F. Approval of Financial Reports – Moved by Sornson, second by Trimble to approve the financial reports. Smith, Trimble, Sornson and Hansen voted “aye”, Eddy abstained. Motion carried 4-0.

1. Approval of Bills – Director Sornson will have reviewed the bills
2. Vendor Report
3. Board Report
4. Budget Report

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS

A. Comments from the Public – Catherine Lake and Tucker Chorpening addressed the board.

B. Comments from the Board/Superintendent. Trimble commented the MS concert was very enjoyable and sorry she had missed the HS concert. Sorenson commented that Sandy Hook shooting was 5 years ago and commended the 6 teachers that gave their life for the students and appreciates all that teachers do for

students. Hansen echoed what Trimble and Sornson said and is thankful for our dedicated staff members. Supt. Peterson recognized Erin Burmeister for getting two big state reports submitted prior to the deadlines.

### C. Presentations

1. DECA Club – Megan Rawlins, Tyler Till, Alexis Paris and Sydney Orht presented a proposal to start a DECA club for the high school students.

2. Department of Education Site Visit Action Plan – Erin Burmeister and Building Principals went over the action plan to address each recommendation from the last DE Site visit from 2014-15.

3. Special Education Delivery Plan – Erin Burmeister gave an overview of the services' plan and special education delivery plan.

4. Volunteer & Mentor Program Updates – Val Maximovich highlighted that this is our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary for our Mentoring Program.

5. West Elementary Presentation – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Amanda Whitaker and student Katelyn Trimble presented on how the Science Standards are being incorporated in the classroom.

## 6. REPORTS

### A. Building Administrator Reports

1. Junior-Senior High School Principal
2. Junior-Senior High School Assistant Principal
3. West Elementary Principal
4. East Elementary/Early Childhood Center Principal

### B. District Director Reports

1. Activities Director Report
2. Director of School Improvement Report
3. Director of Technology Report
4. Director of Food Service Report
5. Director of Buildings & Grounds Report
6. Director of Transportation Report

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Superintendent Search Update. Smith and Morine updated the board on the search process. Applications are starting to come in and are due January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The board will have three special meetings in January to work on the Superintendent search.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legislator Update – Craig Johnson, Bruce Bearinger and Louie Zumbach attended the meeting. Discussed school funding for next year and due to the state's budget it doesn't look like there will be additional funding for schools. Supt. Peterson and the board asked they think outside of the box and possibly allow schools to convert some of their cash to spending authority for a couple of years and also allow more flexibility with our funds.

B. Piper Jaffray Update – Matt Gillespie did a teleconference with the board to show the new board members the district's outstanding debt structure.

C. Establishing a DECA Club – Sornson moved to approve establishing a DECA Club, Eddy second. Motion carried 5-0.

D. Application to the School Budget Review Committee for Special Education Administrative Costs Associated with River Hills Consortium Program for the 2018-2019 School Year. Eddy moved, Hansen second to approve the application to the SBRC in the amount of \$9,062.12 for special education administrative costs associated with River Hills Consortium program for the 2018-19 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Travel Request Form – December, 2017 – Lisa and David Lang to Chicago, IL- Removed from agenda, approved in September.

F. Travel Request Form – November, 2018 – Band to Indianapolis, IN. Hansen moved, Eddy second to approve the travel request and participation in the National Marching Band Championship in Indianapolis. Motion carried 5-0.

G. Travel Request Form – January, 2018 – Independence FFA to Minneapolis, MN Sornson moved, Hansen second to approve the travel request for the Independence FFA to Minneapolis, MN in January 2018. Motion carried 5-0.

H. Travel Request Form – October, 2018 – Independence FFA to Indianapolis, IN Hansen moved, Eddy second to approve the travel request for the Independence FFA to Indianapolis, IN in October 2018. Motion carried 5-0.

I. Employee Severance Plans – Supt. Peterson and Morine will put together some options for an early retirement package to present at the January meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT. Trimble moved to adjourn, second by Sornson. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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Eric B. Smith  
Board President

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Laura Morine  
Board Secretary