

**Independence Community School Board Meeting  
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting  
February 17, 2020**

**Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held at the Administrative Office, Independence, IA on February 17, 2020, at 5:20 pm for the 2020-2021 school calendar. Members Present: Eric Smith, Kim Hansen, Jennifer Sornson, Gina Trimble and Matt O’Loughlin. Superintendent: Russell Reiter and Board Secretary: Laura Morine. Nine from the Admin team, twelve staff members and the newspaper representative were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Sarah Thome, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher and Tracy Steger, JSBS language arts teacher spoke in favor of the proposed calendar as it provided more collaboration time for the teachers.

Public hearing ended at 5:29 pm.

**Regular Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Independence Community School Board was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair Eric Smith at the Administrative Office, Independence, IA on February 17, 2020. Members attending: Eric Smith, Kim Hansen, Matt O’Loughlin, Jennifer Sornson, Gina Trimble, Superintendent Russell Reiter, Board Secretary Laura Morine as well as administrators and guests listed above for public hearing.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Sornson moved to approve the agenda. O’Loughlin second, motion carried 5-0.

**CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON CONSENT ITEMS** - Trimble moved to approve the consent items. Hansen second the motion. O’Loughlin questioned the reimbursements to staff as those expenses should be paid by the school not the employee. Trimble reviewed the bills and the district will start to publish the approved bills after the board meeting rather than before the meeting as proposed bills. Smith suggested changes to Policy 200.2R1 in order to clarify the election process of the president and vice president and these changes will be in the second reading of the policies. Motion carried 5-0.

A. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on January 20, 2020.

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

**First Readings:**

	POLICY #	POLICY NAME
1.	200.1	Role of the Board of Directors
2.	200.2 and 200.2R1*	Organization of the Board of Directors and Organizational Meeting Procedures
3.	200.3	Powers of the Board of Directors
4.	200.4	Responsibilities of the Board of Directors
5.	201	Board of Directors’ Elections
6.	202.1	Qualifications
7.	202.2	Oath of Office
8.	202.3	Term of Office
9.	202.4*	Vacancies
10.	202.5	Individual Authority

	POLICY #	POLICY NAME (continued)
11.	203	Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest
12.	204	Code of Ethics
13.	205.1	Board Security and Protection
14.	205.2	Board Member Liability
15.	206.1	President
16.	206.2	Vice President
17.	206.3	Secretary-Treasurer
18.	207	Board of Directors' Legal Counsel
19.	208	Board of Directors' Self Evaluation
20.	209.1 and 209.1E1	Ad Hoc Committees and Ad Hoc Committees Exhibit
21.	210.1	Development of Policy
22.	210.2	Adoption of Policy
23.	210.3	Dissemination of Policy
24.	210.4	Suspension of Policy
25.	210.5	Administration in the Absence of Policy
26.	210.6	Review and Revision of Policy
27.	210.7	Review of Administrative Regulations
28.	211.1	Annual Meeting
29.	211.2	Regular Meeting
30.	211.3	Special Meeting
31.	211.4	Work Sessions
32.	211.5*	Meeting Notice
33.	211.6*	Quorum
34.	211.7 and 211.7R1	Rules of Order and Rules of Order Regulation
35.	211.8	Method of Voting
36.	212*	Open Meetings
37.	213	Closed Sessions

C. Approval of Resignations

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	DATE
Cassidy Bendickson	East Elem 5.5 hr Sp Ed Para	02/10/2020
April Drew	ECC .5 FTE Preschool Sp Ed Teacher	01/24/2020
Vicki Kress	JSH 7.5 hr Kitchen Manager	02/07/2020
Jaci Matthews	English Language Learner Teacher	End of 2019-2020 School Year
Seth Rupprecht	JH Track Coach	02/05/2020
Alisha Scholer	JSH Guidance Counselor	End of 2019-2020 School Year

D. Approval of Transfers/Reassignments

NAME	PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT	NEW ASSIGNMENT	SALARY	DATE
Nicole Troyer	ECC 5.0 hr Sp Ed Para	ECC .5 FTE Preschool Sp Ed Teacher	\$9,087	02/10/2020

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

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	SALARY	DATE
Kayla Degenhardt Johnson	East Elem 4.5 hr At-Risk Para	\$10.10/hr	02/12/2020
Theresa Hocken	East Elem 4.5 hr At-Risk Para	\$10.10/hr	02/10/2020

F. Approval of Financial Reports

1. Bills – Director Trimble reviewed the bills
2. Vendor Report
3. Board Report
4. Budget Report

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS**

A. Comments from the Public. none

B. Comments from the Board/Superintendent – Sornson thanked all that helped out at the FFA Review Night. Trimble congratulated the wrestling team for making it to the State Duals and the individual wrestlers that qualified for the state tournament. She is excited for the vocal concert tonight. Hansen is also excited about the vocal concert. Hansen attended the first County Conference Board meeting but unfortunately won't make the second one. She does have their budget information if anyone is interested in seeing it. Hansen is part of the Healthy Hometown Initiative. Hansen also asked questions about when the JSHS course registration guide would be available, if a date had been set for the incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and parent meeting, as well as how it will be communicated out. JSHS staff are working on it and the date has not yet been released. The board will have a work session and possible business meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm. Superintendent Reiter will be meeting with Farm Bureau on Tuesday night. HSR will be in the district on Thursday at 1:00 pm to walk through East and West buildings. Reiter and Morine will be attending a budget workshop on February 25<sup>th</sup>. March 3<sup>rd</sup> is election day to renew the district's Revenue Purpose Statement. Absentee ballots are available. A Benefits Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>. March 26<sup>th</sup> the district will host a breakfast for area businesses to talk about the Iowa Quality Center program and encourage participation.

**REPORTS**

A. Building Administrator Reports

1. Junior-Senior High School Principal – The board would like to see a qualitative goal for the IASAP's and technology in the classroom. Hawkeye Community College has changed their class offerings and so the district will not be able to offer PLTW classes, advance calculus and advanced horticulture class. The JSHS administrators and counselors will be attending the ASSIST training on March 23-24.
2. Junior-Senior High School Assistant Principal – There are approximately 10-12 attendance contracts currently in place. All cases of truancy are turned over to the County Attorney and then it is up to the County Attorney's office to press charges and the County Attorney doesn't press charges very often.
3. West Elementary Principal- Principal Reed will share the Belief Survey results with the board.
4. East Elementary/Early Childhood Center Principal – Principal Donnelly and Instructional Coach Bonafas will be meeting with teachers this week to determine if any class-wide or individual intervention is needed.

## B. District Director Reports

1. Activities Director Report
2. Director of School Improvement Report – The math scores had dropped pretty significantly at West and that was due to the test being different and much more rigorous.
3. Director of Technology Report – Registration for parents may take a bit longer as they will need to verify their data as we are converting the contact information.
4. Director of Food Service Report – Director Harbaugh is covering the HS Kitchen Manager’s job at this time and hopes to have it filled soon. East and West Principals are working on educating teachers and students on food waste. They will also look at sending information out to parents about what components are required for a lunch or breakfast meal.
5. Director of Buildings and Grounds Report
6. Director of Transportation Report – Due to a short timeline for bus inspections, O’Brien and Zimmerly helped get the buses ready, unfortunately the bus inspections have been postponed. Chesmore said the winter roads are hard on the buses.

## OLD BUSINESS

A. Final Fiscal Year 2019 Audit – Morine report that the final audit had been received and filed with the State’s Auditor’s Office. Revenues increased 2.77% and expenditures decreased 1.22% from the previous year. These changes were due to increased local tax revenues, state and federal funding as well as decreases in support services expenditures. The Auditors reported one finding and it was a variance in certified enrollment. Adjustments will be made in the upcoming budget.

## NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of the 2020-2021 School Calendar – School Improvement Director Burmeister thanked all the calendar committee members for their input and time commitment. She reported that the focus was what was good for the students. The committee reviewed the research that supports collaboration. 100% of the 97 teacher that responded to a survey stated that more collaboration time was needed. Board members have heard from community members that were not in favor of the proposed calendar. Some board members felt more education to the board and public is needed as to why there are more early outs than the full day professional development as well as if we have allowed enough notification for the community to make the adjustment to more early outs. A question was asked how will the professional development time be monitored to make sure there is progress being made. Morine had checked with the district’s attorney and one public hearing for the calendar is all that is needed.

B. Consider Approval of the Charter Contract with Hawkeye Stages for Charter # 31189 for the May 2020 JH Band Trip to Des Moines, IA. Hansen moved to approve the charter contract. Sornson second, motion carried 5-0. Mr. Karl Smith explained that Music in our Schools/Mustang Foundation was donating the difference in cost between two yellow school buses and a charter bus.

C. Consider Approval of the Travel Request Form – July, 2020 Workshop Conference for Elementary Music Educators in Indianapolis, IN. Hansen moved to approve the travel request. Sornson second, motion carried 5-0.

D. Consider Approval of the Independence Community School District Early Graduation Applicants for March 2020. Trimble moved to approve the early graduation applicants. O’Loughlin second, motion carried 5-0.

E. Consider Approval of the Iowa Department of Transportation Federal-Aid Agreement for an Iowa's Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Project. Trimble moved to approve the IDOT DERA grant. Hansen second, motion carried 5-0.

F. Consider Approval of the Farm Lease for the South Parcel for 2020-2021. Sornson moved to approve the farm lease for the south parcel. Hansen second, motion carried 5-0.

G. Consider Removal of the Chamber of Commerce Kiosk at the Junior-Senior High School. Hansen made a motion in regard to the Independence Chamber of Commerce Information Kiosk that was approved by the Independence Community School District Board of Education in August 2014, that the kiosk be removed, and the wall be repaired, prior to the March 16, 2020 Board meeting unless the Chamber updates the advertising and images on the kiosk. Sornson second, motion carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT** – O'Loughlin moved to adjourn. Hansen second, motion carried 5-0 and meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

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Eric B. Smith, Chair

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Laura J. Morine, Board Secretary