

**URBANDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
URBANDALE CITY HALL – 3600 86<sup>th</sup> STREET  
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010  
BOARD MEETING – 6:30 P.M.**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Board President Jeff Farrell called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M. Upon roll call those present were Farrell, Directors Ryan Judas, Cynthia Munyon, Cate Newberg, Adam Obrecht, Shawn St. John, and Vice President Mark Wierson. No members were absent.
- II. Approval of Agenda**

Director Wierson moved, and Newberg seconded the motion to approve the meeting agenda as posted. Motion carried with all ayes 7-0.
- III. Communication from the Public**

Three Urbandale residents spoke to the Board of Education regarding the Compacted Math program at the Middle School. Diane Penningroth of 7704 Prairie Avenue, Linda Wilson of 7801 Airline Avenue, and Gerri Heinrich of 4415 101<sup>st</sup> Street communicated that the teachers have limited time to provide the Compacted Math instruction, and that the students aren't comfortable seeking out alternative help. Maria Duryee of 7617 Prairie Avenue spoke to the Board of Education about Science and Advanced Programming. Ms. Duryee felt that the District limits the scheduling of students in accelerated coursework, and that there are no courses available for advanced Literature studies.
- IV. Good News**

Superintendent Dr. Greg Robinson congratulated Urbandale Vocal Music participants and Directors Steve Woodin and Alice O'Connor for a successful Winter Concert held December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- V. Consent Agenda Items**
  - A. Approval of Monday, December 14, 2009 Board Minutes.
  - B. Approval of Wednesday, January 6, 2010 Board Minutes.
  - C. Approval of Open Enrollment report as submitted.
  - D. Approval of Personnel report as submitted.
  - E. Approval of Out-of-Country Travel request, for Spanish students' trip to Spain in June of 2011.

Director Newberg moved, Director Wierson seconded, to approve consent agenda items A through E. Motion carried 7-0.
- VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools**
  - A. Jeff Van Maanan, CPA with Van Maanan and Associates, presented their firm's independent audit of the District to the Board of Directors. Highlights included a 26.7 percent increase in District's total assets, and a 4.8 percent increase in revenues over prior year. Mr. Van Maaanen and Shelly Clifford, Director of Business Services explained various changes and new reporting requirements for the 2009 fiscal year audit. Director Munyon moved, Director Judas seconded, to accept the District's fiscal year 2009 Audit Report. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Middle School Rigor and Relevance Update: Principal Dan Meyer and several Middle School teachers presented information about 6<sup>th</sup> Grade academic programming. Rochelle Bowers updated the Board of Directors about how Middle School counselors provide tours for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students to assist with the transition to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and attending a new building. Ann Presler spoke to the Board about the Language Arts coursework, including Balanced Literacy and the ITBS assessments. Katy Birdwell presented information about Social Studies instruction through map skills training and study of other cultures. Stacy Borchers spoke about Science curriculum, including special projects that the students enjoy with regard to cells structure and heredity.

C. Dr. Robinson updated the Board of Directors on upcoming meetings with regard to progress on setting the 2010-11 school calendar.

D. Shelly Clifford, Director of Business Services requested the Board's approval for payment of bills totaling \$275,145.89. Director St. John moved, Director Obrecht seconded, to approve the payment of the accounts payable as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Superintendent Dr. Robinson led a discussion on the 2010-11 budget, and some possible scenarios with regard to property taxes. The property tax levy rate will increase because of debt service payments no longer being partially funded by local option sales tax revenues. However, it is not yet known what additional tax increases will be proposed until budgetary allowable growth and funding appropriations are set by the Legislature.

F. Dr. Robinson also discussed the Race to the Top initiative, and recommended that the Board be prepared to enter into the agreement with the Iowa Department of Education's application. However, he also recommended that the District wait for further guidance from the Iowa Association of School Boards before taking final action to enter into the agreement for Race to the Top funding. Director Obrecht moved, Director Munyon seconded, to endorse the District's inclusion in Race to the Top, and that final decision on whether to pursue this initiative will be made after receiving IASB guidance. Motion carried 7-0.

G. Dr. Robinson reported that the District will soon receive the 404 Permit regarding wetland mitigation approval on the Middle School Project from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. As a contingency, however, the District received a 60-day extension of the timeline to award a contract at same base bid price of \$12,100,000.00 from the low bidder, Stahl Construction.

## **VII. Discussion and Action Regarding the Superintendent Position for 2010-11 School Year**

Board President Jeff Farrell led a discussion on filling the Superintendent position after Dr. Robinson retires in June, 2009. Farrell reported that the Board had interviewed the only internal candidate, Associate Superintendent Dr. Doug Stilwell. President Farrell felt that Stilwell was highly qualified for the position and that a further search of candidates was not warranted. Farrell moved, and Director Munyon seconded, to offer a contract to Dr. Stilwell, effective following Dr. Robinson's retirement, suggesting a two-year contract term, with other contract provisions to be determined. More discussion followed, with questions

