

SHELDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SHELDON, IOWA

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

BOARD-ADMINISTRATOR WORK SESSION

OCTOBER 6, 2004

President Van Gorp welcomed the guests, Board Members, and the press.

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 5:34 p.m. President Dan Van Gorp called the meeting to order. Present: Mark Brown, Kathy Brock, Gary Ihnen, Kecia Hickman, Dan Van Gorp, Robin Spears, and Bill Borchers. Absent none. Guests: Mr. Mueting, Mrs. Barwick, Mrs. McCrory, Mr. Sneiderman, and Mr. Nathan Christophel.

2. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Gary Ihnen made and Mark Brown seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Roll Call vote: Kecia Hickman, Aye; Kathy Brock, Aye; Mark Brown, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.

3. BOARD EVALUATION/BOARDMANSHIP PROCESS/PROCEDURES - Discussion

The Board members are to check on their points and give them to the Superintendent this week. There is a Board Leadership Workshop on October 29, 2004. It was discussed about having a Board Self-Evaluation, and whom do we use to facilitate the process. Other ideas discussed were quarterly work sessions, twice a month Board meetings, student achievement, and the length of the Board meetings.

4. IASB ANNUAL CONVENTION - Discussion

There was discussion on the sessions, and who would like to attend. Delegate Assembly, Early Bird, Finance Boot Camp, and afternoon sessions. The Middle School will be presenting at the Show And Tell session on Friday morning. There was discussion on the Board Leadership Conference that will be held in Des Moines towards the last of October 2004.

5. BUILDING PRINCIPAL REPORTS - Discussion

High School - Mr. Mueting reported on the upcoming Safety Task Force meeting, K-12 Curriculum, Comprehensive School Improvement, and the conference he attended on Bullying & Harassment. Mr. Mueting also talked about the Parent Advisory Group, and the Music Trip. Middle School - Mrs. Barwick updated the Board on the Middle School grass seeding, the Middle School dedication, and the new Middle School flag. Elementary School - Mrs. McCrory updated the Board on the Kindergarten curriculum, and the Stars grant that the elementary school is writing for a mobile computer lab, using the Internet website, IOWA (Improving Our Worldwide Access). There was discussion on should there be foreign language taught at the Elementary level. Mr. Sneiderman updated the Board on the interesting field programs that the band has seen at both the Marshall and Algona Band contests. The State Marching Band competition will be held at Cherokee.

At 8:00 p.m. President Van Gorp announced a short break.

At 8:09 p.m. President Van Gorp reconvened the meeting.

6. SCHOOL FINANCE, BUDGETING TAXATION RATES - Discussion

Superintendent Spears explained the current Certified Enrollment, and the BEDS Enrollment figures. The anticipated new money for next year is around \$40,000. The priorities continue to be K-3, reading & math.

7. CURRICULUM/ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING - Discussion

The Superintendent explained the AT-RISK program, and that the maximum amount available for 2004-05 is about \$166,000, with the State furnishing \$125,000 and the District having to raise the balance. The

maximum is formula driven. There was discussion on the Special Education Program, and possible staffing changes. The District will be evaluating the swimming program. The Superintendent stated that there are two discussions on-going at the State level. One being pre-school and the other increased expectations at High School. There was discussion on having Spanish as a foreign language at the Elementary level, as if other schools are doing it. There was also discussion on the possibility of the sharing of TAG or Foreign Language teachers with other districts. This is an on-going discussion, and will be continued at another session.

8. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - Discussion

The National Board Meeting will be held in San Diego, CA from April 16-19, 2005. In February 2005, Superintendent Spears will be attending the ASA Convention. The NSPA Conference is scheduled for February 2005. It was mentioned that maybe Sheldon could present its story at the NCA Convention in Chicago.

9. STAFF RECRUITMENT/INTERVIEW PROCESS/PROCEDURES - Discussion

The principals are looking for quality people, and hire the best. They involve the parents and teachers in the interview process. The District does background checks via telephone, on the potential candidates. There was discussion on having each finalist candidate teach a class, and have the teaching be videotaped. The interviewers could then watch the videotape, and maybe talk to the students about the teaching candidate. It was thought ideally to have four stations for the candidate to rotate through, with those stations being: Administration, Staff, Teaching, and Writing.

10. PPEL - Discussion

The Board needs to decide on the rate needed for the resolution. It was a consensus that the rate should be \$.95/\$1,000 of assessed valuation.

11. AEA 4 & AEA 12 MERGER - Discussion

Superintendent Spears explained that with the merger, the AEAs wish to maintain the same quality and level of service. The Superintendent will try to have Les Douma, Administrator for AEA 4, talk to the Board about the merger.

12. BOARD POLICY DISCUSSION

Superintendent Spears discussed the Board Policy Review schedule for 2004-05. It was suggested that the Superintendent and a couple of Board members review the policies. The facility usage policy needs to be reviewed before it is brought up for Board approval at the November 2004 Board Meeting. The Superintendent, Kathy Brock and Gary Ihnen will review the facility usage policy.

13. GASB 34 - Discussion

Bill Borchers and Superintendent Spears explained the capitalization policy, and the purpose of GASB 34.

14. ADJOURN

At 10:06 p.m., Gary Ihnen made and Kathy Brock seconded the motion to adjourn. Roll Call vote: Mark Brown, Aye; Kecia Hickman, Aye; Kathy Brock, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.