

SHELDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SHELDON, IOWA

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
BOARD - ADMINISTRATOR WORK SESSION

February 11, 2009

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

At 7:47 p.m. President Dan Van Gorp called the meeting to order. Present: Kecia Hickman, Glen Goedken, Randy Merley, Gary Ihnen, Dan Van Gorp, Robin Spears, and Bill Borchers. Absent: None. Guests: Jenni McCrory, Matt Meendering, Darrell Sneiderman, Heidi Nissen, April Schaeffer, Renae Vande Brake, Rachel Lode, Beth Hamill and Lindsay Hoepfner.

2. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Glen Goedken and seconded by Randy Merley to approve the agenda. Roll Call vote: Kecia Hickman, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Randy Merley, Aye; Glen Goedken, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. All voted Aye. Motion carried.

President Dan Van Gorp explained that the items on the agenda are not action items, and are for discussion only.

3. CHILDREN'S WORLD - Questions and Discussion -

Heidi Nissen, Renae Vande Brake, Beth Hamill, April Schaeffer and Rachel Lode, members of the Children's World Board, explained that the Children's World Board (CW Board) was looking at what is best for the longevity of Children's World and looking for ways of establishing and exploring partnerships. Dan Van Gorp said that the Board hasn't discussed this before and what does Children's World feel are their strengths. Heidi Nissen said that early education is important, and that the shared campus and facilities are also strengths. Heidi Nissen said that the weakness would be that they have outgrown the management and financial systems. The Board has been making headway in getting the building expansion paid down. Dan Van Gorp asked what keeps Children's World from being successful. Heidi Nissen said that two of the areas are staffing and financing. Renae Vande Brake said that they now have the facility but need enrollment. April Schaeffer said that administration can be a struggle. Heidi Nissen said that if the District Board is willing to explore the possibilities, the CW Board would welcome assistance on seeing how this works with the school. Superintendent Spears said that three things can happen: 1) Everything stays as is, 2) The District could provide some administration for a fee, and 3) The District could take over Children's World, but the facility must be able to pay for itself. Superintendent Spears said that the audit of Children's World is getting done, and the District would have to see how the Building Expansion debt would be handled, and the District & Children's World committee would have to visit other schools to see how the partnership has been accomplished. Randy Merley asked if the CW Board had contacted the City of Sheldon about the construction debt. Heidi Nissen said that they were working on fund raising. She explained that there were cost overruns on the expansion, and that the initial fund raising was a little short. April Schaeffer said the CW Board has talked with the City of Sheldon about help, and they are willing to help with grants. Renae Vande Brake said that they have just had the final walkthrough with the architect, and everything is okay. Glen Goedken asked why the enrollment was down. Renae Vande Brake said that there are about 220 children at the center, but now they have more room. April Schaeffer said that prior to the expansion, Children's World operated at full capacity and that during the construction the waiting list declined. Glen Goedken asked where they draw from. Beth Hamill said that the center draws from the surrounding area and parents that work in town. Renae Vande Brake said that the CW Board has looked at how surrounding day cares partnership. Rachel Lode said the children are well taken care of and the parents felt comfortable. Dan Van Gorp asked how

this discussion affects the Children World image. Heidi Nissen said that with shared facilities and building there is a natural connection between the school and the center, and that the positives outweigh the negatives. Renae Vande Brake said that the State Preschool Grant that the District received showed how schools can work together. Glen Goedken asked if the CW Board had talked to the hospital, and what do you want the school to do. Heidi Nissen said that the CW Board has not talked to the hospital. She said that it seems more realistic to form a partnership with the school. Their goal would be to have the school help research opportunities. Renae Vande Brake said the CW Board is looking for options to improve Children's World. April Schaeffer said that the hospital and city would be an option, the District and Children's World share a like mission statement. Dan Van Gorp said that the goals of the two organizations are consistent, and feels that the District can help and both would win. Beth Hamill said that there is already a lot of interaction between East Elementary and Children's World, so a partnership would be a natural fit. Renae Vande Brake said that Children's World could use some help for the State Fire Marshall requirements. Kecia Hickman said that when Children's World was originally started it was felt that they needed a separate identity. Rachel Lode appreciated the time the District has spent talking about this partnership with the CW Board. Gary Ihnen said that everything that the District does has to be transparent, and we need to see paperwork. Heidi Nissen said that they were in the process of getting the information for us. Heidi Nissen wants the public to know that Children's World came to the District for help on researching the possible partnership/solution. Renae Vande Brake said that they still need to continue to make this work. Dan Van Gorp thanked the CW Board for coming forward to discuss the possible partnership/solution.

#### 4. FACILITY/BUILDING & GROUNDS PROJECTS - Questions and Discussion -

Locker Room/Weight Room - Need to move forward. Randy Merley & Gary Ihnen say go. The District is talking with NCC about the welding program. Question on the walls - solid block walls or stud walls. Will need two toilets in the girl's locker room. Need to get with an architect or someone to help design the plans. Will need to check on the fire code issue for exits. Need to get the info quickly, as it would be nice to be done for summer weightlifting.

Storage Building - Received an alternate bid for an all metal building. Randy Merley doesn't like using IA Sales Tax to hire an out-of-state contractor. Likes the all steel building. Payment for the project is with LOST funds.

East Elementary Addition - Will need a PPEL vote in September 2009. Phase I and Phase II construction options would be helpful. Would need to know finance options if the project was in phases. How does the Children's World study affect the project? Need a smaller group to discuss the project and also Children's World. What needs to be done at East Elementary right now? How can we use the current facility better?

Football Field Concession/Restroom Building - Will need to decide on the alternate bids when we award the contract. Need to have a timeline on both this project and the storage building.

Baseball/Softball - Can it be done before the season? The Orab Athletic Booster Club will work with the District on the batting cages. Need to think about and decide, at the special board meeting, to ratify construction bids on the Concession/Restroom/Half-Time Room, and Storage Building Projects.

Auditorium Stage Lighting - Need to get two quotes.

Additional Exits in the Band and Choir Rooms at the High School - A fire safety grant has been applied for that will pay for the exits. Need to get quotes for the asbestos removal and installation of the acoustical baffles.

Door Magnets & Heat Detection - Superintendent Spears to get these done.

Softball/Baseball Field Development - Need to wait for the area north of the Middle School. On the existing fields by East Elementary, new infield dirt is needed. Will work with the City Recreation Director.

High Jump Area - The area is about lost. Darrell Sneiderman to get a current quote on replacing it.

Tennis Court Fence - Have American Fence give us a quote on getting the fence repaired.

Stop Sign - Superintendent Spears to work with the City, as it doesn't make sense to have three stop signs at the intersection of East 6th Street and Avenue.

5. BOARD POLICY 508.4 - USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES - Discussion - Needs to be consistent on use. Superintendent Spears to talk to Civic Music, NCC and the City Recreation. Question is when school is cancelled, is the whole campus and use of all buildings closed also?
6. BUDGET REDUCTIONS FOR FY10 - Discussion - Things are still up in the air as to what amount of funding will be coming from the State. Board feels it is better to have the reductions discussed and outlined, even though we need to make assumptions.
7. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION PROCESS - Questions and Discussion - What are the Board's wishes? Do we do a full evaluation or just evaluate the goals set for the Superintendent? The Board is in favor of a more condensed and oral review in March or April.
8. ADJOURN - At 10:06 p.m., Motion by Gary Ihnen and seconded by Randy Merley to adjourn. Roll Call vote: Kecia Hickman, Aye; Glen Goedken, Aye; Randy Merley, Aye; Gary Ihnen, Aye; Dan Van Gorp, Aye. Motion carried.