

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Educational Programs/Policy/Strategy Committee

BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

This form is used by all multimember committees established by the Board of Education. Before any meeting is held, be sure you have met the requirements of Chapter 1037 Laws of the 67th G.A., 1978 Session, Official Meetings Open to Public.

- I. Complete the Following Before Starting the Meeting
 - A. Date agenda was posted for meeting: April 28 2016
 - B. Date media were faxed agenda: April 28, 2016
 - C. Media who were faxed an agenda: Telegraph Herald; Des Moines Register; KWWL; KCRG; KGAN; Radio Dubuque; Townsquare Media Group; and Chamber of Commerce.
 - D. Board Committee: **Educational Programs/Policy/Strategy Committee**
 - E. Date and Time of Meeting: **May 3, 2016, 2:00 p.m.**
 - F. Place of Meeting: The Forum
 - G. Attach agenda to this form. Verify that a copy of the agenda has been filed with the Secretary of the Board and the Administrator holding the Committee meeting.

If any of the above data does not comply with the open meeting law, do not begin the meeting.

Board members present: Tami Ryan, Jim Prochaska, Lisa Wittman. District representatives present: Stan Rheingans, David Olson, Shirley Horstman, Nancy Bradley, Phil Kramer, Mae Hingtgen.

Ms. Ryan called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Forum.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Secondary Open Enrollment Appeals

There were two open enrollment appeals to attend Roosevelt Middle School. One was denied and one was approved due to health issues.

District-to-District Open Enrollment

The district received a district-to-district open enrollment application for two students who are moving to the West Indies for the year to open enroll to CAM Community School District. Per guidance from the state, since the students will not be living in Dubuque, this open enrollment must be denied. Another application was received and is recommended for denial due to the student needing life skills programming. Roosevelt's life skills class is full and would require another teacher, which is not possible due to budget reductions. Board 5.9.16

Elementary Section Numbers

Nancy Bradley reported that 39 elementary open enrollments were denied for next year in an effort to reduce class sections (no students were affected that had siblings at the school). Seven sections were reduced at a cost savings of approximately \$400,000. This did not increase class sizes, it diverted open enrolled students back to their home school. The initial Reduction In Force numbers indicate that 13 K-12 teaching positions will be reduced. Many will be called back due to resignations.

Hillcrest Update

Superintendent Rheingans reported that the district has been participating in ongoing negotiations with representatives from Hillcrest Family Services to purchase the Lawther School, but cannot reach agreement on the value of the facility. The district is currently paying \$900,000 per year in rental fees, paid from the PPEL fund. To build an addition or stand-alone facility to house these students would be in the range of \$6 million. After negotiations with Hillcrest, a rental fee of \$627,000/year for next year and \$357,000/year for the following year. With these numbers, the return on investment is at 13 years (rent vs buy). He feels confident in reaching consensus on an agreement with Hillcrest to rent the facility for one year with Hillcrest staff providing services. Superintendent Rheingans indicated there is ongoing advocacy with the state regarding the issue of residential students from other school districts and how the district is allowed to bill for those specialized services.

Teacher Leadership System Results

Superintendent Rheingans reviewed the results of this recent evaluation of Teacher Leaders. A large majority of these sessions take place on Friday morning professional development days. He indicated that the district should develop an evaluation of the Friday professional development time, which he feels educators find very valuable.

Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Grant

Mae Hingtgen indicated that the district is interested in applying for a Comprehensive School Safety Initiative Grant from the US Department of Justice. DCSD will team up with Loras College as the collaborative research partner to apply for a grant under Category 1: Developing Knowledge About What Works to Make Schools Safe. It must support demonstrations and evaluations of programs, practices, policies and strategies designed to enhance school and student safety. Projects can be 24-48 months. \$1 to \$5 million is available. The sustainability of these types of grants was discussed. Committee members were not in favor of applying for grants that make more work for teachers. Mr. Prochaska and Ms. Ryan does not feel that the district should pursue this grant at this time. Ms. Wittman was in favor of the grant.

#5200 – Student Behavior

A committee was formed to completely revise this policy. Mae Hingtgen reviewed the new policy. She reported that she attended seven site council meetings and approximately 80 teachers, parents and students have seen the new policy. Board 5.9.16

#4009 – Anti-Nepotism

At the time this policy was approved, the administrative guidelines allow current situations to be grandfathered in. This should not be allowed any longer. Mr. Rheingans indicated he would review/revise the policy and bring it back to the committee.

#6217-A – District to District Open Enrollment/Insufficient Classroom Space

This is an annual review. Board 5.9.16

Other Items

School start times were discussed. Iowa City School District just switched their elementary and secondary start times. Mr. Rheingans indicated he would develop a committee to study this topic. Transportation, child care, etc. are logistical barriers.

Policy 6201 - Foreign and Extended Travel Domestic Student Trips

Mr. Olson indicated that the procedures for this policy states “All foreign and extended travel domestic trips must be supervised by no less than two (2) school personnel.” There are three students attending training at Luther College. One teacher will accompany them. Committee members approved.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 7 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Joni Lucas, Secretary