

**DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
1800 GRAND AVENUE  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2013**

**PUBLIC FORUM — 5:45 P.M. - 6:07 P.M.**

The Board of Directors held a public forum on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, in the multi-purpose room at 1800 Grand Avenue; Dick Murphy presiding.

Present: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Absent: Caldwell-Johnson

Speakers: Bill Paxson, 2724 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edina Hodza, Cowles student  
Tess Paxson, Cowles student  
Shari Hrdina, 2712 Dosh Road  
Dr. Aaron Wright, 3607 Franklin Ave.  
Lora Fraracci, 1011 Kingman Circle  
Barb Niccum, 1311 West Street  
Liza Moorhead, 3311 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Paige Davies, 4415 Urbandale Ave.  
Kim Cisna, DMEA president for school nurses  
Diane Gladson, Smouse school nurse  
Andrew Rasmussen, DMEA president

**REGULAR MEETING — 6:08 P.M.**

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, in the multi-purpose room at 1800 Grand Avenue; Dick Murphy presiding. Ms. Caldwell-Johnson will not be attending due to a funeral out of town.

Present: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Absent: Caldwell-Johnson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA — 6:13 P.M.**

Ms. Boesen moved approval of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Howard. Mr. Sweeney requested Item 8 be pulled. Mr. Murphy stated Item 8 will be set aside for discussion and action separately.

Aye: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Nay: None  
Motion passed 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES — 6:13 P.M.**

Mr. Howard moved approval of the minutes for January 22, 2013; seconded by Mr. Sweeney.

Aye: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney

Nay: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS — NONE**

**CONSENT ITEMS — 6:30 P.M.**

7. Award of Contract on Bid .....	1
8. Contracts for Approval (3-2 with one abstention) .....	2
9. Award of Bid No. B6665–Asbestos Abatement at Pleasant Hill Elementary School....	5
10. Award of Bid No. B6640–Addition and Renovation of Pleasant Hill Elementary School .....	6
11. Final Acceptance of Bid No. B6481–Brody Classroom Addition .....	7
12. Final Acceptance of Bid No. B6498–Meredith Middle School Renovation .....	8
13. Revised 2013-14 Regular School Calendar .....	9
14. Personnel Recommendation .....	10
15. List of Bills for Approval .....	11

**Minutes**

Ms. Elsbernd moved that the board approve the consent items with Item 8 pulled for separate discussion and action including payment of bills previously authorized and certified by the secretary in the amount of \$3,342,976.42 and unpaid bills in the amount of \$953,263.76. Seconded by Mr. Howard who stated he will abstain on the vote on Item 8 due to a conflict of interest but will vote on the rest of the consent items.

Mr. Murphy called for the vote on the consent items with the exception of Item 8.

Aye: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney

Nay: None

Motion passed 6-0.

**OTHER — 6:34 P.M.**

16. Final Plans for Park Avenue Elementary School (6-0).....	12
17. Proposal to Close Gateway Secondary School* .....	14
18. Board Report Schedule (6-0) .....	19
19. Early Retirement Benefits Plan Modifications (5-1).....	20

**PUBLIC HEARING — 6:32 P.M.**

20. Renovation and Addition to Park Avenue Elementary School (6-0).....22

*\*Discussion or information only, no action.*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT —8:49 P.M.**

Mr. Ahart distributed a school funding resolution received from the School Administrators of Iowa for the board to consider passing to demonstrate to our legislature the strong feeling for approving allowable growth in a timely fashion.

**CHAIR’S REPORT —8:50 P.M.**

Mr. Murphy reminded the board of the necessity to work together and clarified that when exchanging emails, to be conscientious of open meetings laws. Information can be requested and discussed privately with a staff member if it fits the parameters established by the board without notifying the rest of the board members.

Mr. Howard attended a Share the Mic event last week and encouraged everyone to attend a future performance. He was very impressed with the students. Ms. Boesen also commented on the exceptional work being done in the middle schools and this is a great example.

**ADJOURN — 9:53 P.M.**

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**Item No. 7****Page 1 of 1****Subject: AWARD OF CONTRACT ON BID****For: ACTION****Contact: Sheila Mason**  
(sheila.mason@dmschools.org; 242-7980)**Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** Bids have been advertised, issued and received for various equipment items, supplies, and services as outlined below.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the contracts as shown below be approved.

**Background:** The suggested bid awards and detailed information for each of the bids are as shown below.

Where cost comparisons are shown, they are merely a representative sample of the item on the bid, and are not intended to be all inclusive.

**A. Bid B6660 Custodial Equipment**

AmSan	Urbandale IA	10 items	\$103,768.50
CapSan	Des Moines IA	1 item	\$18,508.00
Xpedx	Ankeny IA	1 item	\$1,965.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$124,241.50</b>

41 Proposals were sent, 10 responded, 31 no bid. Bids were examined by the Purchasing and Custodial Departments. A complete tabulation of the bid is available for review online at: [B-6660 Custodial Equip](#)

**Funding:** Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL); Recycling and General Funds

**Contact:** Sheila Mason (sheila.mason@dmschools.org; 242-7980)

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**Item No. 8****Page 1 of 3****Subject: CONTRACTS FOR APPROVAL-REVISED****For: ACTION****Contact: Various****Attachments: None**

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**Contract No. 13-001 and Contract No. 13-002****Project:** Lawn and Field Maintenance July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015**Contractor:** A+ Lawn and Landscaping, Inc. and Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management, Inc.**Background:** The superintendent recommends the approval of both contract renewals for no increase in costs to the original contracts approved for July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013. Both contracts had options for two additional one-year periods upon mutual consent of the parties.

A+ Lawn and Landscaping has agreed to continue at the same cost for the two renewal periods. The Iowa Cubs have agreed to continue at the same cost for the two renewal periods. In addition, they will begin servicing all irrigation systems for a cost of \$2000 annually (previously serviced by different individuals at each site). Through positive negotiations with these vendors, the district will not realize typical cost of living increases we often see with other contracts.

A formal financial review by the district's controller was conducted to see if the district optimized resources by using mowing services during the past three years. It has been determined that \$1.6M has been saved during this time. The analysis compared staffing levels prior to contracting and extrapolating out what the staffing level would cost the district currently if the mowing decision was not in place (e.g. a look back analysis). Given that the district now has the benefit of hindsight when looking at actual staffing levels, compensation, and benefit increases over this period of time the controller has confirmed that the decision was a cost effective decision for the past, present and future.

**Financial:**

Revenues: None

Expenses: \$238,000.00 and \$193,500.00 (annual expense)

**Funding Source:** Custodial Services and High School Activity Funds**Term:** FY2013-2014 and FY2014-2015**New or Renewal:** Renewal**Contact:** Sheila Mason (sheila.mason@dmschools.org; 515-242-7980)

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**Contract No. 13-003****Project:** Microsoft School Agreement 2013-2014**Contractor:** Zones**Background:** The Microsoft School Agreement is a subscription licensing program for K-12 schools and districts. DMPS will be licensed for all software upgrades and downgrades during the licensed period for all faculty, staff, and students.**Financial**

Revenues: None

Expenses: \$100,000 from the Microsoft Settlement account  
\$152,618.74 from the Tech Service account**Term:** 2013 -2014**New or Renewal:** Renewal**Contact:** Dan Warren ([danny.warren@dmschools.org](mailto:danny.warren@dmschools.org) 515-242-8192)**Contract No. 13-004****Project:** Middle School Literacy Project**Contractor:** United Way of Central Iowa (UWCI)**Background:** Harding Middle School and Hoyt Middle School are partnering with Drake University to design an after school literacy project. The project targets the diverse learning needs of our most challenged readers through customized instruction.**Financial**

Revenues: \$38,200.00

Expenses: \$38,200.00

**Funding Source:** United Way of Central Iowa**Term:** 6 months: January 1, 2013, to June 30, 2013**New or Renewal:** New**Contact:** Holly Crandell ([holly.crandell@dmschools.org](mailto:holly.crandell@dmschools.org); 242-7568)

**Minutes**

Speakers: Shawn Edwards, A+ Lawn and Landscaping  
Casey Scheidel, Iowa Cubs Sports Turf Management, Inc., 1 Line Drive  
Mark Cooper, 5811 Walnut Hill Avenue, Des Moines  
Steve Barnes, 614 Virginia Avenue  
Andrew Rasmussen, DMEA, 206 Center Street  
Shannon Mullins, 4515 Euclid, Des Moines

Mr. Howard previously recused himself from this item. (See page *ii*, Consent Items minutes.)

Mr. Lenhardt explained the \$1.6 million in savings is based on cost avoidance—based on staffing levels at the time of the change and computing it at today's cost. The exact staff savings is \$1.588 million which was rounded up to \$1.6 million to allow for cost of mowers, gas and other intangibles.

The staff, through attrition, has been reduced resulting in reduced costs. At the same time, the amount of square footage at facilities has grown. The number of times mowed was not one of the factors due to all the variables involved.

Ms. Boesen commented that the initial contract was entered into during a time of budget crunch. This also allowed the staff to spend their time taking care of the inside of the buildings as that workload was increasing.

Mr. Jongewaard was interested in knowing if the companies involved provide their employees livable wages and health insurance. Ms. Lantz clarified that the original RFP would not have requested that information. Mr. Murphy polled the board and the majority chose not to pursue the information.

Mr. Murphy reminded the board that one of the main budget parameters established by the board, primarily on the insistence of Mr. Jongewaard, is to reduce class size. With no other discussion, the vote was called.

Aye: Boesen, Murphy, Elsbernd

Nay: Jongewaard, Sweeney

Abstain: Howard

Motion passed 3-2.

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**Item No. 9****Page 1 of 1****Subject: AWARD OF BID NO. B6665–ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AT PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****For: ACTION****Contact: Bill Good**

(harold.good@dmschools.org; 242-8321)

**Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** Award of contract for the asbestos abatement project for Pleasant Hill Elementary School.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends a contract for the Base Bid and Alternate #1 be awarded to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder Seneca Companies in the amount of \$97,775.00.

**Presenters:** None. Bill Good will be present to answer any questions.

**Background:** This project removes asbestos containing materials at Pleasant Hill in conjunction with the scheduled renovation project.

The district received bids on January 29, 2013. The results are as follows:

	Base Bid	Alternate # 1 Remove Boiler
ECCO Midwest – Inver Grove Heights, MN	\$139,000	+\$15,000
ESA Inc. – N. Sioux City, SD	\$196,960	+\$3,500
Robinson Bros – Waunakee, WI	\$107,030	+\$2,100
Seneca Companies – DM, IA	\$91,275	+6,500
Advanced Envir. – Waterloo, IA	\$122,026	+5,295

**Funding Source:** Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

**Contact:** Bill Good



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Item No. 10

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**Subject:** AWARD OF BID NO. B6640–ADDITION AND RENOVATION OF PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**For:** ACTION**Contact:** Bill Good  
(harold.good@dmschools.org; 242-8321)**Attachments:** None

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**Issue:** Award of contract for the addition and renovation project for Pleasant Hill Elementary School.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends a contract for the Base Bid be awarded to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder Edge Commercial LLC in the amount of \$3,870,400.00.

**Presenters:** None. Bill Good will be present to answer any questions.

**Background:** This project consists of a classroom addition and renovation of the existing school to eliminate open classrooms. The work will enhance energy efficiency, improve safety/security measures and install an elevator. It will provide electrical upgrades including new lighting, a fire sprinkler system, upgraded technology, and improvements to the mechanical systems. The existing modular unit will be removed.

The district received bids on January 29, 2013. The results are as follows:

	Base Bid	Alternate # 1 Add Backup Boiler
Rochon Corp – Urbandale, IA	\$3,886,000	+\$49,500
Edge Commercial – Grimes, IA	\$3,870,400	+\$51,900
AP Samuels – Wausau, WI	\$4,093,250	+\$54,200
Dean Snyder Construction – Ankeny, IA	\$3,896,000	+\$48,000

**Funding Source:** Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

**Contact:** Bill Good

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**Item No. 11****Page 1 of 1****Subject: FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF BID NO. B6481–BRODY CLASSROOM  
ADDITION****For: ACTION****Contact: Bill Good**  
(harold.good@dmschools.org; 242-8321)**Attachments: None**

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**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the board give final acceptance to the project listed below and approve final payment to the contractor listed, subject to the conditions and in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 26 and 573 of the Code of Iowa.

SCHOOL:	Brody Middle School
PROJECT:	Classroom Addition
CONTRACTOR:	Edge Commercial LLC
CONTRACTED AMOUNT:	\$1,459,108.00
CONTRACT BALANCE:	\$72,955.40

**Item No. 12****Page 1 of 1****Subject: FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF BID NO. B6498–MEREDITH MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION****For: ACTION****Contact: Bill Good**  
(harold.good@dmschools.org; 242-8321)**Attachments: None**

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**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the board give final acceptance to the project listed below and approve final payment to the contractor listed, subject to the conditions and in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 26 and 573 of the Code of Iowa.

SCHOOL:	Meredith Middle School
PROJECT:	Renovation
CONTRACTOR:	Edge Commercial LLC
CONTRACTED AMOUNT:	\$5,566,002.00
CONTRACT BALANCE:	\$279,999.65

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**Item No. 13**

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**Subject: REVISED 2013-14 REGULAR SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**For: ACTION**

**Attachment: 13-007**

**Contact: Scott R. Mikesch**

**Presentation: None**

(scott.mikesch@dmschools.org; 242-7972)

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**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the board approve the Revised 2013-14 Regular School Calendar.

**Background:** Pursuant to changes made by the board of directors related to the 2012-13 Regular School Calendar, January 20, 2014, which is Martin Luther King Day, will not be a designated weather make-up day. Any weather make-up days needed will be added to the end of the school year.

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**Item No. 14****Page 1 of 1****Subject: PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS****For: ACTION****Attachment: None****Contact: Scott R. Mikesch**  
(scott.mikesh@dmschools.org; 242-7972)**Presentation: None**

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**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the board approve the personnel recommendations.

**Background:****RESIGNATION**

Name	School, Position	Effective Date	Reason
Brown, Tascha	Leave of Absence	01/17/2013	Personal
Payvandi, Darius	North, Multi-Categorical	01/18/2013	Personal
Roberts, Heather	Leave of Absence	01/15/2013	Personal
Sinha, Katy	Leave of Absence	01/23/2013	Personal

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**Item No. 15**

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**Subject: LIST OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL**

**For: ACTION**

**Contact: Thomas Harper**  
(thomas.harper@dmschools.org; 242-7745)

**Attachment: None**

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**Issue:** A list of bills will be furnished to the board of directors at the board meeting for approval. The secretary will be glad to furnish information as requested on any of these items. Prior to the meeting, one member of the board will have checked this list with the invoices.

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**Item No. 16****Page 1 of 2****Subject: FINAL PLANS FOR PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****For: ACTION****Presentation: PowerPoint****Contact: Bill Good****Attachments: None**

(harold.good@dmschools.org; 242-8321)

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**Issue:** Final plans for Park Avenue Elementary School addition of two classrooms and renovation of existing east wing.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends that the board approve the final plans and specifications prepared by RDG Planning for the addition to and renovation of the east wing of the existing Park Avenue School.

**Presenters:** Bill Good, Wayne Knutson, and Joe Benesh.

**Background:** As part of the Students First/Statewide Penny, this project will provide an addition for two classrooms and renovate the existing east wing to change open classroom spaces into contained classrooms. In addition, the main office will be relocated to enhance safety/security measures. Site improvements will consist of providing ADA access from the parking lot to the new main building entry. It will provide electrical upgrades including new lighting, upgraded technology, and improvements to the mechanical systems

A copy of the plans and specifications are available for review at the district's Operations Center, 1917 Dean Ave. Floor plans and elevations are available on the district web site:

<http://www.dmschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Park-final-plans-2.5.13.pdf>

## Minutes

Principal Wayne Knutson thanked the community for their support and introduced Joe Benesh from RDG. Mr. Benesh highlighted key points of the total renovation to the 1971 section of the building. The parking lot will not be improved but a new curb cut for the disabled will be added for access to a new walk to the existing 1970s addition. The location of the new office area was pointed out, which will have a small entry plaza with a ramp and provide a more secure entrance. Self-contained classrooms with full-height walls and doors will be added. The media center will be moved from the second to the first floor. An effort to add natural lighting to each classroom is being made with some areas receiving light tubes where windows are not possible. Exterior brick will be matched.

Mr. Knutson reviewed the previous renovation work done on the main part of the building, which added geothermal, new doors and windows, new lighting, etc. The geothermal system will tie into the 1970s addition.

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Mr. Good stated construction will start in April with substantial completion by mid-August with a budget of \$2.4 million.

Following a brief question-and-answer period, Mr. Jongewaard moved to accept the superintendent's recommendation on the plans, seconded by Mr. Howard.

Aye: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney

Nay: None

Motion passed 6-0.



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**Item No. 17****Page 1 of 5****Subject: PROPOSAL TO CLOSE GATEWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL****For: DISCUSSION****Presentation: PowerPoint****Contact: Tim Schott****Attachment: 13-008**

(timothy.schott@dmschools.org/242-7871)

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**Issue:** Closure of Gateway Secondary School

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the board review and discuss additional information provided by administration as requested during the January 22<sup>nd</sup> school board meeting.

**Presenters:** Tim Schott, Bill Good, Nick Lenhardt

**Background:** Gateway Secondary School began in 2010 to pursue authorization as an IB Middle Years Programme in order to serve Walnut Street and Park Avenue Primary Years Programme students. Central Campus was chosen as the location for the school because recent renovation of classroom space for ELL programming on 3rd floor could be utilized to start the school.

In addition, Gateway Secondary School was planned to be the district's only Middle Years Programme to serve students all the way through 10<sup>th</sup> grade. By the 2013-2014 school year, Gateway would serve 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> graders, thus bridging the gap for the 9<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade years for interested students from any middle school.

At the time, Des Moines Public Schools had Middle Years Programmes in process at Merrill and Goodrell, which had capacity to serve the school of choice students from Walnut Street but not the neighborhood students from Park Avenue.

Since 2010, two additional comprehensive middle schools have begun pursuit of IB Middle Years Programme authorization: Meredith Middle School in 2011 as a 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> program in collaboration with Hoover High School and in 2012 Brody Middle School as a 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> program. With these changes, Des Moines Public Schools will have a comprehensive IB middle school in the north, south, east and west sections of Des Moines, serving a total of more than 2,800 students and including a 9<sup>th</sup>- and 10<sup>th</sup>-grade option for interested students from any middle school.

Due to the duplication and expansion of IB programming in the district, in addition to financial and equity implications, the district is recommending the closure of Gateway School after the 2013-14 school year.

**Minutes**

Tim Schott stated the purpose of the discussion tonight is to follow-up on questions from the previous board meeting and explain why administration feels this course of action is the correct one.

The proposal was made after reviewing if justification could be given to the larger community of stakeholders and taxpayers who represent the 32,000+ students that Gateway is equitable, sustainable and replicable.

Mr. Good stated to replicate the current Gateway space would cost approximately \$1.7 million based on other renovations and costs at Central Campus. If the program were expanded and more classrooms added, the cost would be \$784,000, totaling \$2.5 million. The fourth floor will be the next area at Central Campus to be renovated; however, masterplanning cannot be done until the future plans for the building are determined and how much space needs to be allocated for career-tech, ELL and Future Pathways. A map generated from the district's transportation routing software shows the addresses of Gateway students and the location of the IB middle schools. There are no Gateway students living downtown and there is excess capacity of about 670 students at the four other IB schools.

Nick Lenhardt reviewed the charts on financial information. There are five components at the other middle schools around categorical funding, federal funding, physical education and musical programs, plant operations and ELL. Comparing "apples to apples," Gateway stays relatively consistent at \$4,600 to \$5,000, but the other middle schools' number goes down to \$3,700 per student. The FTE ratio at Gateway remains relatively flat, but the FTE at the other schools essentially doubles to 21.2:1, based on FY 2012 audited data which includes the Charter School. Applying the components to 2013, Gateway is 17.6:1 with the other schools at a ratio of 19-24:1. Cost per pupil remains more expensive for Gateway.

Tim Schott stated the IB middle schools around the district provide the ability to have professional collaboration; full-size schools with content partners; and comprehensive programming such as band, orchestra, athletics, a full complement of special education services, ELL, etc. The initial question remains. Do we still need Gateway to fill an IB programming need? Initially, there were only two schools with IB middle school programming—there are now four. We have the infrastructure and equitable staffing in place at those schools which can be sustained. It will be difficult to staff Gateway equitably moving forward. Gateway is not currently staffed to comply with all Chapter 12 and IB requirements and would be difficult to do so moving forward. Investing \$2.5 million in an 11<sup>th</sup> middle school is, from the district's perspective, hard to justify, and replicating the school would not be done right now if given the opportunity.

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Speakers: Theresa Roberts, 110 Loomis, Des Moines  
David Foster, 5201 Clearwater Drive, Norwalk  
Linda Foster, 5201 Clearwater Drive, Norwalk  
Jacob DePauw, 1442 31st St, Des Moines  
Brian Jack, 2608 Eagle Point Court, Des Moines  
Jeremy Harder, 1321 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines  
Danny McCraine, 1211 Davis Ave., Des Moines  
Kathe Irvine, 207 – SW Caulder Avenue, Des Moines  
Andi Baker, 3205 – 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines  
Scott Carlson, 315 – 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines  
Jim Patch, 2803 Stanton, Des Moines

Mr. Jongewaard stated he has three basic concerns: 1) the financial calculation omitted one important aspect—extra revenue. It is focused on extra costs, but has not included extra revenue. 2) He feels the focus has been on the “pro” reasons for closing without discussion on the reasons for keeping it open. We have data available but haven’t determined how much extra cost is too much and what extra cost is OK. What is the minimum enrollment for keeping it open? What is the acceptable facility cost? This data should be available for decision making. 3) The district needs to stand by its promises. Seven month ago, Walnut Street School parents were encouraged to enroll their children in Gateway with no mention of it being at risk of closure. Seventeen students open enroll into the district to attend Gateway, or about 13% of its enrollment, bringing with them approximately \$103,000 in state foundation aid. Based on a cost per pupil at Gateway of \$4,641, educating those 17 students is \$78, 897, leaving an excess of \$24,000. Compared to Goodrell’s cost per student of \$4,350, the extra cost for Gateway students is \$291 per student over a Goodrell student. So, \$291 times 128 students is a total extra cost of \$37,248 per year. Deducting the extra revenue from Gateway of \$24,000, the net annual extra cost is \$12,000. That seems a very small premium to keep the promise made seven months ago.

Mr. Sweeney stated his son goes to Gateway, and he looked at the aspect of recusing himself from the vote, and he will not. In looking at the proposal from a fiscal aspect and looking at the entire budget as a board member, the district has extra money. From an equity aspect, he’s not worried that Gateway students are getting things other students aren’t getting. He’s worried the other students aren’t getting what Gateway students are getting. He feels that basically you can cook the books any way you want and make it look favorable for whatever you want. We’re looking at closing a successful school that does not have a fiscal problem, doesn’t have a management problem, and isn’t a low-performing school. It may need to be managed a little differently. We’ve been given one option. We should not quit on this school. Let’s look at fixing problems. What enrollment number would make it viable?

Ms. Elsbernd stated it seems the Gateway School has barriers to authorization that will add to the numbers presented. Categorical funding and federal funding will make numbers look different from Gateway. The budget surplus has been mentioned with the

solvency ratio of 12.6% as of June 30, 2012. There are plans for spending that money, and the board has given a directive to reduce class size.

In response to questions from Mr. Howard, Mr. Schott stated Gateway is in the same spot of its authorization process as Hoover and Meredith—the candidacy phase. The next phase is authorization which requires an authorization visit and, ultimately, a decision on whether or not it would be authorized. Brody will be in the consideration phase and is further behind in the process than Gateway, Meredith and Hoover. Goodrell and Merrill are far ahead in the process. IB cares that the school demonstrates progress toward the IB standards and practices which are different for elementary, middle, and diploma programme schools. The district must demonstrate support of the process and reasonable sustainability in the program. Elementary schools must have a middle years programme school to feed into to be sustainable, which is why Gateway was opened. Walnut Street and Park Avenue schools would not have been authorized without spots for the students to matriculate into.

There are eight curricular-content areas that all IB schools must have. IB requires a “head” of the school and district-level support. The teachers would not necessarily need to be full-time staff. Gateway administration has worked hard at meeting these requirements. There are 10.6 FTE teachers with 5 full-time staff and an additional 19 part-time staff (up to .75 FTE) shared with Central Campus.

Collaboration to develop units of inquiry for IB is required and must be developed for all areas. Collaborating under the current structure would be difficult. Staffing changes would have to take place so units of inquiry could be developed collaboratively to sustain the program. Discussion has been held with Gateway leadership on this.

Mr. Howard stated that the district has made a commitment to this downtown area and the near-downtown area—the building at Edmunds is an example.

Ms. Boesen reviewed that the board approved Gateway to fill the need for a middle school programme as the board had been told the Brody community did not want an IB program. The Downtown School was not located at 1800 Grand when Gateway was approved, but due to other factors, a new location for Downtown School had to be found. IB has expanded throughout the city, the space being used by Gateway was developed for ELL students who were relocated and need additional space. Central Campus programs need more space and have waiting lists. She is concerned about equity when Walnut Street and Park Avenue have two sections and 125 kids come into a 6<sup>th</sup>-grade class of 60. The district made a commitment to IB and we want to expand it. Others school can become IB schools if the community chooses—it’s not limited to the schools designated now. If IB is wanted, we have IB. If there’s enough interest for 9-10, attach it to the diploma programme at this building. We need to look at the possibilities. A decision now provides Gateway students and families more than one full year to consider options.

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Mr. Murphy commented that staff and the district are subject to state audits, federal audits, an outside auditor and an internal auditor, all looking at how we do our business; to imply there is some intellectual dishonesty or “cooking the books” attacks the district’s credibility and the auditing process. Chapter 12 of the Administrative Code lays out the structure for a school—6<sup>th</sup> graders would be elementary and 10<sup>th</sup> graders would be high school. The international standard for the IB middle years programme is 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In the United States, we really don’t have 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade schools. At Gateway, we have 6<sup>th</sup> grade (elementary), middle school and high school. Having three different components of instruction challenges the curriculum in one unit and teachers’ experience with three levels. Closing Gateway would mean that Brody students would go to Hoover for 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade since we cannot tell Lincoln to add an IB program. Scavo is the district’s alternative high school which is located in the same neighborhood as Hoover, and students are able to get there. Perhaps a shuttle bus from the south side to Scavo and Hoover is an option to consider. The district has provided opportunities downtown for a long time but enrollment has never been from students who live downtown. While a lot of young people are moving into the area, history shows they move into a neighborhood for their children.

Mr. Lenhardt was asked to address the finances and stated he looks at this objectively, is always receptive to feedback, and is transparent. In order to compare like information, he looked at Gateway and compared with what all the other schools have. Using the audited, certified annual financials based upon categorical instruction submitted to the state, subject to state scrutiny, subject to public auditor’s scrutiny, there was no “cooking” and no manipulation. Based on all things equal on the certified annual results for instructional-based education, factoring everything else out, largely talking about teachers, Gateway has the highest per student cost. When looking at the model and cost variances, we have a gap of 800 kids to fill—open enrollment fills 17 of them.

Mr. Jongewaard stated the extra cost per student at Cowles and Moulton was triple the extra cost for Gateway. Where is the line that you exceed and have to close?

The majority of students at Gateway are from Park Avenue. Ms. Boesen wondered if Gateway has a waiting list in the future, will Des Moines residents receive a priority to attend Gateway and will IB students have a priority.

Mr. Schott stated Goodrell and Merrill had 450 students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade last year who were eligible for the 9-10 IB program; however, there are only 12 students in the 9<sup>th</sup>-grade program—some from Gateway, five from the Charter School and some from other locations. While this is the first year for the 9<sup>th</sup>-grade IB program, it does not demonstrate a large demand.

With no further discussion, the chair stated action will be taken at the next board meeting.

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**Item No. 18****Page 1 of 1****Subject: BOARD REPORT SCHEDULE****For: ACTION/DISCUSSION****Attachment: 13-009****Contact: Dick Murphy and Cindy Elsbernd****Presentation: None**

(rmurphyia@earthlink.net, 278-6048; Cindy4dmps@yahoo.com; 771-1140)

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**Issue:** To establish the schedule of annual monitoring reports as well as recurring statutory and informational reports.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the board approve the recommended schedule of reports (attached).

**Presenters:** Thomas Ahart

**Background:** The schedule and content of annual monitoring reports has been an ongoing discussion item for the board. Adopting this schedule will enable board members and staff to be more planful in preparation for these discussions. Additionally, the schedule is designed to provide for more opportunities for the board to go in-depth on various topics of importance (note that with few exceptions, the first meeting of each month contains just two items: consent agenda and work session). The creation of this schedule is a product of district cabinet and the board officers.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Howard moved approval of the Board Report Schedule as presented, seconded by Ms. Boesen.

Mr. Jongewaard expressed concern that staff settlements and compensation are voted on in May and June and the July schedule lists a monitoring report for compensation and benefits.

Mr. Ahart stated since we never know when negotiations will be finished, it was decided not to designate a time for them. The intent of the schedule is to have flexibility and allow room to add items as they come up. The compensation and benefits report in July is intended to provide the board an overall view of exactly where the district is and make comparisons.

Mr. Jongewaard was assured the opportunity to have in-depth discussion would occur during the work session prior to the scheduled monitoring report when the board would discuss what data and information it wants.

Aye: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney

Nay: None

Motion passed 6-0.

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**Item No. 19****Page 1 of 2****Subject: EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFITS PLAN MODIFICATIONS****For: DISCUSSION/ACTION****Presentation: NONE****Contact: Thomas Harper/Catherine McKay/  
Scott Mikesch****Attachment: None**

(thomas.harper@dmschools.org; 242-7745/catherine.mckay@dmschools.org; 242-8137/  
scott.mikesch@dmschools.org; 242-7972)

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**Issue:** Changes have been proposed to the existing plan.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the board take action on the proposed changes.

**Presenters:** None. Cathy McKay, Scott Mikesch and Thomas Harper will be available for questions.

**Background:** DMPS has had an early retirement benefits plan whereby teachers and administrators can use their unused sick leave to pay future health care costs. A summary of the main changes are:

- Effective immediately, the plan is amended to address individuals who have transferred from positions that were covered under the plan to positions not covered under the plan. Plan is amended as of July 1, 2013, to include specialists who are classified as exempt under FLSA.
- The requirement to work 100 days in the final contract year has been removed to eliminate potential disability discrimination.

The board of directors will hold a work session on Monday, February 4, 2013, beginning at noon to discuss modifications to the plan.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Murphy clarified that while the board does not specifically follow Robert's Rules of Order, it is used as a guide. The Code states the chair may add an item to the agenda and may, unless the board determines that such action impedes district operations, postpone an action on an agenda item of business at the request of any board member. Additions to the agenda shall be made in a timely manner which allows sufficient time for board members to review the issue. A work session was held to review the issue, and, as chair, he put it on the agenda for the board to discuss and take action if it so chooses. At the previous meeting, the superintendent recommended the board take action on the plan to include all exempt specialists. An amendment was approved to include teachers who had been in the plan originally, bringing the board to the vote tonight on the original motion as amended.

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Mr. Jongewaard requested clarification of the amendment. He was under the impression it would include all employees who had previously had the benefit, including administrators. Ms. Boesen clarified that her intent for the amendment was to include all staff who had previously been covered under the plan, not just teachers.

Mr. Howard stated he will vote for this, but felt if it is considered to be a cost-saving measure, he does not consider it a benefit and others left out by the amendment should have been included. He also believes by taking this action, the benefit should be considered for all parties in all segments of employment. Savings through absenteeism and opportunities for senior employees to retire and be replaced with employees at a lesser rate would apply to all groups. Productivity is lost when any employee is absent. He strongly recommends the district look at extending this to all groups.

Ms. Boesen would like to make a friendly amendment to her previous amendment to include all specialists, not just teachers, who had previously been on this plan. All members present accepted this motion as reflected in the Background section of the current agenda item.

Mr. Jongewaard endorses covering all employees and until they all receive it, he will probably not vote for any change.

Speaker: Andrew Rasmussen, DMEA, 206 Center Street

Mr. Murphy agreed that this should be open to all employees and feels it is not a benefit, but rather a cost-saving, attendance-improvement plan. The board can take it away any time it wants.

Ms. Boesen stated that negotiations may take this further to cover all employees. She feels that starting with those who originally had it is fair and equitable.

With no further discussion, Mr. Murphy called for the vote.

Aye: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Murphy, Sweeney

Nay: Jongewaard

Motion passed 5-1.



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**Item No. 20****Page 1 of 1****Subject: RENOVATION AND ADDITION TO PARK AVENUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL****For: PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION****Contact: Bill Good**

(harold.good@dmschools.org; 242-8321)

**Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** Approval of the plans and specifications for work at Park Avenue Elementary School. Publication for the Public Hearing was included in the Des Moines Register on January 29, 2013.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends that the board approve the plans and specifications prepared by RDG Planning for the addition to and renovation of the east wing of the existing school.

**Presenters:** Bill Good, Wayne Knutson, and Joe Benesh.

**Background:** This project will provide an addition for two classrooms and renovate the existing east wing to change open classroom spaces into contained classrooms. In addition, the main office will be relocated to enhance safety/security measures. Site improvements will consist of providing ADA access from the parking lot to the new main building entry. It will provide electrical upgrades including new lighting, upgraded technology, and improvements to the mechanical systems

A copy of the plans and specifications are available for review at the district's Operations Center, 1917 Dean Ave.

**Funding:** Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

### **Minutes**

The public hearing was called to order at 8:49 p.m. With no speakers to the topic, the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Elsbernd moved and Mr. Howard seconded the superintendent's recommendation to approve the plans and specifications prepared by RDG Planning for the addition to and renovation of the east wing of the existing school.

Aye: Boesen, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney

Nay: None

Motion passed 6-0.