



**Board of Education
Special Meeting
901 Walnut — 6A
Friday, July 20, 12:00 PM
Minutes**

Approval of the Amendment to the Charter School Contract

The Board of Directors held a special meeting on Friday, July 20, at 12:00 pm.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson called the meeting to order.

Present: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard (by phone),
Sweeney (by phone)

Absent: Murphy.

Mr. Ahart presented the information regarding the proposal the District has made to the Department of Education (DOE). The school's Advisory Council and the Board agreed that the District should apply for a waiver to suspend the Charter for one year and use that year for developing a comprehensive plan to insure there is stable ground financially and academically and professionally for moving forward and reopening the Charter School August 1, 2013.

Mr. Schott shared the details about the waiver and presented the information that was sent to the DOE. The District requested a revision to the contract for the charter agreement.

The DOE will consider the request in light of federal guidelines as well as the Iowa Code. This situation is unprecedented for them as well as the District.

Mr. Howard asked about the restructuring of the Charter School Advisory Council.

Mr. Ahart responded the Advisory Council makeup would be substantially new. Dick Murphy, Cindy Elsbernd and Pat Sweeney were the Board members that were asked to

review and make recommendations for restructuring of the school. They decided upon new guidelines that require significant structural changes.

Ms. Pat Lantz, General Counsel for the District, clarified that the contract for the Charter School is the application. There was also a subsequent agreement merged with the application to become the contract between the Board and the state Board of Education. She explained the distinctions in the Iowa Code. One says the contract is between the Board and the Charter School and in another place it states it is between the Board and the State Board of Education. She believes the Department of Education is in agreement with the latter. She reviewed each amendment which is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Ahart said the DOE has requested the District submit its report and planning materials by November 1, 2012. The State Board of Education meets again on November 14, 2012.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson feels the District has submitted the material that is needed and required by the DOE in order for them to undertake the review.

Mr. Howard wondered how much latitude the DOE would give the District since this situation is unprecedented.

Mr. Ahart responded the DOE could revoke the charter at any time. He also stated the request to use this next year for planning and not have it be counted against the original charter was modified. The DOE presented a recommendation that if they accept the District's proposal, they will come back and reauthorize the charter for four years beginning at that point.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked for a motion to approve the submission of the amendment to the DOE.

Ms. Elsbernd moved approval; second by Boesen.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard (by phone), Sweeney (by phone)

Nay: None

The motion carried, 6-0.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson reminded the Board this item will be on the agenda at the July 31, 2012 meeting of the DOE.

Ms. Boesen moved the Board go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5 (c) to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation; second by Howard.

12:15 Closed Session

The Board met in a closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5 (c):

to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation.