

January 4, 2011

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CITY BOARDROOM — 400 ROBERT D. RAY DRIVE
MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2011

PUBLIC FORUM – 5:45 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, in the city hall boardroom at 400 Robert D. Ray Drive., Connie Boesen presiding.

Present: Boesen, Gallardo, Murphy, Link, Strong, Woods
Absent: Caldwell-Johnson

REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, in the city hall boardroom at 400 Robert D. Ray Drive., Connie Boesen presiding.

Present: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson (by phone), Gallardo, Murphy, Link, Strong, Woods
Absent: None

Ms. Strong moved to approve the agenda; second by Link.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson (by phone), Gallardo, Murphy, Link, Strong, Woods
Nay: None
The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 14, 2010

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson moved approval of the minutes of December 14, 2010; second by Link.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson (by phone), Gallardo, Murphy, Link, Strong, Woods
Nay: None
The motion carried.

DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS 6:10 p.m.

N/A

CONSENT ITEMS – 6:15 p.m.

7. Award of Contracts on Bid	1
8. Personnel Recommendations	3
9. List of Bills for Approval	5

January 4, 2011

Minutes

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson moved approval of the consent items including payment of bills previously authorized and certified by the secretary and reviewed by her as paid in the amount of \$3,647,294.38 and unpaid bills in the amount of \$1,773,765.17; second by Link.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson (by phone), Gallardo, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods
Nay: None
The motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING — 6:05 p.m.

10. Mechanical Retrofit — Brody Middle School -----	7
11. Masonry Repair — Hiatt Middle School -----	9
12. School Calendar -----	11

OTHER — 6:15 p.m.

13. Monitoring Report for Management Limitations 2.7; Compensation and Benefits -----	13
14. External Audit Report — Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) -----	17
15. FY 2012 Budget Parameters -----	21
16. River Plaza Lease Extension -----	25

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION — 7:25 p.m.

CHAIR’S REPORT — 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Boesen announced that the “day on the hill” at the statehouse for the Urban Education Network [UEN] will be February 9. She also called the Board’s attention to the updated calendar in their packets.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT — 7:35 p.m.

N/A

ADJOURN 7:40 p.m.

Item No. 7
Page 1 of 2**Subject: AWARD OF CONTRACTS ON BID****For: ACTION****Contact: Various****Attachments: None**

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. Paint and Paint Products

Glidden Paints	West Des Moines, IA	2 items	\$ 75,500.00
Sherwin Williams	Des Moines, IA	1 item	\$ 34,475.00
Total		3 items	\$109,975.00

Bids were examined by the Purchasing & Facility Management departments.

A complete tabulation of the bid is available for review.

35 bids were mailed; six bids were received, one no bid and 28 did not respond.

Funding Source: DWFACOPRYA 0683.

Contact: Dave Silver
(dave.silver@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7700)

B. Bid No. B6259 for New Class "A" 24 Passenger Bus

Thomas Bus Sales	Des Moines, IA	1 Item	\$ 50,731.00
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The suggested award is the low bid meeting specifications.

Bids were examined by the Purchasing & Transportation departments

A complete tabulation of the bid is available online @
<http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us/Departments/Purchasing/Bids.aspx>

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seven bids were mailed; three bids were received, and four did not respond.

Funding Source: 23DWBUSES 0732

Contact: Todd Liston

(todd.liston@dmps.k12.ia.us 242-7832)

C. Bid B6263 Technology Hardware & Installation

Vital Support Systems	Urbandale, IA	1 Item	\$ 61,164.35
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The suggested award is the low bid meeting specifications.

Bids were examined by the Purchasing & Technology departments

A complete tabulation of the bid is available online @ <http://www.dmps.k12.ia.us/Departments/Purchasing/Bids.aspx>

61 bids were mailed; one bid was received, nine no bids, and 51 did not respond.

Funding Source: Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PEEL)

Contact: Dan Warren

(dan.warren@dmps.k12.ia.us 242-7911)

Item No. 8**Page 1 of 1****Subject: PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS****For: ACTION****Contact: Twyla Woods****Attachments: None**

(twyla.woods@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7972)

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

Background:**ELECTIONS - GENERAL EDUCATION**

Name	Class	Step	Effective Date	Amount
Bergquist, Sarah	1	3	01/03/11	\$38,757

BS from Drake University, Des Moines, IA; Address/Des Moines, IA; Weeks/Math

ELECTIONS-SPECIAL EDUCATION

Name	Class	Step	Effective Date	Amount
Cox, Susan	3	9	01/03/11	\$60,184

BA from Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH and MA from University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; Address/Des Moines, IA; Student & Family Services at River Plaza/Speech Language Pathologist (12 mos).

Hoyt, Amy	5	3	01/03/11	\$45,110
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BA from Simpson College, Indianola, IA; Address/Des Moines, IA; Student and Family Services/Social Work

Schnoor, Gretchen	1	3	01/03/11	\$38,757
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BA from Simpson College, Indianola, IA; Address/Norwalk, IA; Oak Park/Multicategorical

Smith, Dawn	5	3	01/10/11	\$45,110
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BA from William Penn University, Oskaloosa, IA; MS from Walden University, Minneapolis, MN; Address/Monroe, IA; North/Multicategorical

Wichman, Megan	3	3	01/10/11	\$42,255
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BS and MA from University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; Address/West Des Moines, IA; Park Ave/Multicategorical

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Subject: LIST OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL

For: ACTION

Contact: Patricia Schroeder

(patricia.schroeder@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8527)

Attachments: None

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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Subject: MECHANICAL RETROFIT — BRODY MIDDLE SCHOOL

For: PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION

Contact: BILL GOOD

(harold.good@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8321)

Attachments: None

Issue: Approval of the plans and specifications for work at Brody Middle School. Publication for the Public Hearing was included in the Des Moines Register on December 22, 2010.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board approve the plans and specifications prepared by Shive Hattery for the following separate bid packages at Brody Middle School:

- Mechanical Retrofit
- Fire Sprinkler
- Fire Alarm

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

Background: This is a project under the Statewide Penny funding. This project will enhance energy efficiency and safety/security measures. It will provide electrical upgrades including new lighting, a fire sprinkler system, upgraded technology, and improvements to the mechanical systems.

A copy of the plans and specifications is available for review at the district's facility operation center.

Funding Source: Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

Minutes

Ms. Boesen opened the public hearing. There being no speakers she asked Dr. Sebring to introduce the matter.

Ms. Link moved to approve the plans and specifications for Brody Middle School. Second by Woods.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Gallardo, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods

Nay: None

Motion carried 7-0.

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Subject: MASONRY REPAIR — HIATT MIDDLE SCHOOL

For: PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION

Contact: BILL GOOD

(harold.good@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8321)

Attachments: None

Issue: Due to water leaks from masonry deterioration the building is in need of masonry repairs.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the plans and specifications prepared by Angelo Architects and Facility Management for the repairs to the building.

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

Background: To correct the moisture infiltration problems masonry will be removed and replaced. Bids will be solicited as detailed in Chapter 26 of the Iowa code. Bids are due on January 7, 2011. Facility management will seek Board approval of the lowest responsive, responsible bid at the January 18, 2011 Board meeting. Plans are available at Operations Center; Facility Management, 1917 Dean Avenue.

Funding Source: Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)

Minutes

Ms. Boesen opened the public hearing. There being no speakers she asked Dr. Sebring to introduce the matter.

Minutes

Ms. Strong moved to approve plans and specifications for Hiatt Middle School. Second by Link.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Gallardo, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods

Nay: None

Motion carried 7-0.

Item No. 12
Page 1 of 2**Subject: SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2011- 12****For: Public Hearing/Action****Contact: Celeste Kelling****Attachments: 10-053**

(celeste.kelling@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7791)

Issue: Discussion of the 2011-12 school calendar.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the start and end dates for the 2011-12 school year and the dates for winter and spring breaks, but defer action on parent/teacher conferences and calendar adjustments for professional development.

Background: The Calendar Committee works to ensure that students are in school for the required 180 days and breaks are properly placed. The Calendar Committee met on October 4 to review and discuss the 2011-12 proposed calendar and gain additional feedback from parent and staff representatives. The proposed 2011-12 calendar has the first day of school falling on August 25, 2011.

The Calendar Committee consists of:

Anderson, Rhonda	DMEA representative
Austin, Toni	DMEA representative
Avery, Stephanie	Parent representative
Barnes, Steve	AFSCME representative
Brown, David	Specialist, Human Resources Management
Bryant, Mary	Specialist, Human Resources Management
Burnett Requist, Jill	Principal, River Woods
Eldred, Deborah	DMEA representative
Frith, Urasaline	AFSCME representative
Harris, Greg	Executive Director, DMEA
Hawkins, Senta	Specialist, Human Resources Management
Johnson, Marcia	Principal, Capitol View
Kinney, Michelle	Parent representative
Liston, Todd	Manager, Transportation Department
Malcom, Nick	Specialist, Human Resources Management
Nath, Sandhya	Parent representative
Pierce, Carol	Parent representative
Roorda, Denise	Supervisor, Payroll Department
Saltzman, Rachelle (Riki)	Parent representative
Smith, Kim	Parent representative
Spencer, Melissa	President, DMEA
Stanley, Patty	Parent representative
Tallman, Susan	Executive Director K-12 Programs, Northwest Region
Taylor, Sarah	Specialist, Communications Department
Toubes, Joseph	DMEA representative

Van Every, Bridget	Executive Secretary, Human Resources Management
Walsh, Sharon	Parent representative
Wheeler, Doug	Principal, Hoover High School
Kelling, Celeste (Chair)	Director, Human Resources Management

Minutes

Mr. Murphy clarified that what is being decided upon at this time are the broad strokes of the 2011/12 calendar and that no decision has been made yet as to the proposed continuation of early dismissal times on Wednesdays.

Dr. Sebring further clarified that this action does not address a proposal to move the spring semester conference dates from March to February. A decision on that is also being deferred pending feedback from instructional staff.

Ms. Link wondered if the proposed dates for spring break could be decided in advance of a decision on the dates for spring conferences.

Dr. Sebring said that even if the spring conferences are shifted, only the Friday prior to the full week of spring break will be affected. That day has traditionally been viewed as part of spring break even though it is technically separate and has been an off-day since it follows a full conference schedule that extends into the evening of the previous day.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson recalled that the Wednesday early dismissals were tied to the calendar's start and end dates somehow.

Ms. Celeste Kelling from the district's Human Resources Department and Chairperson of the Calendar Committee said that whether or not the Wednesday early dismissals are continued has no bearing on the calendar's start and end dates.

Ms. Boesen said the two components had not been linked in the previous year's calendar discussion.

Dr. Sebring speculated that Ms. Caldwell-Johnson may have been confused by all the calendar adjustments that were brought about in the wake of last winter's six snow days and some of the extreme measures that were adopted for making them up.

Mr. Murphy moved approval of the proposed start and end dates as well as the proposed dates for winter and spring breaks; second by Strong.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Gallardo, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods

Nay: None

Motion carried 7-0..

Item No. 13**Page 1 of 1****Subject: MONITORING REPORT FOR MANAGEMENT LIMITATION 2.7;
COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS****For: ACTION****Contact: Twyla Woods/Patricia Schroeder/Nick Malcom Attachments: 10-051**

(twyla.woods@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7972/patricia.schroeder@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8527/Nicholas.malcom@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7830)

Issue: Board Governance Policy 3.4: Monitoring Superintendent Performance includes a schedule that requires an annual monitoring report on Management Limitation 2.7: Compensation and Benefits.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board approve the monitoring report for Management Limitation 2.7: Compensation and Benefits.

Background: The Board adopted Policy Governance on November 21, 2007 which included a schedule of monitoring reports. The Management Limitation 2.7: Compensation and Benefits Monitoring Report is included as Attachment 10-051. This report covers FY2010 which ran from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Minutes

Mr. Malcom noted for the record that a reference on page five of the report to DMPS as the only school district in Iowa that fully funds employee health care benefits was in error and would be corrected. Des Moines Public Schools is one of 15 schools in the state that fully funds employee health care benefits.

Mr. Murphy said that this Management Limitation, in part, essentially prohibits the superintendent from violating various state laws. He wondered if it isn't redundant in that sense and if the Board shouldn't focus more on areas under its direct jurisdiction and control.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson pointed out that the same principle applies in the cases of several of the other Management Limitations the Board adopted as part of its Policy Governance model.

Mr. Murphy said replacing the language in various Management Limitations that explicitly prohibits actions which would constitute a violation of law with one umbrella clause that the superintendent shall not act illegally might streamline the Board's oversight of the superintendent.

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Ms. Boesen said the broader question is something the Board can consider when the question at hand is a comprehensive review of the Policy Governance model instead of a particular monitoring report.

Ms. Jeannette Woods said, in reference to the report language about employee health insurance benefits, that DMPS employees do contribute in the sense that they forego higher wages in exchange for fully paid premiums.

Ms. Twyla Woods suggested that the arrangement is subject to perception, but the report language reflects the fact that the health insurance premiums are paid by the district rather than by employees out of their own pockets.

Ms. Jeannette Woods insisted that it's misleading to say that employees pay nothing for their health insurance.

Ms. Boesen said it's a matter of semantics but wages and benefits are considered separate elements of compensation packages.

Ms. Jeannette Woods said that for purposes of collectively bargained packages the two elements are inseparable.

Ms. Schroeder said it's true that employee groups whose insurance premiums are 100% paid by their employer typically earn somewhat lower salaries than comparable groups who pay a portion of those costs out of pocket.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson commented that, whatever one's perspective, the district's health insurance benefits are indisputably significant.

Mr. Murphy pointed out that, if it's true that fully paid health benefits are negotiated in lieu of higher wages, a married teacher is foregoing more salary than a single one given the disparity in their respective premiums.

Ms. Boesen said that she thinks the district's health benefits can be seen as a recruiting tool that should be highlighted in reports such as these.

Ms. Jeannette Woods acknowledged that many employees have stayed with the district because of the health insurance benefits but reiterated again for the record that employees do sacrifice in terms of wages to maintain that arrangement.

Ms. Schroeder said that often new teachers coming into the district don't appreciate the value of fully funded insurance benefits because of their youth and good health and the district in effect competes for them strictly on the basis of comparative starting salaries.

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Rossi Frith, President of one of the employee chapters with whom the district collectively bargains, spoke in support of Ms. Jeannette Woods' remarks.

Dr. Sebring redirected the discussion to the question of whether or not the total compensation packages, however they are broken down, are competitive as measured against comparable districts.

Ms. Boesen agreed, saying that the purpose of the report is to allow the Board to determine whether or not the superintendent has overseen the maintenance of a competitive structure of compensation and benefits.

Mr. Murphy moved acceptance of the report; second by Caldwell-Johnson.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Gallardo, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods

Nay: None

The motion carried 7-0.

Item No. 14**Page 1 of 2****Subject: EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT — COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2010****For: ACTION****Contact: Patricia Schroeder****Attachments: 11- 002**

(patricia.schroeder@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8527)

Issue: Board Governance Policy 3.4 — Monitoring Superintendent Performance states that the Board will acquire monitoring data by one or more of three methods. One method is “by external report, in which an external, disinterested third party selected by the Board assesses compliance with Board policies.”

External auditors, McGladrey and Pullen, LLP, have completed their audit of the financial statements of the district for the year ended June 30, 2010.

This external audit report done in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards provides data on certain aspects of the following Management Limitations:

- 2.0 General Executive Constraint
- 2.3 Financial Condition and Activities
- 2.4 Asset Protection
- 2.5 Financial Planning/Budgeting
- 2.7 Compensation and Benefits

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board receive, discuss and take action on this report.

Background: The auditors conducted three audits; one on the financial statements, one on compliance matters and test of controls, and a “single audit” on federal dollars. In every audit, the district received an unqualified opinion, which is the best or highest opinion that can be rendered. An unqualified opinion means the auditors had no material reservations concerning the financial statements presented, no material concerns over standards and controls employed, and no material concerns over the accounting of federal funds.

Financial statements - the auditors stated (page 1), “In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material aspects, the respective financial position...”

Compliance matters and test of controls - The auditors made recommendations to remedy “certain immaterial instances of noncompliance.” However, the auditors stated

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in their report (page 135) that, “We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses...”

Single audit on federal dollars – the auditors stated (page 137) “In our opinion, the district complied, in all material respects, with the requirements... that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs...”

Lastly, the audit report contains on pages x and xi copies of the Certificates for Excellence in Financial Reporting that the district received during FY 2010 based on its FY 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the third year in a row that the district has received these Certificates of Excellence.

The Letter of Transmittal (pages iii – vii), as well as Management’s Discussion and Analysis (pages 3 – 15) provide summary information in an easy to read format.

The superintendent is pleased to present this audit report to the Board as evidence by external examination that the financial affairs of the district are in good order.

Minutes

Ms. Schroeder, the district’s Chief Financial Officer, thanked her staff in Business & Finance and the Human Resources Dept. for their hard work in gathering data for the auditors, singling out Kevin Baccam and Celeste Kelling for special mention. She introduced Sarah Bohnsack from McGladrey & Pullen, the external auditing firm, who summarized the report for the Board.

Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Bohnsack how DMPS stacks up versus other school districts in terms of keeping its financial house in order.

Ms. Bohnsack characterized the report as “very complimentary” of the district. She said it is generally a good report card for the district.

Ms. Link mentioned her disappointment that the student activities funds remain somewhat of a concern according to the audit report.

Ms. Schroeder responded that the district’s internal auditor and the Audit Committee have overseen the installation of additional controls throughout the district and they are having an effect.

Dr. Sebring mentioned that money handling at the school level is complicated by factors including the many points of entry for cash and the frequent involvement of well-intended but untrained volunteers.

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Ms. Caldwell-Johnson said that she had the impression from Audit Committee meetings she had attended that additional training for staff and volunteers was in place as well as revised policies and procedures.

Ms. Schroeder responded that the district's implementation of a "P-Card" system at the school level had been very helpful in streamlining protocol by reducing cash transactions and creating more and better records but that rigorous training was required at buildings if they wanted to obtain "P-Cards."

Dr. Sebring added that school office managers, high school activities directors and other positions where money handling is a regular part of the job are also subject to more rigorous and ongoing procedural training.

Ms. Schroeder commented that her staff includes an accountant who serves as a liaison to the schools and spends the bulk of her time in the field providing one-on-one training for new staff in key positions in the wake of building turnover and reassignments.

Ms. Strong asked for some clarification with regard to the disposition of unallocated portions of the district's Title 1 funding.

Ms. Schroeder said that none of the district's Title 1 funds were forfeited. She and Dr. Sebring explained that accounting for Title 1 revenues is especially complex due to various stipulations that come with money and that the complexity has increased with the receipt of federal stimulus funds. Ms. Schroeder said all of the accounting issues pertaining to Title 1 have been resolved.

Mr. Murphy moved acceptance of the report; second by Strong.

Aye: Boesen, Gallardo, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods

Nay: None

The motion carried 6-0. (Caldwell-Johnson's phone connection interrupted)

Dr. Sebring echoed Ms. Schroeder's appreciation for the exceptional and additional work that went into the audit compilation on the parts of the Business and Finance and Human Resources departments generally and Controller Kevin Baccam in particular.

Item No. 15**Page 1 of 3****Subject: FY 2012 BUDGET PARAMETERS****For: DISCUSSION****Contact: Patti Schroeder****Attachments: None**

Issue: Fiscal Year 2012 (July1, 2011 to June 30, 2012) Budget Parameters

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board discuss preliminary FY 2012 budget parameters and priorities, as well as the guiding principles they wish the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC) to follow in the course of its deliberations.

Background: The superintendent is assembling a Budget Advisory Committee comprised of a cross-section of community leaders to provide input during the development of the FY 2012 district budget and to provide the superintendent with effective communication strategies that will help district citizens understand the budget process and budgetary decisions.

The Board has indicated an interest in discussing and sharing some guiding principles with the SBAC as it begins its discussions.

At the same time the Board wishes to discuss its preliminary FY 2012 budget development parameters and priorities within the context of Management Limitation 2.5 – Financial Planning/Budgeting which states:

Financial planning for any fiscal year or the remaining part of any fiscal year may not deviate materially from the Board's Ends priorities, risk financial jeopardy. Accordingly, the superintendent shall not present a budget that:

1. Falls below a 3% solvency ratio for the General Fund
2. Falls below a 10% unspent spending ratio for the General Fund
3. Creates a situation or condition described as unacceptable in the "Financial Conditions and Activities"
4. Omits credible projections of revenues and expenses and disclosure of planning assumptions.
5. Plans the expenditure of more funds than are projected to be received in any fiscal year.
6. Provides less funding for Board activities during the year than is set forth in the Governance Budget.

Board Budget Parameters speak to the broad areas the Board wishes to have the administration review as it develops its budget recommendations. To assist the Board in its discussions, the parameters and priorities from the prior two budget development cycles are listed below.

FY 2011 Budget Development Parameters

- Maintain financial health; provide a balanced budget
- Hold the line on overall district tax rate
- Meet and stay within Board Management Limitations
- Support District End Policies
- Direct intensive assistance to schools tagged as persistently low achieving schools per NCLB mandates
- Support full implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum
- Continue to focus on Drop Out Prevention strategies
- Limit increases in average class size
- Limit to the degree possible eliminations and reductions in educational programming.

FY 2010 Across the Board Cut Parameters

- Minimal effect on students
- Minimal effect on existing staffing
- Sustainable, if possible into next fiscal year
- Implemented quickly, given short timeline
- Realistic savings estimates
- Mindful use of on-time funds for on-going expenses
- Maximum use of funds other than General Fund
- Flexibility in all district imposed restrictions

FY 2010 Budget Development Parameters

EDUCATIONAL: To the extent funding (e.g. state foundation aid) allows:

- Student Growth – The budget shall provide funding for achievement of Board End statements. Emphasis shall be on continuing or implementing proven strategies that assist in continuing and improving student academic growth while maintaining adequate supporting services. Such strategies include progress toward reducing class size and position restoration.
- Competitive Compensation – The budget shall fund competitive compensation given available district resources.
- Choice Programming – Emphasis shall be placed on continuing and implementing educational programs that provide all students with choices that achieve outcomes that are articulated in the Board End statements.

- Student Engagement – Emphasis shall be placed on connecting every student to his/her school.
- Operational Excellence – Emphasis shall be placed on developing and adequately maintaining 21st century educational systems and facilities with an emphasis on 21st century technology.

FINANCIAL:

- Sound Budgeting Principles – The budget shall incorporate sound budgeting principles.
- Taxes – The budget shall not require an increase in the district's overall tax rate.
- Financial Health – The budgeted solvency ratio in the General Fund is no less than 3.5% and unspent spending authority is no less than 10%. [will not achieve]
- Budget Development Timeline – Adequate time shall be given for public input to allow for the budget to be adopted and filed by April 15th."

Minutes

Speakers: Steve Barnes, 614 Virginia Avenue
Rossi Frith, 1229 15th Street

Ms. Schroeder offered a presentation to the Board to put the FY 2012 budget development in context in terms of prevailing economic realities and upcoming legislative possibilities/probabilities.

Ms. Strong expressed her desire to gather input from the budget advisory committee (BAC) as part of the process of determining what the Board's budget parameters will be.

Dr. Sebring said that the committee was being formed to explore ways to enhance revenues and/or reduce costs. She added that another purpose of the committee will be to enhance the communication of the eventual budget proposal to the community, noting that it was assembled by reaching out to organizations throughout the district to choose their own delegates to get the broadest possible representation in the discussion. She did note that current and former district employees were excluded from the committee, both to avoid the appearance of bias on behalf of a particular employee group and so as not to infringe in any way on terms governing the district's collective bargaining processes.

Ms. Link asked for some clarification on the sequence of the parameter stage of the budgeting process. She wondered if the Board is directing the advisory committee or if it's more the other way around.

Ms. Boesen said that it's the Board's responsibility to set some initial parameters to establish a framework for the committee's discussions.

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Mr. Murphy commented that the Board in setting the basic objectives for the budget discussion will still leave the advisory committee some leeway in suggesting various means of achieving them.

Ms. Strong said that some goals are pursued primarily through funding streams that are not subject to the uncertainty of general fund appropriations from the state legislature. She cited the district's dropout prevention programming as an example of a priority that may not have to be as much a part of the advisory committee's work as other budget components that are necessarily tied directly to general fund revenues.

Mr. Murphy mentioned the implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum as a recent key parameter that may now be up for reconsideration in the wake of recent political developments.

Ms. Boesen commented that different pieces of the process will come into much clearer focus when the Board holds a work session on budget parameters, the advisory committee convenes for its first meeting and the governor announces his proposed state budget, all within a period of a few days later in the month.

Ms. Strong said that if there are any new proposals in the works in terms of district-wide curricula or similar comprehensive strategies aimed at progress toward the Board's formal Ends they should be brought forward for consideration at the upcoming work session.

Ms. Boesen remarked on the difficulty of trying to do anything remotely long-term with school district goal-setting because of the uncertainty from year to year in funding streams. Preschool programming was cited as a current example of something the Board feels should remain a priority that has become a political football for the upcoming legislative session.

Ms. Jeannette Woods recalled when the state legislature would address funding for education as its first order of business every year, a reflection of its status as everyone's top priority. She said that's unfortunately no longer always the case.

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Subject: RIVER PLAZA LEASE EXTENSION

For: INFORMATION

Contact: Bill Good

(harold.good@dmps.k12.ia.us : 242-8321)

Attachments: None

Issue: Extension of the lease at River Plaza for Special Ed staff.

Background: The district is in the process of updating Woodlawn Elementary school to house approximately 70 Special Ed staff. The construction on Woodlawn will not be completed until August 1; the lease for River Plaza expires May 31, 2011. The extended two-month lease at River Plaza will allow for staff accommodations until Woodlawn is ready.

Funding: Special Education Funding