

May 1, 2012

**DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
BOARDROOM — 1800 GRAND**

**MINUTES**

**May 1, 2012**

**PUBLIC FORUM — 5:45 p.m.**

The Board of Directors held a public forum on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, in the boardroom at 1800 Grand; Dick Murphy presiding.

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

Absent: None

**REGULAR MEETING — 6:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, in the boardroom at 1800 Grand; Teree Caldwell-Johnson presiding.

Present: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Absent: None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA — 6:05 p.m.**

Ms. Boesen moved approval of the agenda; second by Elsbernd.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Nay: None

The motion carried, 7-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES — 6:05 p.m.**

Mr. Howard moved to approve the minutes for April 17, 2012; second by Boesen.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Nay: None

The motion carried, 7-0.

**DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS — 6:10 p.m.**

Dr. Sebring recognized Jean Phillips who is retiring after 22 years with the district, the last 12 in the position of Supervisor of Health Services. Ms. Phillips has been selected as one of 100 Great Nurses in Iowa and was to be honored at a ceremony on May 6, 2012.

**CONSENT ITEMS — 6:25 p.m.**

7. Approval of Contract(s) ----- 1

8. Award of Contracts on Bid ----- 3

9. Award of Bid 6511 — North High School East Parking Lot Replacement ----- 5

10. Final Acceptance Bid 5226 — A3 Renovation of Roosevelt High School -----7

11. Purchase of English Language Learner Instructional Materials----- 9

12. ***Purchase of Instructional Materials and Teacher Resource Upgrade —***

***Grade K-6 Literacy (voted on separately-see page 11)*** -----11

13. Scholarship Award — Des Moines School Employees Association Scholarship ----- 13

14. Personnel Recommendations -----17

15. List of Bills for Approval ----- 19

Minutes

Mr. Jongewaard moved to approve the consent items, minus item 12 to be considered separately by request of Mr. Sweeney, including payment of previously authorized and certified bills reviewed by he and Mr. Murphy in the amount of \$3,475,913.31 and unpaid bills in the amount of \$1,323,631.35; second by Murphy.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Nay: None  
The motion carried, 7-0.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS — 6:20 p.m.**

16. Easement to MidAmerican Energy — Meredith Middle School ----- 21

**Other — 6:25 p.m.**

17. Adjusted Start/Dismissal Times — 2012-2013 ----- 23

18. Charter School Update ----- 25

**REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION — 7:55 p.m.**

Mr. Jongewaard asked for the record that when the final budget is printed upon completion of the district’s collective bargaining that it reflect the changes incorporated in the language of the motion to approve the proposed budget which the Board previously adopted.

**CHAIR’S REPORT — 8:00 p.m.**

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson said the Des Moines Police Department (DMPD) has not yet responded to the district’s request to discuss possible use of the DMPD canine unit as a deterrent to the presence of drugs on school campuses.

April 17, 2012

She referred the Board to a couple of articles regarding the recruitment of school district superintendents and reminded members of the meeting around that topic scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, she mentioned that the Iowa General Assembly should be adjourning its annual legislative session soon and said she looks forward to an assessment of its impact on public schools.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT — 8:05 p.m.**

Dr. Sebring reported that the district recently administered the ACT test to all high school juniors and also, for the first time, administered the newly developed Iowa Test which replaces the former Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Iowa Test of Educational Development. She said the administration is in the process of gathering feedback from instructional staff about the Iowa Test. She anticipates test results coming back by the end of May at which time a summary report will be prepared for the Board's review.

**ADJOURN — 8:10 p.m.**

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**Item No. 7****Page 1 of 1****Subject: APPROVAL OF CONTRACT(S)****For: ACTION****Contact: Dave Silver**

(david.silver@dmschools.org: 242-7700)

**Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** Playground equipment throughout the district is reviewed annually to ensure the safety of the students and compliance with state and federal requirements. The result of this annual review requires the repair or replacement of equipment.

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

**Background:** The Board has previously approved the use of the Houston – Galveston Area Council's (HGAC) Cooperative Procurement Program in order to satisfy the bidding process at its April 19, 2011 meeting (Contract 11-020). The Facility Management Department is now seeking Board approval to spend the amount below to repair / replace eight playground sites throughout the District.

**A. Playground Equipment – District Wide**

Fry & Associates	North Kansas City, MO	1 Item	\$ 135,000
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**Funding Source:** Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL) and individual Site Accounts.

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**Item No. 8****Page 1 of 2****Subject: AWARD OF CONTRACT(S) ON BID****For: ACTION****Contact: Various****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 contract(s) 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. B6060 Floor Finishes — Various Sites FY 2012-2013**

Ecolab, Inc St. Paul, MN 5 items Estimated Award \$ 60,000.00

The vendor has agreed to extend the contract with the same terms, conditions and pricing. This vendor provides floor care product used by Custodial services at all sites throughout the district. Amount of usage and cost vary each year based on floor care schedules and funding.

**Funding Source:** Individual custodial accounts district wide.

**This is the second extension.**

2011-2012	Estimated Expenditure	\$ 61,500.00
2010-2011	Actual Expenditure	\$ 43,730.03

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

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**B. Bid B6490 Custodial Equipment**

AmSan	Urbandale, IA	13 Items	\$ 38,530.00
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**Bid B6352 Custodial Equipment**

AmSan	Urbandale, IA	<u>1 Item</u>	<u>\$ 3,072.00</u>
		TOTAL	\$41,602.00

Bids were examined by the Purchasing and Custodial Departments. 41 bids were sent, 5 bids were received, 36 did not respond. A complete tabulation of the bids is available online at: <http://www.dmschools.org/departments/operations/purchasing-central-stores/purchasing/open-proposals/>

**Funding Source:** Individual school custodial accounts.

**Contact:** Sheila Mason

(sheila.mason@dmschools.org; 242-7980)

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**Item No. 9**
**Page 1 of 2**
**Subject: AWARD OF BID NO. B6511 — NORTH HIGH SCHOOL EAST PARKING LOT REPLACEMENT**
**For: ACTION**
**Contact: Bill Good**

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

**Attachments: None**


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**Issue:** Award of contract for the replacement of the east parking lot at North High School.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends a contract for the Base Bid and Alternates 1 and 2 be awarded to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder Concrete Technologies Inc. in the amount of \$422,800.00.

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

**Background:** This is a project under the Statewide Penny funding.

- **Base Bid:** The complete removal and replacement of the east parking lot at North. Work to include paving, sidewalks, storm sewer, and landscaping work.
- **Alternate 1:** Remove and replace additional sidewalk
- **Alternate 2:** Install new parking lot lighting.

The district received bids on April 24, 2012. The results are as follows:

Bidder	Base Bid	Alternate 1	Alternate 2
Concrete Technologies – Urbandale, IA	\$ 363,400	\$ 13,900	\$ 45,500
Elder Corporation – Des Moines, IA	\$ 369,055.46	\$ 11,372.52	\$ 45,164.58
Absolute Concrete – Slater, IA	\$ 374,199	\$ 15,019	\$ 41,000
Nehring Construction – Des Moines, IA	\$ 383,815.25	\$ 10,699.13	\$ 46,747
Joiner Construction Co.- Plano, IA	\$ 392,450	\$ 9,000	\$ 47,000
Alliance Construction Group – Grimes, IA	\$ 410,785	\$14,310	\$46,850
Jensen Builders LTD – Ames, IA	\$ 416,400	\$ 15,100	\$47,700
TK Concrete – Pella, IA	\$ 424,893	\$ 8,000	\$ 50,000
McAninch Corp. – Des Moines, IA	\$ 453,000	\$ 25,900	\$ 62,240

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



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**Item No. 10****Page 1 of 1****Subject: FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF BID NO. 5226-09 — A3 RENOVATION OF ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL****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:** Roosevelt High School

**PROJECT:** A3 Renovation

**CONTRACTOR:** Larson & Larson Construction, LLC

**CONTRACTED AMOUNT:** \$ 18,036,590.00

**CONTRACT BALANCE:** \$ 276,829.50

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**Item No. 11****Page 1 of 1****Subject: PURCHASE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS****For: ACTION****Contact: Vinh Nguyen**

(vinh.nguyen@dmschools.org; 242-7853))

**Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** Purchase of Supplementary Instructional Materials for ELL Elementary English Language Learners Program

**Background:**

The primary purposes for recommending K-5 ELL Supplementary Materials were:

- to fill a gap that exists in the Des Moines Schools for materials which promote academic language, literacy, and content development at the 3rd-5th level;
- to align high quality ELL materials with DMPS standards; and
- to differentiate assessments and instruction for ELLs at various levels of language proficiency.

After reviewing materials from approximately 18 companies, the K-5 ELL Supplementary Materials Committee found Benchmark Education materials came closest to meeting the purposes stated above. The committee recommended *Vocabulary, Content, and Language* (V-C-L) materials to build academic vocabulary and background knowledge for DMPS Science and Social Science units of study in the upper elementary grades. *English Explorers* (which align with V-C-L) were chosen to provide our upper grade ELLs access to rigorous small group reading curriculum (regardless of their level of language proficiency).

The *English Explorer* books are organized by Science and Social Studies themes with six titles per theme at four levels of language acquisition. In addition, *English Explorer* books can be easily aligned with literacy standards.

Although most of the committee's recommendations were for upper elementary ELLs, the committee also recommended *Anchor Comprehension Posters* to facilitate the alignment of ELL instruction with Common Core comprehension instruction at both the K-2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade levels. The highly visual *Anchor Comprehension Posters* allow teachers to explicitly teach a comprehension strategy through modeling, guided practice, and applied practice.

Finally, through the *Comprehension Strategy Assessment for ELLs* and *English Explorer Assessment Kits*, ELLs will benefit from high quality, differentiated assessments to guide initial placement and to monitor language and literacy growth over time.

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**Total: \$149,988.60**

**Funding Source:** FY-2011-2012 Immigrant Grant: DWIMMINZF 0610. The publisher have guaranteed receipt of these materials by June 30, 2012.

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**Item No. 12****Page 1 of 1****Subject: PURCHASE OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND TEACHER  
RESOURCE UPGRADE — GRADES K-6 LITERACY****For: ACTION****Contact: Holly Crandell/Thomas Ahart****Attachments: None**

(holly.crandell@dmschools.org; 242-7892/thomas.ahart@dmschools.org; 242-7536)

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**Issue:** Purchase of instructional materials/teacher resources for Grades K-6.**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the Board approve the purchase of these materials.

**Background:** *Journeys* is an updated edition of our current core reading program, Houghton Mifflin Reading. This edition is closely aligned to the Common Core Standards and provides K-6 students with greater access to nonfiction texts. Included in this quote are instructional materials to support our English Language Learners and students in need of additional instructional support.

The materials are for the following grades listed below:

- *Grades K-6*                      *Journeys*                      Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

TOTAL                      **\$1,498,670.60**

**Presenter:** None. Tom Ahart will be available to answer questions.

**Funding Source:**

FY2011-2012 Curriculum Materials Budget Account No. HSRGHMZJ – 0641

Publishers have guaranteed receipt of these materials by June 30, 2012

Minutes (Considered separately from the rest of the consent agenda)

Mr. Sweeney sought to clarify that the proposed curriculum upgrade had been reviewed in accordance with district policy before it was recommended to the Board for purchase.

Mr. Ahart, the district's Associate Superintendent, said new curriculum purchases are subject to review by two committees but only one needed to sign off in this case because it is an upgrade to an existing curriculum as opposed to a distinctly new and separate one. Purchasing an upgrade to an existing program, he added, was far more cost-effective than purchasing a completely new one.

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Dr. Sebring recalled that the original adoption of the literacy curriculum in 2007 was preceded by scrutiny and review on many instructional and administrative levels.

Mr. Sweeney asked if an RFP was issued in connection with the curriculum upgrade.

Mr. Ahart said an RFP wasn't issued because, as a practical matter, no competing publisher could possibly have priced an upgrade to a Houghton-Mifflin curriculum as affordably as Houghton-Mifflin could. An RFP would only have made sense in the event a decision was made to scrap the Houghton-Mifflin curriculum and seek adoption of an entirely different one.

Mr. Howard asked why an upgrade was even necessary.

Mr. Ahart explained that the upgrade is to bring the curriculum into alignment with Iowa Core and Common Core standards adopted at both state and federal levels since the Houghton-Mifflin curriculum was first authorized.

As a new Board member, Mr. Jongewaard asked to be provided with the record of the original curriculum adoption as approved by the Board in 2007.

Ms. Boesen moved approval of the purchase; second by Howard.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy.  
Nay: Sweeney

The motion carried, 6-1.

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**Item No. 13**

**Subject: SCHOLARSHIP AWARD — DES MOINES SCHOOL EMPLOYEE'S ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP**

**For: ACTION**

**Contact: Mr. Tom Ahart**

(thomas.ahart@dmschools.org; 242-7536)

**Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** For the 2011-2012 school-year, the Selection Committee nominates Samantha Snodgrass, 4817 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street, North High School, for the Des Moines School Employees Association Scholarship.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the Board of Directors authorize payment of the scholarship award to the student nominated by the Des Moines School Employees Association Scholarship Committee.

**Presenters: None**

**Background: Information about the scholarship:** The Des Moines School Employees Association, established as a burial fund for its membership, disbanded in 1984 because the membership decreased to five members in good standing. After benefit payments were paid to the remaining members, the remaining assets of the Association, totaling \$15,000, were donated to the district and invested in a U.S. Treasury bond with a yield of 11.6 percent. The earnings from the bond provided funds for the payment of one scholarship payment in 1985 and two \$850 scholarship payments annually from 1986 to 2005. Because of a reduction in the earnings from the bond, starting with the 2005-2006 school year, the scholarship was reduced to payment of one award of \$500 to a district employee's child. The scholarship is non-renewable.

**To qualify for the scholarship:** (1) The applicant must be a graduating senior of a Des Moines Public Schools' high school. (2) The parent must be a current Des Moines Public Schools' employee who has worked for the district for two or more years. (3) The applicant must be an average or above-average student. (4) The applicant must attend school regularly. (5) The applicant must have selected a career goal. (6) Applicant's participation in both school and community activities will be rated by the selection committee. (7) The applicant may attend either a two-year or four-year, post-secondary institution of the student's choice. (8) Financial planning will be considered.

Applications are screened and selection of the recipient made by a committee consisting of (1) an Associate Superintendent or a designee, (2) the K-12 Counseling Coordinator, (3) the Director of Operations, (4) the Director of Food and Nutrition Management, and (5) the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

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Final approval of the recipient will be made by the Des Moines Public Schools Board of Directors. The recipient will be notified by letter of the selection following approval by the Board of Directors.

**Information about the nominee:** Samantha Snodgrass, a senior at North High School, is presented as the nominee to receive Des Moines Employees Association Scholarship award of \$500.

Samantha has been accepted at Grinnell College. She plans to major in Plant Genetics. Samantha is the daughter of Jessica Gogerty, a School Improvement Leader at North High School.

Samantha was selected from a field of six very fine applicants.

**Item No. 14****Page 1 of 1****Subject: PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS****For: ACTION****Contact: Scott R. Mikesh****Attachments: None**

(scott.mikesh@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7972)

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

**Background:****LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Name	School, Position	Effective Date	Reason
Albright, Sara	Roosevelt, SLC	08/22/2012	Personal

**RESIGNATION**

Name	School, Position	Effective Date	Reason
Christopher, Heather	Weeks, Math	08/22/2012	Personal
Cooney, Hillari	Hoover, English	08/22/2012	Personal
Eggert, Andrew	Harding, Science	08/22/2012	Personal
Franke, Natalie	Jefferson, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	08/22/2012	Position out of district
Goodrich, LaVon	Curriculum, Math Coach	08/22/2012	Personal
Haddinger, Margaret	Weeks, BD	08/22/2012	Personal
Kelley, Sarah	East/Lincoln, ELL	08/22/2012	Personal
Lally, Kathryn	Lincoln, Science	08/22/2012	Personal
Lee, Anna	Hoover, Music-Vocal	08/22/2012	Personal
Rebel, Jennifer	East, Counselor	08/22/2012	Personal
Sorensen, Sarah	Hiatt, Science	08/22/2012	Personal

**REGULAR RETIREMENT**

Name	School, Position	Effective Date	Reason
Storey, Patricia	Leave of Absence	05/19/2012	Personal

**ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT**

Name	Position	Amount	Effective Date
Chapman, Deborah S.	Principal, Hiatt Middle School	\$97,659	07/01/2012

Doctor of Education Degree in Educational Administration, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2004. Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Administration, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2002. Masters Degree in Secondary Education, Middle Level, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1997. Bachelors Degree in Mathematics Education, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 1992. Experience: School Improvement Leader, Lincoln High School, Des Moines Public School District, 2010-present; K-12 Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator - Mathematics Assessment, and Professional Development, Ankeny Community School District, Ankeny, Iowa, 2008-2010; Arkansas State Director of Mathematics, JBHM Education Group, Jackson, Mississippi, 2006-2008; K-12 Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator - Mathematics, Pulaski County Special School District, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2002-2006; Instructor, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas, 2004-2006; Middle School Mathematics Teacher (Grades 5-6), Cabot Public School District, Cabot, Arkansas, 1999-2002; Middle School Mathematics Teacher (Grades 6-8), Farmington Public School District, Farmington, Missouri, 1992-1999. Address: Norwalk, Iowa.

**ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTMENT**

Name	Position	Amount	Effective Date
Tate, Brian H.	Activities Director, North High School	\$79,185 (to be prorated)	04/16/2012

Masters Degree in Education Administration Secondary, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, 2002. Bachelors Degree in History and Secondary Education, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa, 1990. Experience: School Improvement Leader, North High School, Des Moines Public School District, 2011-present; Social Science Teacher, Lincoln High School, Des Moines Public School District,



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2010-2011; Dean of Students, North High School, Des Moines Public School District, 2007-2010; Social Science Teacher, Lincoln High School, Des Moines Public School District, 2006-2007; Social Science Teacher, Hoover High School, Des Moines Public School District, 2002-2006; Social Science Teacher, Harding Middle School, Des Moines Public School District, 1991-2002. Head Football Coach, Hoover High School, 2002-2005. Address: Johnston, Iowa.

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**Item No. 15**

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**Subject: LIST OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL**

**For: ACTION**

**Contact: Thomas Harper**

(thomas.harper@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7745)

**Attachments: 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 1****Subject: EASEMENT TO MIDAMERICAN ENERGY FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL LINE AT MEREDITH MIDDLE SCHOOL****For: PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION****Contact: Bill Good**

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

**Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** MidAmerican is requesting the granting of an underground electric line easement at Meredith Middle School, 4827 Madison Ave as follows:

Property containing easement area: The West 1,650 feet of the North Half (N ½) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section 19, township 79 North, Range 24 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., (except the South 25 feet thereof) containing in all 50.166 acres an Official Plat, now included in and forming a part of the City of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa.

Said easement being 5 feet on each side of the following described centerline: beginning at a point on the East property line that is 450 feet, more or less, North of the South property line; thence Northeasterly for a distance of 195 feet, more or less; thence West for a distance of 105 feet, more or less, to the point of termination.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the Board hold the public hearing and approve the granting of an underground electric line easement to MidAmerican Energy for \$1.

**Background:** On April 17, 2012 the Board of Directors approved a resolution to hold a public hearing. As required by law, the notice of public hearing was published on April 18, 2012

Minutes

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson opened the public hearing. There being no speakers she closed the hearing and asked Dr. Sebring to introduce the matter.

Ms. Elsbernd moved approval of the easement; second by Howard.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney.

Nay: None

The motion carried, 7-0.

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**Item No. 17****Page 1 of 2****Subject: ADJUSTED START/DISMISSAL TIMES FOR 2012-13****For: DISCUSSION/ACTION****Contact: Tom Ahart/Holly Crandell****Attachments: None**

(thomas.ahart@dmschools.org/242-7536; holly.crandell@dmschools.org/242-7568)

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**Issue:** Whether adequate, regular time for professional development and teacher collaboration is best achieved by a late start or an early dismissal one day during the school week and which day should be designated for that purpose.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the Board approve the allotment of 90 minutes each week for professional development and teacher collaboration during the school day throughout the 2012-13 school-year and consider on which day and at what time they would be most efficiently scheduled.

**Background:** In 2010-11 and 2011-12 DMPS has dismissed all schools early on Wednesdays in order to accommodate a consistent delivery of professional development for instructional staff and provide them with enough time for meaningful collaboration. The regular devotion of time for those purposes has had a positive impact on student achievement but there have been suggestions to switch from an early dismissal to a late start time and/or from Wednesday to a different day of the week.

**Presenters:** Tom Ahart, Holly Crandell

Minutes

Speaker: Rossi Frith, 1229 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Mr. Howard asked about the implications for school bus route schedules if changes are made in the Wednesday adjusted dismissal format that's been in place the last two years.

Mr. Ahart said the logistics of various scenarios have been considered and the Transportation Dept. has said they could work.

Ms. Boesen said she supports continuance of a 90 minute block per week for professional development embedded in the school day. Ideally, she said, it would be accomplished by an early dismissal day for elementary students and a late start day for secondary students based on research that demonstrates how those groups learn best, but the costs of a staggered approach would be prohibitive.

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Ms. Elsbernd likes the plan to move the full-day professional development sessions to the fall in order to incorporate what's learned in them into instruction the rest of the year. She said she's inclined to keep the 90 minute PD block on Wednesday afternoons.

Mr. Murphy said the results included in the presentation with regard to teachers' evaluation of district-led PD programs do not jibe with anecdotal reports he gets when he hears directly from teachers. He noted that only half of those who attended the event where the survey was administered completed it and said that's another demonstration of the principle that in a democracy the decisions are made by those who participate.

Mr. Sweeney wondered if there are any plans to survey parents as to their day/time preference for the 90 minute adjustment similar to what's already in progress with the district's teachers.

Mr. Ahart said no such parental survey is underway but he supports the notion that one would be in order before the district changed the day/time for the regular PD block. He reiterated the administration's recommendation for next year is to continue with early-dismissal Wednesdays but day/time alternatives have been explored to make sure they're workable if the Board decided to make changes.

Mr. Jongewaard asked if in-house presenters at day-long district-led PD events are compensated or recognized in any particular fashion.

Mr. Ahart said they receive an extra pay stipend commensurate with the length of their presentation and Ms. Crandell, the district's curriculum director, pointed out that favorable comments about specific presenters that are made on the audience surveys are forwarded to their attention.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson said she gets lots of questions and complaints when she's out in the community about the early dismissals on Wednesdays and thinks it would be a good idea to solicit parent and community input about day/time alternatives for future consideration by the Board.

There was a consensus to explore some collaborations with the city to address the police department's concerns about increased misbehavior among secondary students on early dismissal days if that policy is continued.

Mr. Jongewaard moved continuance of the early dismissal times for the 2012-13 school year; second by Boesen.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Jongewaard, Murphy, Sweeney.

Nay: None

The motion carried, 7-0

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**Item No. 18****Page 1 of 2****Subject: CHARTER SCHOOL UPDATE****For: DISCUSSION****Contact: Dick Murphy, Cindy Elsbernd  
Pat Sweeney****Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** The work group will provide an update on the Charter School.

**Presentation:** None.

#### Minutes

The work group summarized the charter itself, what constitutes grounds for revocation of the charter and the administrative structure of the school. The Board was invited to provide input as to what should be included in the work group's final report on recommended next steps.

Mr. Jongewaard asked if the charter school is financially viable for next year.

Mr. Murphy said there are funding concerns on multiple fronts. The school budgeted and spent based on a projected enrollment of 150 students in the 2011-12 school year but the actual enrollment that will be the basis for state aid in 2012-13 was considerably less. In addition the state is revising guidelines for the disbursement of dropout prevention funds that were used to get the charter school up and running.

Mr. Jongewaard asked if the school's Foundation has the money necessary to bridge any budget deficits.

Mr. Murphy said he didn't know.

Ms. Boesen said her impression is that current students of the school are being well-served but she is concerned about the prospects for recruiting new students in a climate of uncertainty and the potential for power struggles between and amongst the various groups involved in school oversight and operations.

Mr. Howard commented that even if the Foundation does have the wherewithal to sustain the school through a budget deficit in the coming year it may not be inclined to provide it unless other issues are resolved. He said the Board may soon be facing some tough decisions if the school cannot be made fiscally sound.

Mr. Murphy said some members of the school's Foundation have asked him if the district can't temporarily redirect a greater portion of its per-pupil state funding to the Charter

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School to see it through the looming shortfall. He has told them that's not possible as both a matter of law and district philosophy.

Ms. Boesen agreed saying the clear understanding in launching the school was that it would require significant support in its formative years from a private foundation to supplement whatever public funding it received.

Mr. Howard said even if it were legal for the district to divert funding from one school in favor of another it wouldn't be right, especially at a time when funding is tight for all public schools.

Mr. Jongewaard said he hopes the Board will make a commitment to help the Foundation raise money. But whatever the Board decides must be decided quickly. He made the point that both fundraising and student recruiting are compromised by uncertainty as to the school's future. He said there have been problems at the school but feels they are fixable.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson said the problems at the school fall into three categories: relational, fiscal and operational. If significant progress isn't demonstrated in all three areas very quickly she said it will be difficult to justify keeping the school open.

Mr. Howard said an up or down deadline is fast approaching since the school needs to hire a new director if it's to continue beyond this school year.

Mr. Jongewaard wondered if the district might be able to somehow lend some staffing support to the school temporarily in lieu of direct financial assistance.

Mr. Sweeney said until or unless the Foundation pledges to make up the funding shortfall for next year the rest of the issues facing the school don't matter.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson said the Board should be prepared to make its recommendation on the future of the school before the current year ends on June 15.

Dr. Sebring said the removal of dropout prevention dollars from the school's funding stream means money must be found to pay for 3.5 FTE's in 2012-13. She agreed that the first order of business is to determine ASAP if the Foundation is in a position and of a mind to plug that gap.