

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

**MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2012**

PUBLIC FORUM — 5:45 p.m.

The Board of Directors held a public forum on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, in the boardroom at 1800 Grand; Teree Caldwell-Johnson presiding.

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

REGULAR MEETING — 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, in the boardroom at 1800 Grand; Teree Caldwell-Johnson presiding.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA — 6:05 p.m.

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

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

The motion carried, 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Elsbernd moved approval of the minutes January 10, 2012; second by Boesen.

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

The motion carried, 6-0.

DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS — 6:05 p.m.

Dr. Sebring introduced Harry Strong, head coach of the Roosevelt HS debate team which successfully defended its title at the Iowa High School Speech Association's state tournament on January 6-7 at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny.

Every member of the team who participated in the tournament earned points toward the coveted Sweepstakes Trophy.

Senior Max Hardt and junior Madison Holmes took first place in Public Forum Debate.

The Roosevelt forensics program is nationally ranked, as evidenced by the fact that it won the Montgomery Bell Academy Extemp Round Robin competition in Nashville, TN the same weekend as the IHSSA state tournament.

In that event, sophomore Lily Nellans won both the Invitational and the Special Public Exhibition rounds, becoming the first sophomore to win either. Junior Nathan Leys, ranked #1 nationally, finished 4th and 2nd respectively in those categories.

Mr. Strong is assisted by Nate Fredericks, Billy Strong, Victor Cedeno and Harrison Hayward.

CONSENT ITEMS — 6:15 p.m.

7. Architect Payments ----- 1

8. Construction Payments ----- 3

9. Contracts for Approval -----5

10. Exterior Wall Restoration; Callanan ----- 7

11. Award of Design Improvements; Smouse ----- 9

12. Final Acceptance of Contract; Brody Middle School ----- 11

13. Complete Roof Replacement; Cowles ----- 13

14. Personnel Recommendations ----- 15

15. List of Bills for Approval ----- 17

Minutes

Mr. Murphy moved approval of the consent items including payment of bills previously authorized and certified by the secretary and reviewed by him as paid in the amount of \$715,423.38 and unpaid bills in the amount of \$2,594,984.52; second by Boesen.

With regard to Item No.9; Contract No. 12-002 (leased space at the Junior Achievement Building), Mr. Murphy asked for an explanation of why the district has to lease space outside of its own facilities for meetings and professional development purposes.

Dr. Sebring said when the Downtown School moved to Central Campus the Business Education Alliance (BEA) lost the space where it had formerly conducted professional development events. Space had been available at Junior Achievement since being vacated by the University of Iowa and the district was able to negotiate a discounted rent, \$6,000 of which will be defrayed by the BEA. DMPS will be able to use the space freely during the week and BEA will have access to it on the weekends. She added the lease is for one year, at which time the need for additional space will be re-evaluated in light of renovations that will have been completed by then at various district properties.

Ms. Boesen recalled the district had also previously used facilities at Harding Hills for professional development exercises, space that is no longer available to it.

Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Link, Murphy, Strong
Nay: None

The motion carried, 6-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS — 6:10 p.m.

16. Classroom Addition — Brody Middle School ----- 19

OTHER — 6:20 p.m.

17. Authorization to Sell Smouse Fund Investments ----- 21

18. Change in Contract Amount; North High School ----- 23

19. Teaching American History Grant ----- 25

20. Share the Mic & Movement 515 ----- 27

21. Measuring Achievement of Graduate Ends ----- 29

22. Resolution for Director Districts ----- 33

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION — 8:10 p.m.

Ms. Boesen requested an update including cost implications, if any, on the realignment of the CIML conference for football redistricting purposes.

CHAIR'S REPORT — 8:11 p.m.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson updated the process to fill the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Patty Link. She identified the three finalists for that seat as selected by a Board subcommittee as Joe Jongeward, Shane Schulte and Patricia Wood Young. Each of the finalists will be interviewed by the Board at a public meeting beginning at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 in the Boardroom. The appointee is to be announced no later than January 27 and will be sworn and seated prior to the Board meeting scheduled for February 7.

She also invited the public to participate in The Great Conversation, another event scheduled for the Boardroom later on that same date at 7:00 P.M. The speaker and moderator will be Jamie Vollmer, an education consultant and author of the book, *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*. The event will launch the formation of the Strategic Issues Advisory Committee, the district's latest community outreach initiative.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT — 8:13 p.m.

Dr. Sebring thanked the staff and students at Hoover HS for putting on an outstanding program on Monday, January 16 in celebration of Martin Luther King Day.

ADJOURN — 8:20 p.m.

Item No. 7
Page 1 of 2**Subject: ARCHITECT PAYMENTS****For: ACTION****Contact: BILL GOOD**

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Payment of architect/engineer invoices.**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the following architect/engineer payments be authorized:

| <u>Architect/Engineer/Project</u> | <u>Percent Paid</u> | <u>Estimated Fee</u> | <u>Previous Payments</u> | <u>Current Payment</u> |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>BCDM</u> | | | | |
| Studebaker Elementary Architect App 04 (SWP) | 28% | \$240,000.00 | \$49,920.00 | \$17,280.00 |
| <u>Shive Hattery</u> | | | | |
| Brody Classroom Additions Architect App. 1 (SWP) | 28% | \$78,540.00 | \$0.00 | \$21,991.20 |
| <u>OPN Architects</u> | | | | |
| Hiatt Middle School Architect App. 4 (SWP) | 38% | \$337,500.00 | \$68,600.00 | \$59,950.60 |
| McCombs Middle School Architect App. 10 (SWP) | 84% | \$364,100.00 | \$275,218.80 | \$7,439.60 |
| <u>RDG Planning</u> | | | | |
| Central Campus Phase 2 Architect App 15 (SWP) | 80% | \$764,737.00 | \$624,242.54 | \$8,978.41 |
| <u>Baldwin White</u> | | | | |
| Edmunds Elementary Architect App 11 (SWP) | 32% | \$563,000.00 | \$135,328.30 | \$55,192.02 |

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Wells & Associates

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Lovejoy Elementary | 50% | \$240,000.00 | \$61,440.00 | \$57,600.00 |
| Architect App. 3 (SWP) | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--------------|---------------------|
| | | | TOTAL | \$228,431.83 |
|--|--|--|--------------|---------------------|

Presenters: None**Background:** None

Item No. 8

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Subject: CONSTRUCTION PAYMENTS

For: ACTION

Contact: BILL GOOD

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Payment of contractor invoices.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the following contractor and supplier payments be authorized:

| <u>Contractor</u> | <u>Percent Paid</u> | <u>Estimated Fee</u> | <u>Previous Payments</u> | <u>Current Payment Due</u> |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Larson & Larson</u> | | | | |
| Roosevelt High School (LOSST) GC App. 32 Sealed Bid No. 5226-09 | 95% | \$18,024,954.00 | \$17,717,260.05 | \$ 31,446.25 |
| Central Campus Ph. 2 (SWP) GC App. 13 Sealed Bid No. B6220 | 91% | \$8,296,339.00 | \$7,442,690.03 | \$135,924.43 |
| Roosevelt Athletic Area (LOSST) GC App. 8 Sealed Bid No. B6311 | 95% | \$3,519,952.00 | \$3,322,053.10 | \$21,901.30 |
| McCombs School Addition / Renovation (SWP) GC App. 4 Sealed Bid No. B6379 | 33% | \$5,645,200.00 | \$1,269,913.45 | \$566,705.03 |
| <u>Dean Snyder</u> | | | | |
| North High School (SWP) - Addition GC App. 16 Sealed Bid No. B6151 | 95% | \$7,613,342.00 | \$7,193,404.75 | \$39,270.15 |
| <u>Edge Commercial LLC</u> | | | | |
| Hoover Meredith (SWP) GC App. No. 15 Sealed Bid No. B6169 | 95% | \$2,888,580.00 | \$2,721,467.85 | \$22,683.15 |

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Waldinger Corp.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Roosevelt Auditorium (LOSST) GC App. 4 Sealed Bid No. B6388 | 95% | \$152,006.00 | \$120,062.61 | \$24,343.08 |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|

REEP, Inc.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Meredith Middle (SWP) GC App 6 Sealed Bid No. B6312 | 94% | \$399,007.00 | \$343,024.98 | \$30,943.23 |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|

Edge Commercial

| | | | | |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| CC Fire Sprinkler (LOSST) GC App 8 Sealed Bid No. B6310 | 86% | \$655,500.00 | \$521,229.37 | \$39,537.34 |
|--|-----|--------------|--------------|-------------|

PG Construction

| | | | | |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------|------------|
| CC Student Drop Off (SWP) GC App. 5 Sealed Bid No. B6361 | 95% | \$278,007.00 | \$257,380.65 | \$6,726.00 |
|---|-----|--------------|--------------|------------|

Rochon Corp.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Harding Middle School (SWP) GC App. 8 Sealed Bid No. B6321 | 91% | \$4,662,919.00 | \$4,156,558.75 | \$103,074.05 |
|---|-----|----------------|----------------|--------------|

Neumann Brothers

| | | | | |
|---|----|----------------|--------|-------------|
| Central Campus Entry GC App. 1 (SWP) Sealed Bid No. B6411 | 4% | \$1,109,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$43,457.75 |
|---|----|----------------|--------|-------------|

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| TOTAL | \$1,066,011.76 |
|--------------|-----------------------|

Presenters: None**Background:** None

Item No. 9

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Subject: CONTRACTS FOR APPROVAL

For: ACTION

Contact: Various

Attachments: None

Contract No. 12-001

Project: Expansion of the Advanced Placement program in the district's comprehensive high schools

Contractor: The College Board

Background: In order to facilitate expansion of the district's Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings in each of the district's comprehensive high schools, teacher capacity must be increased through the delivery of pre-AP and AP professional development workshops.

Financial:

Revenues: None

Expenses: \$119,950

Funding Source: Educator Quality Fund

Term: July 30, 2012

New or Renewal: New

Contact: Tom Ahart

(thomas.ahart@dmeps.k12.ia.us; 242-7536)

Contract No. 12-002

Project: Lease for space at Junior Achievement building

Background: The district needs additional space in which to conduct various meetings and professional development.

Term: January 2012 through December 2012

Financial:

Revenues: None

Expenses: \$25,000

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New or Renewal: New**Funding Source:** Professional Development Funds**Contact:** Tom Ahart

(thomas.ahart@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7536)

Contract No. 12-003**Project:** The Eighth & Mulberry and Ninth & Locust Parking License Agreement with City of Des Moines**Contractor:** City of Des Moines**Background:** The school district's current lease at 1012 Mulberry Street terminates January 31, 2012. There are additional parking spaces leased at 10th and Cherry. The Eighth & Mulberry and Ninth & Locust Parking License Agreement will provide parking at a reduced cost to the district for staff currently using those parking lots for which the lease is about to expire.**Financial**

Revenues: None

Expenses: \$27,350 original agreement February 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Expenses: \$65,640 annually

Funding Source: PPEL (Physical Plant & Equipment Levy)

Term: February 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Extension: July, 2012 – January 31, 2015

New or Renewal: New**Contact:** Bill Good, COO

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

Item No. 10
Page 1 of 1**Subject: EXTERIOR WALL RESTORATION — CALLANAN MIDDLE SCHOOL****For: ACTION****Contact: BILL GOOD**

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Award of Bid No. 6216; contract to repair exterior masonry deterioration at Callanan Middle School.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the contract for the base bid and alternates numbers 1&2 be awarded to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder, Mid-Continental, Fort Scott, KS, in the amount of \$163,609.

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

Background: Plans and specifications were prepared by Angelo Architects and Facility Management. Work will begin on or before June 1, 2012. The project came before the Board on December 13, 2011 for public hearing and action.

- Base bid: Remove deteriorated brick, mortar and lintels; replace with new on front and sides of the original 1927 building.
- Alternate No.1: Remove deteriorated brick, mortar and lintels, replace with new on the 1964 and 1952 buildings.
- Alternate No.2: Cover parapet wall cap stone with metal flashing.

The district received four bids on January 5, 2012. The results are as follows:

| Bidder | Base Bid | Alter. No.1 | Alter.No.2 | Total with Alternates |
|---|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| BI State Masonry. Inc. Rock Island, IL | \$197,896 | \$39,915 | \$14,360 | \$252,171 |
| E&H Restoration Davenport, IA | \$186,772 | \$44,058 | \$13,897 | \$244,727 |
| Mid-Continental Restoration Fort Scott, KS | \$103,281 | \$36,424 | \$23,904 | \$163,609 |
| Renaissance Restoration Galena, IL | \$134,800 | \$33,000 | \$23,700 | \$191,500 |

Funding: Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)

Item No. 11

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Subject: AWARD OF DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS —SMOUSE SCHOOL

For: ACTION

Contact: BILL GOOD

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Undertaking improvements to Smouse School

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with Larrison & Associates Architects for the design of restroom improvements, elevator installation, and the office relocation project for Smouse School.

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

Background: This project will address accessibility issues within the school. The project includes providing American Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible restrooms throughout the facility, installation of an elevator for ADA accessibility and relocation of the office from the second floor to the first floor. The existing office space on the second floor will be renovated into classrooms.

Larrison & Associates Architects has submitted a design cost proposal in the amount of \$75,940.00. The costs are within the design budget established for the design of these improvements.

Funding: Smouse Foundation Funds

Item No. 12**Page 1 of 1****Subject: FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT — BRODY MIDDLE SCHOOL****For: ACTION****Contact: BILL GOOD**

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

Attachments: None

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 – Mechanical Renovation– Bid No. B6266

CONTRACTOR: Brocon Services LLC

CONTRACTED AMOUNT: \$ 2,597,978.00

CONTRACT BALANCE: \$ 129,898.90

Item No. 13
Page 1 of 1**Subject: COMPLETE ROOF REPLACEMENT — COWLES ELEMENTARY****For: ACTION****Contact: BILL GOOD**

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Award of contract to replace all of the existing roof membrane at Cowles Elementary.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board award Bid No. 6412 for the base bid to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder, Academy Roofing, Des Moines IA in the amount of \$174,990.

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

Background: Plans and specifications were prepared by Angelo Architects and Facility Management. Work will begin on or before June 1, 2012. The project came before the Board on December 13, 2011 for public hearing and action.

- Base bid: Remove deteriorated roof membrane, replace with new Thermo Plastic Olefin (TPO)
- Alternate No.1: Add for Sarnafill roof membrane to base bid

The district received five bids on January 5, 2012. The results are as follows:

| Bidder | Base Bid | Alter. No.1 | Total with Alternates |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Academy Roofing Des Moines IA. | \$174,990 | \$29,210 | \$204,200 |
| Black Hawk Roofing Cedar Falls, IA | \$194,080 | \$34,100 | \$228,180 |
| Brockway Mechanical Grimes, IA | \$236,600 | No Bid | \$236,600 |
| Central States Roofing Ames, IA | \$211,600 | \$32,100 | \$243,700 |
| Wood Roofing Des Moines, IA | \$255,775 | \$12,435 | \$268,210 |

Funding: Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)

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

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

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the following personnel recommendation:

Background:**RESIGNATION**

| Name | School, Position | Effective Date | Reason |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Wilderman, Mark | Brubaker, 4 th | 1/31/2012 | Personal |

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

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 against the invoices.

Item No. 16**Page 1 of 1****Subject: CLASSROOM ADDITION — 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 January 13, 2012.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the plans and specifications prepared by Shive Hattery for the addition of four classrooms and modifications to the existing restrooms.

Presenters: Bill Good, Randy Gordon, and Michelle Huggins.

Background: This is a project under the statewide penny funding. The project will construct four new classrooms to replace the current modular buildings and provide American Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to the restrooms and auditorium.

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

Funding: Statewide penny (Students First Program)

Minutes

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson recognized Bill Good; the district's Chief Operations Officer, Randy Gordon; Principal at Brody MS and Michelle Huggins; Education Architect at Shive Hattery who made a presentation detailing the design for the proposed addition.

Ms. Boesen asked if the addition of four permanent classrooms at Brody is enough.

Mr. Good said four are enough at the present time. If more are required at any point in the future, he added, the property at Brody is big enough to allow for them but that is not anticipated.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson wondered if the projected completion date of fall, 2012 means in time for the opening of the 2012/13 school year.

Mr. Good said that is the target date but variables like the weather will have to break favorably for the project to be completely finished by then.

Item No. 16

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Mr. Howard asked if the scope of this project includes anything in the way of auditorium renovations.

Mr. Good said it does not but district-wide auditorium needs are being assessed for consideration by the Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee. They may be aggregated into a comprehensive plan for a round of future renovations that would be presented to the Board for approval if/when it is fully developed.

Mr. Howard asked if the mobile classrooms would have to be moved for this project to begin.

Mr. Good said not at the outset and that the placement of the mobiles has been factored into the overall timeline for the project.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson closed the public hearing at this point and Mr. Howard moved approval of the plans and specifications; second by Sweeney,

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

Nay: None

The motion carried, 6-0.

Item No. 17**Page 1 of 1****Subject: AUTHORIZATION TO SELL SMOUSE FUND INVESTMENTS****For: ACTION****Contact: Thomas Harper****Attachment: None**(thomas.harper@dmps.k12.ia.us; 515-242-7745)

Issue: Liquidation of Smouse Fund investments in order to make improvements at Smouse School.

Background: Dr. Smouse left assets of his estate to Des Moines Independent Community School District to benefit Smouse School.

The value of the common stocks as of December 30, 2011 is approximately \$1,659,235.37

In order to proceed with the recommended improvements, Board action is required.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Restroom upgrades | \$350,000 |
| Elevator | \$230,000 |
| Office move | <u>\$270,000</u> |
| | \$850,000 |

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Finance Department be granted authorization to sell the appropriate stocks for the proposed Smouse School improvements.

Minutes

Mr. Howard wanted to clarify that only the amount of assets required to fund the proposed improvements at Smouse would be liquidated.

Mr. Harper, the district's Chief Financial Officer, said the plan is to redeem those holdings which have been yielding the lowest returns, and only enough of those to fund the proposed upgrades. The remainder of the portfolio bequeathed by Dr. Smouse will be diversified to achieve a more stable overall position.

Mr. Murphy moved granting of authorization; second by Boesen.

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

Nay: None

The motion carried, 6-0.

Item No. 18

Page 1 of 1

Subject: CHANGE IN CONTRACT AMOUNT — NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

For: ACTION

Contact: BILL GOOD

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

Attachments: None

Issue: A change in a construction agreement where the cost increase is greater than 15% of the original agreement requires approval of the Board of Directors.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve a change in the Superior Painting contract on the North High School repainting project.

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

Background: The district received quotes on June 14, 2011 for the project. The award was made to Superior Painting and Epoxy Coatings LLC as it provided the low quote in the amount of \$90,197.00. The award of Bid No. B6367 was approved by the Board on June 21, 2011. During the course of the project additional painting was requested beyond the original scope in the amount of \$26,611.00. This additional work exceeds the 15% threshold that requires Board approval.

Minutes

Mr. Howard asked how this project is being paid for.

Mr. Good said the Physical Plant & Equipment Levy (PPEL) is the funding source.

Mr. Murphy moved approval of the contract change; second by Boesen.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Howard

The motion carried, 5-0-1.

Item No. 19**Page 1 of 2****Subject: TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANT PRESENTATION****For: INFORMATION****Contact: Stefanie Rosenberg Wager**
(stefanie.rosenbergwager@dmps.k12.ia.us, 242-7861)**Attachments: None**

Issue: Informational presentation about the Teaching American History Grant

Background: In 2009, Des Moines Public Schools was awarded a five-year Teaching American History Grant from the U.S. Department of Education in the total amount of \$1,484,978. The focus of the grant is on providing professional development to support teachers' pedagogy in history through use of inquiry, historical thinking, primary source documents and engaging instruction in elementary, middle and high school classrooms. The Grant also supports teachers' increased content knowledge of American History.

Des Moines Public Schools has teamed with various community partners to provide this high quality professional development to teachers. These partners include The Gilder Lehrman Institute, Iowa State University, Drake University, Grandview University, the State Historical Society of Iowa, Living History Farms and the Fort Des Moines Museum.

Minutes

Mr. Murphy asked if the methodologies employed through this grant, such as utilization of primary source documents, are preferable to the periodic purchase of new history textbooks.

Ms. Wagner, who coordinates the grant for DMPS, said there is an unprecedented availability of resources now that makes it more possible than previously to teach history without, or with minimal reliance on, traditional textbooks.

Mr. Murphy asked why there is some advocacy for social studies to be treated like math and reading for purposes of federal benchmarking and standards since that would probably run counter to the sorts of teaching and learning going on under the auspices of this grant. He said his impression is that standards and benchmarks make teaching to a common text more important and leave less flexibility for teachers to be innovative.

Ms. Wagner said the movement to incorporate social studies into the national common core includes some latitude at the state level to allow for things like instruction in local history.

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Ms. Boesen wondered how some of the principles applied through this grant can be incorporated district-wide after the funding dries up (the current school year is the third out of five covered by the grant).

Ms. Wagner said the grant has a teacher capacity of 88 and the DMPS cohort is up to 57 this year. It has grown each year as the scope has trickled down from high school to middle school and now the elementary level. She believes partnerships established between the district and area colleges and universities via the grant can be sustained even after it's expired. The point was made that all of the participating teachers do so on their own time. They are neither charged nor paid for the additional professional development they receive via the grant, most of which takes place on Saturdays.

Mr. Howard commended Ms. Wagner and the panel of teachers present (Steve Hanson; Lincoln HS, Mike Shaw; Roosevelt HS, Amber Davison; Hoover HS, Michele Mead; Lincoln HS, Diane Fox; Central Academy and Karen Wickiser; Central Academy) for the positive impact they and their colleagues are having on students. He also expressed his feeling that a course in Iowa history should be mandatory.

Ms. Wagner said there is a long-standing effort to add a requirement for Iowa history. In lieu of that she said the DMPS history curriculum is peppered with elements of local history.

Item No. 20**Page 1 of 1****Subject: SHARE THE MIC & MOVEMENT 515****For: INFORMATION****Contact: Tom Ahart**

(tom.ahart@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7536)

Attachments: None

Issue: Student community involvement

Background: Share the Mic & Movement 515 are multi-faceted spoken word projects involving classroom instruction at Harding and a district-wide evening class for high school students that foster students' abilities and desire to use their voices for positive change in their community and to model reciprocity.

Presenters: Emily Lang and Kristopher Rollins

Minutes

Mr. Murphy suggested there might be some grant funding available to help Ms. Lang and Mr. Rollins, both of whom teach at Harding MS, achieve one of their goals of identifying talented DMPS students to enter in a national performance poetry festival for teenagers where Des Moines has never been represented.

Ms. Boesen commended Ms. Lang and Mr. Rollins for the extra work they are doing outside of school to establish programs that empower students and help them find positive ways to contribute to their community. She also commended Dezejanee Hall and Aaliyah Welch, two students who presented some of their own original work for the Board.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson suggested the district website and social networks be utilized to publicize the upcoming "Share the Mic" event scheduled for Friday, January 27th at the State Historical Building from 7:00-9:00 P.M. as well as the other programs described by Ms. Lang and Mr. Rollins.

Item No. 21**Page 1 of 3****Subject: MEASURING ACHIEVEMENT OF GRADUATE ENDS****For: INFORMATION/DISCUSSION****Contact: Board****Attachments: None**

Issue: Progress toward the district's Graduate Ends.**Background:** The Board will discuss effective ways of measuring the extent to which DMPS students are graduating equipped in accordance with the district's Graduate Ends.

The following staff will be available to answer questions: Dr. Nancy Sebring, Tom Ahart, Holly Crandell.

Minutes

Mr. Murphy said the Board has struggled with how to determine progress towards the less empirically measurable of the district's Ends Statements ever since they were adopted; concepts like global awareness, self-direction and technological literacy.

Ms. Boesen commented that presentations like the ones at this meeting about the Teaching American History Grant and the creative expression programs at Harding allow the Board to form reliable gut impressions about progress that's not always easy to quantify.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson said some concepts are easier to recognize than they are to measure. She suggested that perhaps the Board's sub-statements attached to the Ends tie the hands of the administration in trying to report on progress and asked if deleting some of the ambiguous descriptors might enable broader but more effective means of demonstrating progress as opposed to graphing it.

Mr. Murphy said the Ends are coming up for some community review but he suspects they won't change much. What's necessary are some new ways for the Board to overlay them against what it sees actually happening with the students in the district.

Mr. Ahart, the district's Associate Superintendent for Curriculum & Learning, said he likes the Ends descriptors. He likened them to the 42 criteria that are listed as indicators of competency in the Iowa teaching standards. He considers such descriptors and criteria to be signs to look for en route to the Ends.

Mr. Howard said maybe the Board needs to focus on standards that are measurable and eliminate ones that are not.

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Mr. Ahart said that even in areas that don't lend themselves to empirical assessment the district can at least clearly demonstrate that students at all levels are exposed to opportunities and experiences that would result in achievement of the desired End[s] if taken advantage of.

Mr. Murphy said the Board should consider some new ways of monitoring that would include demonstration of the availability of district-wide opportunities for students at all levels in each of the areas addressed by the Ends Statements.

Ms. Boesen said it's not necessary to achieve each of the sub-statement descriptors to achieve the overall End[s].

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson agreed, saying that the sub-statements should be viewed as framing the context in which the Ends are pursued.

Dr. Sebring said she has always believed that whatever the prevailing political winds happen to be the schools own and control what goes on in the classroom. Recent emphasis on standardized testing in response to the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) mandates has made it more difficult for teachers to innovate in ways similar to those presented at this meeting by the high school history teachers and the two creative arts teachers from Harding, but she feels those are examples of the ways of the future. She also cited the district's IB curriculum, the inquiry-based programs at Future Pathways and the Downtown School's project-based learning as effective means to the Ends.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked if there are ways the students themselves can be made part of the monitoring and reporting process.

Dr. Sebring said they haven't been very directly included because of a necessary preoccupation with End #2 (rigorous core curriculum) in light of a state and federal emphasis on implementation of standards. Now, she thinks, the time is ripe to involve students in gauging the efficacy of the Ends.

Mr. Sweeney said the Ends may be fine as goals for the teachers in the classrooms to strive for but it is incumbent on the administration to report on their work in ways that make clear what's being achieved. He said that is a difficult proposition and he is not sure how best to go about it in the areas that are not readily calculable. He wondered if the schools are capable of bold changes that may be called for.

Dr. Sebring said yes, many tools have been identified for effecting meaningful change such as collaborative, ongoing professional development, but is there the community consensus and political will to scale up innovations that are demonstrably better than traditional methods? She also said that however the district decides to internally monitor

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its own progress, it must also rely on external feedback for assurance that what seems to be working actually is.

Ms. Boesen commented it takes time to change something as fundamental as public education on a widespread basis, even when pilot programs are unqualified successes.

Mr. Murphy said part of the solution is for the Board to put as much emphasis on the demonstration of the more intangible Ends as it does on the measuring of empirically verifiable ones.

Mr. Ahart said if the Board made it a point to find ways of honoring the fine work being done by teachers in areas besides reading and math he believes it would naturally result in the flowering of more programs like forensics at Roosevelt HS and the creative arts initiatives at Harding, both of which were recognized at tonight's meeting. He commented that the recent state and federal emphases on core standards may have had the unintended consequence of devaluing other areas of teaching and learning.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson suggested the Board could explore ways of incorporating programs like those just mentioned into the Ends sub-statements as examples of evidence that the Ends are being achieved.

Ms. Elsbernd wondered to what extent the students are aware of the district's Graduate Ends and feel any accountability in working towards them.

Mr. Ahart said the administration is in the process of re-examining the path to graduation and identifying any gaps in the grade bands along the way in terms of alignment with the Ends. When that process is completed the Board will be presented with the findings.

Item No. 22**Page 1 of 1****Subject: RESOLUTION FOR DIRECTOR DISTRICTS****For: ACTION****Contact: Board****Attachments: 12-004**

Issue: The Board previously approved the submission of a map outlining four director districts, each with at least one high school located within its boundaries. Upon identification of the precincts located in each, the Board now needs to pass a resolution adopting the boundaries for the director districts.

Recommendation: Adoption of the resolution which identifies the process by which the director districts were established, and the precincts located in each director district.

Once adopted, the resolution will be forwarded to the Secretary of State's office for final approval of our director district map.

Minutes

Mr. Murphy asked who determined which precincts were located within each of the proposed director districts.

Pat Lantz, the district's General Counsel, said the University of Iowa determined which precincts lay within the boundaries of each of the proposed districts based upon the 2010 census. She said she anticipates certification from the Secretary of State's office upon the Board's formal approval of this resolution.

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

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

Nay: None

The motion carried, 6-0.