

Approved February 7, 2012

**DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
901 WALNUT 6A  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 27, 2012**

**SPECIAL MEETING — 12:00 p.m.**

The Board of Directors met in a special session on Friday, January 27, 2012, 901 Walnut, 6A; Teree Caldwell-Johnson presiding.

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

Ms. Boesen moved to approve the agenda; second by Murphy.  
Aye: Boesen, Caldwell-Johnson, Elsbernd, Howard, Murphy, Sweeney  
Nay: None

**BOARD ACTION ITEM — 12:05 p.m.**

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

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**Item No. 4****Page 1 of 2****Subject: APPOINTMENT TO FILL BOARD VACANCY****For: DISCUSSION/ACTION****Contact: Board****Attachments: None**

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**Issue:** Patty Link resigned her seat on the Board effective January 10, 2012. A new member must be appointed to serve the remainder of her term.

**Background:** Iowa Code section 279.6 requires that the Board appoint someone to serve the unexpired portion of Ms. Link's term. The Board previously adopted a process to invite interested parties to apply for the vacancy and a subcommittee of the Board narrowed a field of 11 candidates to three. Those finalists; Joe Jongewaard, Shane Schulte and Patricia Woodward-Young, were interviewed by the entire Board at a public meeting held on January 24. A replacement will be named to be sworn in and seated at the Board meeting scheduled for February 7, 2012.

#### Minutes

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson called the meeting to order.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson introduced the agenda item; the appointment to fill the school board vacancy.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked the Board if they preferred to discuss the candidates and then take a vote or if the Board would prefer to go directly to a nomination and vote. She stated that she would contact the candidates directly after the vote was taken.

Ms. Boesen suggested the Board go directly to nominations but she wanted to say for the record that there were three good candidates who all brought something to the table.

Mr. Howard stated he thought each Board member should have the option of making comments on the qualities of each candidate. Mr. Murphy and Ms. Elsbernd agreed.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson suggested asking each Board member to comment on the candidates if they chose. After that process, she would ask for a nomination and then go to a vote.

Ms. Boesen said nominations were unnecessary.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson agreed, saying there were three fine candidates, all of whom are qualified to fill the position.

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Ms. Elsbernd and Mr. Murphy echoed those comments.

Mr. Murphy added that he thought Ms. Woodward-Young's strengths are in the area of curriculum and teaching and learning. He feels the district has enough people on staff with similar skills that it's not a priority right now. He said that Mr. Schulte has expertise on school finance and is already an asset in that area through his leadership of the Citywide PTA and involvement with the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee. What the Board needs most right now is someone who can be effective as a liaison with the legislature. He will support the candidate that has the experience to work with legislators. Ms. Boesen agreed.

Mr. Howard thanked everyone that applied for this vacancy and felt that all three candidates are qualified but also agreed with Mr. Murphy that having someone that could make connections with the legislators is especially critical right now.

Ms. Elsbernd agreed with all comments made on the candidates. She said the decision was not easy to make.

Mr. Sweeney hoped each of the candidates will run for election in 2013 and agreed that having someone uniquely positioned to work with legislators would be valuable.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked the Board to fill out ballots.

Deb Pendleton read the ballots:

Bill Howard voted for Joe Jongewaard  
Dick Murphy voted for Joe Jongewaard  
Teree-Caldwell-Johnson voted for Joe Jongewaard  
Connie Boesen voted for Joe Jongewaard  
Cindy Elsbernd voted for Joe Jongewaard  
Pat Sweeney voted for Patty Woodward-Young

There were 5 votes for Mr. Jongewaard and 1 vote for Ms. Woodward-Young.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson declared Mr. Jongewaard the new member of the Board. She indicated she would call the finalists to notify them of the results and express the Board's appreciation.

Pat Lantz, the district's General Counsel, indicated she had previously notified the candidates who were not chosen as finalists.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked if there was any more business to come before the Board. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.