

**DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CITY BOARDROOM — 400 ROBERT D. RAY DRIVE
MINUTES — REVISED
OCTOBER 5, 2010**

PUBLIC FORUM – 5:45 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 2010, in the city hall boardroom at 400 Robert D. Ray Drive., Connie Boesen presiding.

Present: Boesen, Buckton, Caldwell-Johnson, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods
Absent: None

REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 in the city hall boardroom at 400 Robert D. Ray Drive., Connie Boesen presiding.

Present: Boesen, Buckton, Caldwell-Johnson, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods
Absent: None

Ms. Link moved to approve the agenda. Second by Buckton.

Aye: Boesen, Buckton, Caldwell-Johnson, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods
Nay: None
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 21, 2010

Ms. Strong moved approval of the minutes of September 21, 2010. Second by Murphy.

Aye: Boesen, Buckton, Caldwell-Johnson, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods
Nay: None
Motion carried.

DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Sebring explained that they were postponed due to uncertainty about the new meeting facilities.

CONSENT ITEMS – 6:05 p.m.

7. Construction payments -----	1
8. Contracts for approval -----	3
9. Award of Design for Brody Middle School -----	5
10. Award of Design for Merrill Middle School -----	7

11. Award of Design for Cowles Montessori School ----- 9
 12. Award of Bid No. 6200 — Window Replacement Woodlawn School ----- 11
 13. Award of Bid No. B6196 — Casady Alternative Center Roofing Project ----- 13
 14. Final Acceptance of Bid No. B 6070 — Window Replacement for Mitchell School -- 15
 15. Reappointment of Audit Committee Chairperson ----- 17
 16. Comprehensive School Improvement Committee Approval ----- 19
 17. Personnel Recommendations ----- 21
 18. List of Bills for Approval ----- 23

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 \$4,815,746.51 and unpaid bills in the amount of \$1,547,363.21. Second by Strong.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – 6:10 p.m.

19. Easement to MidAmerican Energy for Underground Electric Line by North High School ----- 25

OTHER — 6:15 p.m.

20. Gifted and Talented Program and Central Academy ----- 27

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION — 7:20 p.m.

None

CHAIR’S REPORT — 7:25 p.m.

Ms. Boesen deferred to Ms. Buckton who announced that she will be resigning from the Board effective November 1, 2010 due to a potential conflict of interest arising from her role as a partner in a business that provides services to school districts.

Ms. Boesen thanked her for her service and briefly outlined the process and timeline by which her replacement will be appointed.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT — 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Sebring announced that the district has been notified that its federal Destination Graduation grant will be in the amount of approximately \$6 million. The grant is to be used to work toward increasing the district’s graduation rate by at least 5% in each of the

October 5, 2010

Pending Board Approval

next five years. The money will become available starting in December of this year and will be focused on supplemental strategies both within and beyond the normal school day hours.

ADJOURN 7:36 p.m.

Item No. 7

Page 1 of 1

Subject: CONSTRUCTION PAYMENT

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 that 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>Midwest Fire Sprinkler</u> Jackson Elementary (LOSST) Retainage Release Sealed Bid No. 5213-09	100%	\$60,880.00	\$57,836.00	\$3,044.00
			TOTAL	\$3,044.00

Presenters: None

Background: None

Item No. 8**Page 1 of 2****Subject: CONTRACTS FOR APPROVAL****For: ACTION****Contact: Various****Attachment: None**

Contract No. 10-061**Project:** Lease Agreement with Des Moines International Airport**Contractor:** Des Moines International Airport

Background: The Des Moines Independent Community School District has leased space at the airport since 2000 for the district's aviation program. The Aviation Technology Program is the only program in Iowa where students earn college credits toward a career in aviation. The program is a fully certified Federal Aviation Administration Part 147 program; students may become certified in General and Air Frame. Seniors participate in an internship with the Iowa Air National Guard, the only internship of its kind in the nation. Fifty students are enrolled in the program.

Financial:

Revenues: \$0

Expenses: \$1332.48 monthly lease rate

Funding Source: General Funds**Term:** July 1, 2010 — June 30, 2013**New or Renewal:** Renewal**Contact:** Bill Good, COO

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

Contract No. 10-062**Project:** Head Start Agreement for Delegation of Activities**Contractor:** Drake Head Start

Background: Des Moines Public Schools is the delegate to the Drake University Head Start grantee. Des Moines Public Schools serves 454 Head Start students in 18 classrooms across the district. The agreement and Memorandum of

Item No. 8**Page 2 of 2**

Understanding between DMPS and Drake University Head Start for the delegate program is attached.

Financial:

Revenues: \$1,544,962

Expenses: \$1,544,962

Funding Source: Federal Head Start Grant**Term:** July 1, 2010 — June 30, 2011**New or Renewal:** Renewal**Contact:** Susie Guest and Susie Tallman

(susan.guest@dmps.k12.ia.us; 323-8612/susan.tallman@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7725)

Contract No. 10-063**Project:** Contract for classroom space**Contractor:** Youth Emergency Shelter and Services (YESS)

Background: The Department of Student and Family Services has supported additional space to expand opportunities for students who are either just returning from placement or in jeopardy of being placed by the courts due to significant behavioral concerns. Last year space was rented for this purpose at the Youth Emergency Shelter Services (YESS) located at 918 SE 11th Street. This space is available for the 2010-11 school year at the same price.

Financial:

Expenses: \$1,200 per month for 900 square feet of dedicated space and 1,500 square feet of shared space

Funding Source: General Funds**Term:** August 23, 2010 — June 30, 2011**New or Renewal:** Renewal**Contact:** Shelly Bosovich

(shelly.bosovich@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7594)

Item No. 9

Page 1 of 1

Subject: AWARD OF DESIGN FOR BRODY MIDDLE SCHOOL

For: ACTION

Contact: Bill Good

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Undertaking improvements to Brody Middle School as part of the Statewide Penny (Students First) program.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board approve the contract with Shive Hattery, Inc. for the design of mechanical and electrical modifications to Brody Middle School.

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

Background: Shive Hattery, Inc. has submitted a design cost proposal in the amount of \$110,000.00. The design will include an upgraded HVAC system, a new electrical service, upgraded lighting, fire alarm, fire sprinkler, grease interceptor and technology improvements.

Funding: Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

Item No. 10

Page 1 of 1

Subject: AWARD OF DESIGN FOR MERRILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

For: ACTION

Contact: Bill Good

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Undertaking improvements to Merrill Middle School as part of the Statewide Penny (Students First) program.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board approve the contract with Shive Hattery, Inc. for the design of mechanical and electrical modifications to Merrill Middle School.

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

Background: Shive Hattery, Inc. has submitted a design cost proposal in the amount of \$150,000.00. The design will include an upgraded HVAC system, a new electrical service, upgraded lighting, fire alarm, fire sprinkler, grease interceptor and technology improvements.

Funding: Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

Item No. 11

Page 1 of 1

Subject: AWARD OF DESIGN FOR COWLES MONTESSORI SCHOOL

For: ACTION

Contact: Bill Good

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Undertaking improvements to Cowles Montessori School as part of the Statewide Penny (Students First) program.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board approve the contract with DLR Group for the design of mechanical and electrical modifications to Cowles Montessori School.

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

Background: DLR Group has submitted a design cost proposal in the amount of \$126,500.00. The design will include a new HVAC system, a new electrical service, upgraded lighting, fire alarm, fire sprinkler, and technology improvements.

Funding: Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

Item No. 12
Page 1 of 1
**Subject: AWARD OF BID NO. B6200 — WINDOW REPLACEMENT
WOODLAWN SCHOOL**
For: ACTION
Contact: Bill Good

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Award of contract for the window and door replacement project for Woodlawn School.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends a contract for the Base Bid and Alternate 1 be awarded to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder, Reflections Glass and Mirror in the amount of \$312,096.00.

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

Background: This is one of the projects under the statewide penny funding. The work at Woodlawn will be divided into several individual bid packages.

- **Base Bid:** Replacement of the exterior windows and repairs/replacements of selected exterior entry doorways.
- **Alternate 1:** Change the doors to be replaced from hollow metal to fiberglass reinforced polyester doors.

The district received bids on September 28, 2010. The results are as follows:

Bidder	Base Bid	Alternate No. 1
Reflections Glass and Mirror — Ames, IA	\$306,172	\$5,924
Two Rivers — WDM, IA.	\$363,852	\$0
REEP, Inc. — Baxter, IA.	\$331,771	\$4,025

Funding Source: Statewide Penny (Students First Program)

Item No. 13

Page 1 of 1

Subject: AWARD OF BID NO. B6196 — CASADY ALTERNATIVE CENTER ROOFING PROJECT

For: ACTION

Contact: Bill Good
(harold.good@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8321)

Attachments: None

Issue: Award of contract to repair the two upper roof areas at Casady Alternative Center.

Superintendent’s Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the contract for the bid be awarded to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder, Academy Roofing in the amount of \$136,690.

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 October 12, 2010. The project came before the Board on September 21, 2010 for the public hearing and action.

The following is a description of the base bid:
Remove ballast and deteriorated insulation and replace with new TPO (Thermoplastic Olefin) membrane.

The district received three bids on September 28, 2010. The results are as follows:

	Academy Roofing Des Moines IA.	Central Roofing Ames, IA	Vis Ltd. Marshalltown, IA
Base Bid	\$96,990.00	\$124,900.00	\$106,450.00
Add Alternate No. 1	\$39,700.00	\$37,700.00	\$38,610.00
Total with Alternate	\$136,690.00	\$162,600.00	\$145,060.00

Action: This anticipated expenditure surpasses the state’s threshold for competitive bids and requires Board of Education approval before the district can enter into contract with the awardee.

Funding Source: Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)

Item No. 14

Page 1 of 1

**Subject: FINAL ACCEPTANCE OF BID NO. B6070 —
WINDOW REPLACEMENT FOR MITCHELL 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: Mitchell School

PROJECT: Window Replacement

CONTRACTOR: Two Rivers Glass and Door

CONTRACTED AMOUNT: \$ 165,110.01

CONTRACT BALANCE: \$ 8,255.50

Item No. 15

Page 1 of 1

Subject: REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

For: ACTION

Contact: Joseph Green

Attachments: None

(joseph.green2.@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7085)

Issue: Re-appointment of Audit Committee Chairperson.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the re-appointment of Mr. Ken Zinkula as the Chairperson of the District's Audit Committee. Mr. Zinkula would serve for a one-year term ending September 2011.

Presenter: None.

Background: The Audit Committee was established by and operates under the authority of the Des Moines School Board Policy Series 200, Code 217. Under the Audit Committee Charter, the appointment of a chairperson shall be approved by the Board at the first meeting in October or as necessary.

The Audit Committee has re-appointed Mr. Ken Zinkula to be chairperson. He is a Fiscal & Policy Analyst with the Iowa Department of Revenue. Mr. Zinkula was originally appointed to the committee in 2001 and is the current chair. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor.

Item No. 16
Page 1 of 2**Subject: COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE APPROVAL
— 2010-2011****For: ACTION****Contact: Connie Cook**
(connie.cook@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7725)**Attachments: None**

Issue: Approval of membership for the 2010-2011 Comprehensive School Improvement Advisory Committee
Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the membership of the 2010-2011 Comprehensive School Improvement Advisory Committee.**Presenters:** None. Connie Cook will be available for questions.**Background:** Chapter 12 of the Iowa Administrative Code requires the district to have a committee to serve in an advisory role to the Board of Directors. The purpose of this advisory committee is to make recommendations to the Board about the needs, goals and long-range plans of the district. This committee is to be composed of students, parents, teacher, administrators, and community representatives.

The following have been recommended for the 2010-2011 Comprehensive School Improvement Advisory Committee. All of these people have been contacted and have agreed to serve.

Miriam Alshouse, Art Supervisor, DMPS
 Bryce Amos, NE Region Executive Director
 Kathy Beauchamp, North Parent
 Teree Caldwell-Johnson, School Board Member
 Catherine Chiodo, Roosevelt Student
 Deb Chiodo, Roosevelt Parent
 Julie Clark, Hoover/Meredith Parent
 Connie Cook, Facilitator, Associate Superintendent NW Region
 Florence Dusek, Community Member
 Anita Dutta, Scavo Teacher
 Riley Fisher, East Student
 Ben Frazier, East Student
 Ursaline Frith, AFSCME
 Tina Jensen, Executive Director, South Region
 Mary Lynne Jones, Community Member
 Shelly Keeton, Community Member
 Connie Kidman, Latino Liaison

Sheri Lambertz, Harding Parent
 Sharon Lein, East Parent
 Terrence Martin, Associate Superintendent, South Region
 Michael Munoz, Chief Academic Officer
 Kim Nguyen, Merrill/Greenwood Parent/Asian Affairs
 Vinh Nguyen, ESL Program
 Shelby Ostrander, Lincoln Parent
 Nancy Sebring, Superintendent DMPS
 Melissa Spencer, DMEA
 Susie Tallman, Executive Director, Northwest Region
 John Tompkins, Assessment Support
 Dale VandeHaar, Library Coordinator
 Virginia Varce, Community Member
 Dennis Vogel, Heartland Support
 Sean Walsh, Lincoln Parent

Item No. 17**Page 1 of 2****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
Greene, Tina	3	13	09/27/10	\$57,172

BA from Washington State University, Pullman, WA and MA from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN; Address/Johnston, IA; Assignment, Park Avenue/ ELL.

Heinen, Benjamin	4	1	09/29/10	\$43,682
------------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from University of Iowa, Iowa City and MA from Drake University, Des Moines, IA; Address/Des Moines, IA; Assignment, Oak Park/Art.

Jensen, Stephanie	1	1	09/27/10	\$38,757
-------------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; Address/Ankeny, IA; Assignment, Morris/K.

Keith, Julie	1	12	09/27/10	\$50,820
--------------	---	----	----------	----------

BS from Miami University, Oxford, OH; Address/Des Moines, IA; Assignment, East/English.

Mertz, Leah	1	1	09/30/10	\$38,757
-------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from Grand View University, Des Moines, IA; Address/Redfield, IA; Assignment, Hoover/English.

Niesen, Tara	1	1	09/22/10	\$38,757
--------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI; Address/Racine, WI; Assignment, Hanawalt/2nd grade (.5) and 5th grade (.5).

Reicks, Jennifer	1	1	09/27/10	\$38,757
------------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; Address/West Des Moines, IA; Assignment, Perkins/K (.5) and 1st grade (.5).

Shanley, Leigha	2	1	10/04/10	\$40,185
-----------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from Drake University, Des Moines, IA; Address/Des Moines, IA; Assignment, Roosevelt/English.

Wallerstein, Amy	1	5	10/04/10	\$41,327
------------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from University of Akron, Akron, OH; Address/Ankeny, IA; Assignment, Charter School/Teacher.

Wilson, Alyssa	1	1	09/16/10	\$38,757
----------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from Iowa State University, Ames, IA; Address/Des Moines, IA; Assignment, Cattell/1st grade.

Young, Natalie	1	1	10/04/10	\$38,757
----------------	---	---	----------	----------

BA from Drake University, Des Moines, IA; Address/Mt. Prospect, IL; Assignment, Pleasant Hill/K.

Item No. 17

Page 2 of 2

RESIGNATION

Name	School, Position	Effective Date	Reason
Luedtke, Philip I.	Technology, Director	09/29/10	Personal

COACHING DIFFERENTIAL

School	Name	Position	Effective Date	Amount
Brody	Lundgren, Scott	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Brody	Stancel, Kenneth	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Callanan	Keeling, Fritz	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Goodrell	Walling, John	Middle School Boys Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Goodrell	Daugherty, Ryan	Middle School Boys Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Harding	Snow, Jason	Middle School Boys Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Harding	Buyck, Derek	Middle School Boys Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Harding	Greeno, Catrina	Middle School Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Harding	Kasparbauer, Maria	Middle School Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Hiatt	Snyder, Tony	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Hiatt	Luft, Brian	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Hoyt	VanDerflute, Theron	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Hoyt	Filkins, Dovovan	Middle School Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
McCombs	Frost, Dave	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
McCombs	Dowling, Darin	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Meredith	Cochran, Jared	Middle School Boys Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Meredith	Ingram, Adam	Middle School Boys Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Meredith	Brinkman, Melissa	Middle School Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Meredith	Weida, Andtim	Middle School Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714
Merrill	Luft, Marty	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Merrill	Garvey, Mike	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Weeks	Vollsedt, Dan	Middle School Boys /Girls Basketball	10/25/2010	\$1428
Weeks	Smyth, Angel	Middle School Boys Basketball	10/25/2010	\$714

COACHING RESIGNATION

School	Name	Position	Effective Date
East	Gabel, James	Assistant Boys Soccer	09/24/2010
East	Douglas, Christopher	Assistant Boys Basketball	09/24/2010
East	Walljasper, Timothy	Assistant Boys Soccer	09/24/2010
East	Schoon, Greg	Assistant Boys Basketball	09/24/2010
East	Long, Lowell	Assistant Boys Basketball	09/24/2010
East	Fisher, Courtney	Assistant Volleyball	09/24/2010
East	Beall, Scott	Assistant Boys Soccer	09/24/2010
East	Montag, Jessica	Assistant Volleyball	09/24/2010
Hoover	Bellegante, Antonio	Assistant Boys Soccer	09/24/2010
Hoover	Burkmire, Randel	Head Girls Bowling	09/24/2010
Hoyt	Stoelk, Marty	Middle School Boys Basketball	09/27/2010
North	Sharp, Ryan	Assistant Baseball	09/27/2010
North	Carr, Bates	Assistant Boys Basketball	09/24/2010
North	Jordal, David	Head Baseball	09/24/2010

Item No. 18

Page 1 of 1

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.

Item No. 19

Page 1 of 1

Subject: EASEMENT TO MIDAMERICAN ENERGY FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE BY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

For: PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION

Contact: Bill Good

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

Attachments: None

Issue: MidAmerican is requesting the granting of an underground electric line easement at 501 Holcomb Avenue legally described as follows:

A 10-foot wide underground electric line easement as generally depicted on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof; said electric line easement being situated on the following described property: Part or all of Lots 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20; all in Richmond's Subdivision, now included in and forming a part of the City of Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa.

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

Background: On September 21, 2010 the Board of Directors approved a resolution to hold a public hearing. As required by law, the notice of public hearing was published on September 30, 2010.

Minutes

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

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson moved to grant the easement. Second by Murphy.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.

Item No. 20**Page 1 of 5****Subject: GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM AND CENTRAL ACADEMY****For: INFORMATION****Contact: Debra Mishak**

(debra.mishak@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7930)

Attachments: None

Issue: Brief overview of the DMPS Gifted and Talented (GT) program, and how it leads to students taking courses/participating in programs at Central Academy.

Presenters: Debra Mishak, DMPS Supervisor of Gifted Programs and Dennis Johnson, Academy Supervisor; Central Academy

Minutes

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked what is meant by the term “twice exceptional.”

Ms. Mishak explained that it refers to a student who is identified as gifted by district protocols but also has some type of learning deficit.

Ms. Buckton wondered about the relative numbers of students who are identified by each of the three protocols Ms. Mishak outlined.

Ms. Mishak said K-2 students are identified mostly by parents prior to exposure to the Iowa tests of Basic Skills [ITBS]. Older students tend to be identified more by a combination of test scores and teacher referrals.

Ms. Buckton noted that roughly 10 percent of the DMPS population has been identified for the GT program and asked if that figure represented any sort of a quota that is aimed for.

Ms. Mishak said it depends on a school district’s philosophy. She knows of districts that identify as few as 3 percent of their students but feels that DMPS is able to throw a somewhat wider net because it has the means to offer a wider variety of programming than other districts do.

Mr. Murphy followed up on Ms. Buckton’s earlier question as to the mix of identification protocols and Ms. Mishak elaborated to say that referrals in grades 3-5 are usually by teachers and supported by ITBS scores. She said that most kids have been identified by the completion of elementary school. Last year there were only a few identified in middle school and none in high school. She described a pilot assessment program that had been administered to 90 freshmen a year ago at East high school. She plans

Item No. 20**Page 2 of 5**

eventually to employ that instrument throughout the district middle and high schools in hopes of possibly identifying students that may have been missed by the traditional means earlier in their schooling for whatever reason[s].

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked about the retention rate from 7th to 8th grade for students who are part of the 7th grade prep academy program at Central Academy.

Mr. Johnson said that figure is about 50 percent.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson wanted to know if the prep academy's emphasis on traditionally under represented nationalities is reflected in higher grade levels at Central Academy which do not specifically target those groups.

Mr. Johnson said that many of the students selected for the prep academy as 7th graders would have qualified for invitation to the 8th grade programming regardless of their nationality or ethnicity.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked if students who attend Central Academy as 7th and/or 8th graders before returning to their home schools are tracked in terms of criteria such as enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

Mr. Johnson said that yes, they are tracked on the basis of a variety of criteria after leaving Central Academy.

Ms. Strong asked why the foreign languages that are offered for 8th graders at Central Academy do not earn high school credits as their other classes there do.

Mr. Johnson said that there was a fear of accelerating 8th graders to the high school level in four classes simultaneously might be too much for them. The move to block scheduling left time for a fourth class so that block was divided between grade level instruction in a foreign language and "directed study" time which will enable students to get extra help in their accelerated classes if necessary or start on their homework in those areas.

Ms. Link questioned the application of the label "gifted" to 10 percent of students. She doesn't feel there are that many truly gifted kids.

Ms. Mishak responded that the Iowa Code directs that school districts try and identify exceptional potential as well as exceptional achievement and that is what the GT program in DMPS tries to do. She said that if test scores alone were the determining criterion, the standard would be 97th percentile or higher on ITBS which would certainly reduce the GT identifications in DMPS but she said those kids are being served at a meaningfully higher level in a variety of ways.

Ms. Link asked for some clarification about the funding streams for GT programming.

Ms. Mishak said that $\frac{3}{4}$ of GT funding comes from the state and $\frac{1}{4}$ from a district match. It is used for one of three purposes: certified GT staff, classroom resources or additional requirements related to programming such as a bus to transport GT students to a special opportunity. Funds are allocated to individual schools based on their GT populations and are spent at the discretion of each building. Typically, she said, about half of the GT allocations are spent on salaries for certified staff.

Mr. Murphy commented that the way national high school rankings are compiled do not allow DMPS to include all of the kids who take their AP exams at Central Academy as opposed to their home high schools. If they did, he said, we would fare much better and rank much higher, especially as measured against other urban school districts.

Mr. Johnson agreed and pointed out that CA is now instructing kids taking AP exams there to enter their home school number on the test forms instead of the ID number for Central Academy. He expects that procedural change to be reflected in future school rankings.

Ms. Mishak said that DMPS excels in comparison to school districts with similar profiles.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson said it would be interesting and helpful to see some more detailed breakdowns along ethnic and minority lines of the data being compiled with regard to programs at Central Academy.

Mr. Johnson said that he can supply that information.

Ms. Buckton mentioned that she had heard from counterparts in other urban districts about some promising results arising from adding rigor to high school curricula and wondered if what the district is seeing at Central Academy can be accomplished on a wider basis.

Ms. Mishak said that as pre-AP level content is added at the middle school level it makes possible the future expansion of AP curricula in our high schools.

Dr. Sebring said that the expansion of AP availability has been accompanied by an effort to, in effect, get kids to identify their own potentials and challenge themselves rather than rely on external indicators to label them as gifted or wait for rigor to be imposed mandatorily.

Mr. Murphy wondered if the Board is prevented from, for instance, requiring the successful completion of at least one AP course as a condition for graduation.

Dr. Sebring said that can be done. She said that AP level instruction is exploding nationwide and noted that the one downside to that is that colleges are becoming more stringent in the award of credits for those courses. She said that students in Iowa are able to take both AP courses, where the granting of college credit is at the discretion of individual colleges and universities, and dual credit courses, where the earning of college credits is guaranteed.

Ms. Strong pointed out that if the Board does begin to explore mandatory AP there will be budgetary implications since there is a fee charged for AP exams.

Dr. Sebring suggested the Board might want to invite some college admissions counselors to a future meeting to gain insights into how they weigh various factors and features of students' resumes in making entrance decisions.

Ms. Link wanted to know the reasoning behind having 8th graders at Central Academy as opposed to offering the same level of coursework at their home middle schools.

Mr. Johnson said the complete answer is complicated but the basic one is that the guiding principle when Central Campus was first opened for high school students has now trickled down to the level of 8th graders and the 7th grade prep academy. That is the economy of scale that is achieved by offering something at a central location and transporting those eligible to it from around the district as opposed to offering that opportunity district-wide.

Ms. Boesen asked for some elaboration as to what's being done to increase rigor in the district's home middle and high schools.

Dr. Sebring said the district is trying to expand the availability of pre-AP rigor in middle schools to prepare more students for AP level classes when they reach high school and is also making more AP courses available in the five home high schools subject to logistical constraints like the budget. She noted that there are costs associated with training teachers to be certified in AP instruction.

Ms. Link asked if students were selected for the Central Academy program as 8th graders based on a high score in only one area of the ITBS even though they would be required to take three accelerated courses to enroll at Central Academy.

Mr. Johnson answered that Central Academy relies on recommending teachers at the home middle schools to flag students who might be clearly gifted in one area but not otherwise prepared to take three accelerated classes simultaneously in 8th grade. He said that raw ITBS scores are only one element in the identification and invitation process when assembling a group of 8th graders for Central A. From those a list is

Item No. 20**Page 5 of 5**

generated that is sent back to the home middle school for review and input from teachers who know and work with the students on the list.

Ms. Link raised the issue of fairness if kids who are clearly gifted in math, for instance, are then also given the opportunity to earn high school government credit as 8th graders in the absence of any compelling evidence that they are also advanced in that area.

Dr. Sebring said that is a primary reason why there are pilot efforts underway toward eventually giving all of the district's middle schoolers the chance to earn some high school credits at their home buildings.

Mr. Murphy wondered if the reliance on parental identifications of possibly gifted kids at the early, pre-ITBS grade levels might somehow work against kids who qualify for free and reduced price lunch [FRPL] by the time they reach the ages of the Central Academy programs and partially account for what he feels is their under-representation there. He would like to see more and better ways of identifying disadvantaged kids at the K-2 levels who are just as bright as the GT kids but maybe don't have parents who are as aware of the GT options.

Ms. Mishak said that the GT consultants assigned to buildings with high FRPL rates are trained to be more sensitive in identifying students from historically under-represented demographics. She said they spend more time in those buildings where they know parental referrals cannot be counted on as the primary means of early identification. She mentioned that the number FRPL kids in the district's GT programs is trending upward.