

January 5, 2010

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BOARDROOM — 1800 GRAND AVENUE
MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2010

PUBLIC FORUM – 5:45 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, in the boardroom at 1800 Grand Ave., Connie Boesen presiding.

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

Speakers: None

REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, in the boardroom at 1800 Grand Ave. Connie Boesen presiding.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Link.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Strong moved approval of the minutes of December 14, 2009. Second by Buckton.

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

CONSENT ITEMS – 6:04 p.m.

- 7. Award of Contract on Bid ----- 1
- 8. Award of Bid No. B6024 — Window Replacement Wright Elementary School ----- 3

9. Award of Design for Mitchell School ----- 5
 10. Award of Design for Wright Elementary School ----- 7
 11. Acceptance of Asbestos Abatement Contract for Jackson Elementary School ----- 9
 12. Personnel Recommendations -----11
 13. List of Bills for Approval -----13

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson moved approval of the consent items including payment of bills previously authorized and certified by the secretary and reviewed by her as paid in the amount of \$4,662,460.35 and unpaid bills in the amount of \$1,743,295.66. Second by Woods.

Ms. Link asked about the freeze on equipment purchases and Item No. 7 that is asking for approval of the contract with Stivers Ford.

Mr. Good explained the freeze on purchasing affected the general fund and this purchase is being made from the PPEL for two service vans.

Ms. Buckton asked what fund was supporting the contract in Item No. 11, Acceptance of Asbestos Abatement for Jackson Elementary School.

Mr. Good responded money will come from the local option sales and services tax.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:05 p.m.

14. School Calendar 2010-2011 ----- 15

OTHER – 6:40p.m.

15. Graduation Study Committee Report ----- 21
 16. School Nutrition Program ----- 25
 17. Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding ----- 29
 18. External Audit Report — Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) ----- 35

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION – 8:30 p.m.

January 5, 2010

Ms. Link commented on the \$1.4 million that passes through Drake University to Head Start and asked if the Board could have a report on the Head Start program and how it serves the district.

Ms. Boesen commented on the complexity of preschool in general and all the funding sources and partnerships within the community. She agreed a preschool report would be beneficial to answer a lot of questions for the Board and community.

Ms. Strong reiterated the Board has asked for a preschool report and agreed the Board would benefit from that.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked for an update on the charter school.

Mr. Murphy commented the charter application is going before the state board in March and there will be no activity until that time.

Ms. Buckton asked for follow-up information on the dropout walk. She asked for data on how many of the students who re-enrolled are still in school. This is something the Board had talked about at the time of the walk.

ADJOURN 8:33 p.m.

Item No. 7
Page 1 of 1**Subject: AWARD OF CONTRACT ON BID****For: ACTION****Contact: David Silver**

(david.silver@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7700)

Attachments: None

Issue: Bids have been advertised, issued and received for various equipment items, supplies, and services as outlined below.

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

Background: The suggested bid awards and detailed information for each of the bids are as shown below. Where cost comparisons are shown, they are merely a representative sample of the item on the bid, and are not intended to be all inclusive.

A. Bid B6018 Transit Vans — Facility Management

Ed Stivers Ford	Waukee, IA	2 each @ \$18,643.00	<u>\$37,286.00</u>
			\$37,286.00

The suggested awards are low bids meeting specifications.

Bids were examined by the purchasing and facility management departments.

A complete tabulation of the bid is available.

Twelve bids were sent out; four bids were received; eight did not respond.

Funds are provided in account 23DWVEHICL-0732.

Contact: Dave Silver

(david.silver@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7700)

Item No. 8
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**Subject: AWARD OF BID NO. B6024 — WINDOW REPLACEMENT
WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
For: ACTION
Contact: BILL GOOD

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Award of contract for the window replacement project for Wright Elementary School.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends a contract for the Base Bid and Alternate 1 be awarded to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder REEP, Inc. in the amount of \$187,445.

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

Background: This is one of the first projects to begin under the statewide penny funding. The work at Wright 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.
- **Alternate 2:** Change window specification to higher energy efficient window system.

The district received bids on December 22, 2009. The results are as follows:

Bidder	Base Bid	Alternate No. 1	Alternate No. 2
REEP, Inc.	\$180,459	\$6,986	\$5,900
Swanson Glass	\$209,230	\$7,760	(\$7,750)
Edge Commercial	\$244,800	\$7,960	\$2,360
Bergstrom Const.	\$256,800	\$9,000	\$2,000
Brocon Services	\$262,500	\$7,700	\$5,700

Funding Source: Statewide penny (Students First Program)

Item No. 9**Page 1 of 1****Subject: AWARD OF DESIGN FOR MITCHELL SCHOOL****For: ACTION****Contact: BILL GOOD**

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Undertaking improvements to Mitchell School as part of the statewide penny (Students First) program.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the contract with Alvine Associates Inc. for the design of mechanical and electrical modifications to Mitchell School.

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

Background: This is one of the first projects to begin under the statewide penny funding. Generally, the approach to be utilized on the upcoming projects is to divide the work at each school into several individual bid packages. These bid packages will address safety and security, energy efficiency, technology, with a focus on those buildings that have not realized major improvements.

Alvine Associates Inc. has submitted a design cost proposal in the amount of \$114,000. The design will include a new geothermal mechanical system, a new electrical service, upgraded lighting, fire alarm, fire sprinkler and technology improvements. The costs are within the design budget established for the design of these improvements.

Funding: Statewide penny (Students First Program)

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Subject: AWARD OF DESIGN FOR WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For: ACTION

Contact: BILL GOOD

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Undertaking improvements to Wright Elementary School as part of the statewide penny (Students First) program.

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

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

Background: This is one of the first projects to begin under the statewide penny funding. Generally, the approach to be utilized on the upcoming projects is to divide the work at each school into several individual bid packages. These bid packages will address safety and security, energy efficiency, technology, with a focus on those buildings that have not realized major improvements.

Shive Hattery Inc. has submitted a design cost proposal in the amount of \$115,000.00. The design will include a new geothermal mechanical system, a new electrical service, upgraded lighting, fire alarm, fire sprinkler and technology improvements. The costs are within the design budget established for the design of these improvements.

Funding: Statewide penny (Students First Program)

Item No. 11

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Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF ASBESTOS ABATEMENT CONTRACT FOR JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For: ACTION

Contact: Bill Good
(harold.good@dmps.k12.ia.us; 515-242-8321)

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 on the expiration of 31 days, subject to the conditions and in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 26 and 573 of the Code of Iowa.

SCHOOL: Jackson Elementary School

PROJECT: Asbestos Abatement

CONTRACTOR: Pro-Environmental Abatement Inc.

CONTRACTED AMOUNT: \$194,086.82

CONTRACT BALANCE: \$9,704.35

Item No. 12

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Subject: PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

For: ACTION

Contact: Twyla Woods
 (twyla.woods@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7972)

Attachments: None

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

Background:

RESIGNATION

Name	School, Position	Effective Date	Reason
Altena, Anne-Michelle	Deaf Education Program, Deaf Education	01/15/2010	Position out of district
Gallegos, Robbin	Pleasant Hill, Music	06/07/2010	Personal
Van Haecke, Joseph	Hoyt, Language Arts/Reading	06/08/2010	Personal

TERMINATION

Name	School, Position	Effective Date	Reason
Rettler, Kenneth	Scavo, Science	01/05/2010	Termination

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Subject: LIST OF BILLS FOR APPROVAL

For: ACTION

Contact: Patricia Schroeder
(patricia.schroeder@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8527)

Attachments: None

Issue: A list of bills will be furnished to the Board of Directors at the Board meeting for approval. The secretary will be glad to furnish information as requested on any of these items. Prior to the meeting, one member of the Board will have checked this list with the invoices.

Item No. 14
Page 1 of 5**Subject: SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2010-11****For: PUBLIC HEARING/ACTION****Contact: Twyla Woods**
(twyla.woods@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7972)**Attachments: 10-003****Issue:** Discussion of the 2010-11 school calendar.**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the Board approve the proposed 2010-11 school calendar.**Background:** The Calendar Committee works to ensure that students are in school for the required 180 days and breaks are properly placed. The Calendar Committee met on November 16 to review and discuss the 2010-11 proposed school calendar and gain additional feedback from parent and staff representatives. The proposed 2010-11 school calendar has the first day of school falling on August 26, 2010.

The Calendar Committee consists of:

Amos, Bryce	Executive Director
Anderson, Rhonda	DMEA representative
Austin, Toni	DMEA representative
Barnes, Steve	AFSCME representative
Burkhall, Stephanie	Executive Secretary Dept. of Student Affairs
Cook, Connie	Associate Superintendent, Northwest Region
Eldred, Deborah	DMEA representative
Frith, Urasaline	AFSCME representative
Harris, Greg	Executive Director DMEA
Hildenbrand, Jane	Co-Chair Professional Development Committee
Jensen, Tina	Executive Director, South Region
Martin, Terrence	Associate Superintendent, South Region
Mason, Sheila	Executive Director, Operations
McGivern, Leigh	Director of Board and Community Relations and Legislative Liaison
Reese, Karen	DMEA representative
Stanley, Patty	Parent representative
Tallman, Susan	Executive Director, K-12 Programs, Northwest Region
Toubes, Joseph	DMEA representative
Treanor, Shellie	Parent representative
Walsh, Sharon	Parent representative
Wheeler, Doug	Principal, Hoover High School
Willyard, Doug	Director, Human Resources/Labor Management
Young, Alan	President, DMEA
Woods, Twyla (Chair)	Chief of Staff & Student Affairs

Minutes

Speaker: Melissa Spencer, 4922 Twana Drive

Ms. Boesen called the public hearing to order.

Dr. Sebring recommended the Board approve the proposed 2010-2011 school calendar.

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar. Second by Strong.

Ms. Woods shared some questions she had received from parents. Their concerns were how the teachers would be spending their time when students are dismissed early. Is there documented proof that reducing classroom time improves scores and are statistics available that demonstrate student education is improving given the time that is being dedicated to professional development? The main concern is the district taking away classroom time when the dropout rate and lower graduation rates are already an issue.

Ms. Strong wanted to discuss the Board's role when considering the school calendar and professional development. She feels the Board has neither the experience nor qualifications individually or collectively to design a professional development model that will yield the results the Board desires. This is the job of the superintendent and staff. It is the duty of the Board to define the results expected from a well-constructed professional development plan. Gains in student learning, building teaching capacity and more students staying in school are things the Board will be looking for as a result of a well-developed staff development plan. The Board should also be very transparent with parents and community about what is taking place during professional development. The plan should keep the community informed by inviting them to visit professional development sessions and see teachers at work. The Board's responsibility is to set a schedule for regular reporting and feedback and decide what a reasonable time is to re-evaluate the investment of time in professional development. The Board needs to reiterate the need for the Legislature to adequately fund professional development. The issue is timing and funding.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson agreed the issue is to figure out the appropriate balance between instructional time vs. professional time. The Board had discussed at the previous meeting and agreed with the overall approach the committee has taken. If this professional development model is good, everyone will win but it will require evaluation and assessment. The Board needs to be very specific about the outcomes to be achieved. Ms. Caldwell-Johnson suggested the Board look at a one-year pilot of this proposal so the Board can determine whether the projected outcomes have been achieved. She believes at the end of a year there will be indicators showing whether this

program is successful. She received several e-mails from the public encouraging the Board to vote against this plan. This may have been predicated on the fact that at the last meeting, the Board appeared to be very supportive of this professional development approach. She reiterated this plan be monitored and re-evaluated in one year.

Mr. Murphy stated he supports the professional development plan and feels the district already has research that shows professional development can improve the outcome of student learning. He commented this is an opportunity for teachers to have three opportunities a month to have input on what their training will be about at the building level, team level and the individual level. The Ends statements and model core curriculum dictate training of staff members is necessary. This will require team work among the staff members. When the Board is asking for specific changes that will affect the outcome of student learning, the training needs to be done during contract hours. Mr. Murphy also received e-mails asking for extra time to support additional training however, the budget will not allow for funding of any extra days. After the thorough discussion at the December 14 meeting he feels the community could have been better informed through *The Des Moines Register*. He feels the community has not received accurate information about the professional development plan.

Ms. Link commented administrators, as well as teachers, need to be held accountable for what is accomplished on those professional development days.

Mr. Murphy agreed the teachers need to have input, as well as administrators need to present good plans for these days.

Ms. Buckton agreed there has not been enough public conversation on this proposal. She had responded to some e-mails that the calendar has added one day of instruction from 178 to 179 and parents were not aware of that. She commented the Board could call this a vote to extend dismissal time for 12 days during the year. The calendar now has 12 days that have 120-minute early dismissal and instead, there will be 90 minutes. Time is being added to those days. Parents will benefit from the plan because they can plan for daycare. Teachers also will benefit, because with the current program, students are often very excited in anticipation of early dismissal and not paying attention in class. When this becomes weekly and part of the regular schedule, there is less excitement. She also agrees the Board needs to be held accountable at the leadership level by agreeing on what the measures are to determine whether the plan is a success.

Ms. Strong read an e-mail the Board members had received earlier from Kathie Danielson, principal at Roosevelt and member of district professional development steering committee, with her comments in support of professional development and how it can affect student learning. In order for students to get better at learning, teachers need to get better at teaching.

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Ms. Boesen stated the Board needs to decide how results will be monitored and reported back to the Board.

Dr. Sebring reminded the Board one of their options in monitoring is direct inspection so Board members have the opportunity to attend the professional development sessions and talk to teachers and administrators to find out if they feel it is beneficial to students and staff. She reiterated that monitoring will be critical. She also stressed how important collaboration is to collect and report data. Implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum will require teachers to work together. Accountability also is essential.

Ms. Buckton commented a concern of the public is unsupervised students on those days of early dismissal. The district has Metro Kids Care, but asked if the district would consider working with the community on a one-day sign up to monitor after-school programs.

Dr. Sebring said they will be working with administrators to find ways to offer supervision for students on those Wednesdays.

Ms. Link stated the message needs to be very clear with the public that the district does not have a budget to support after school programs. If parents want to see more of these, they need to help find a way to fund them.

Ms. Boesen agreed that after school opportunities need to be presented to parents and ask them what they are willing to do to support them.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked when the Board could expect to get a report back from the superintendent with regard to the projected outcomes, evaluation tool, etc.

Dr. Sebring commented she would work with the professional development committee to determine timelines regarding reports to the Board.

Ms. Strong wanted to confirm the Board will expect to receive a report on the entire professional development program and she stated it is important the Board be aware of what is occurring at the schools, where professional development is taking place so Board members, parents and community members have the option of attending. This information can be distributed by PTA meetings, newsletters, etc. The schools need to find ways to get this information out to the public.

The Board determined this report not be included in a monitoring report but will be a separate report.

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Ms. Caldwell-Johnson wanted to confirm there will be a summary report next year at this time when the district begins planning for the 2011-2012 calendar.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.

Item No. 15**Page 1 of 3****Subject: GRADUATION STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT****For: INFORMATION****Contact: Dr. Gary McClanahan**
(gary.mcclanahan@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7846)**Attachments: 09-067**

Issue: 21st-century learning in Des Moines Public Schools.**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the Board discuss the results of the Graduation Study Committee and identify implications for potential future actions.**Presenters:** Dr. David Darnell, Drake University
Erin Stoen, Future Pathways
Blake Hammond, Merrill Middle School
Joseph Spiess, Lincoln South
Virginia Varce, Community
Dr. Gary McClanahan, Central Campus**Background:** On May 6, 2009, a group of 40 students, educators, parents, and community members came together as the Graduation Study Committee (GSC). This team met for three months to address the charge of Dr. Nancy Sebring to create recommendations for a 21st-century path to graduation by studying:

- The 23 units of credit required to graduate
- A plural diploma system

In working through these, the GSC discovered the question behind the question and engaged in rich dialogue regarding ways to foster 21st-century, personalized, and relevant learning and teaching.

In July 2009 the GSC presented their proposal, including three recommendations to Dr. Nancy Sebring.

Minutes

Speakers: Rossi Frith, 1229 15th Street
Alan Young, DMEA President

Graduation Study Committee members Dr. David Carnell, Drake University; Erin Stoen, Future Pathways; Blake Hammond, Merrill Middle School; Joseph Spiess, Lincoln South; Virginia Varce, Community; and Dr. Gary McClanahan, Central Campus

presented the results from their study and made a recommendation to the Board. A part of the work of the committee was to integrate the District Ends and the Core Curriculum in their discussion. They studied data from this district and other districts, and they reviewed relevant research that enhanced their planning and discussion. The committee invited students, faculty, and people from other districts to their meetings. Dr. Darnell pointed out two errors in the report. On Appendix V, the first line of the Electives & Other column should be 7.5, not 8.5 credits, making the total credits 23, not 24. The committee presented three recommendations to the Board.

- By the 2010-2011 school year, Des Moines Public Schools should implement a progressive educational system that provides innovative, 21st-century learning for all students at all grade levels.
- In addition to the standard diploma, DMPS could implement a 19 credit, three-year Academic Core Diploma for students that meet the requirements as stated in the enclosed report.
- Des Moines Public Schools should maintain 23 credits required for graduation for the standard diploma at this time.

Ms. Boesen thanked the committee for their participation and work.

Ms. Buckton asked the committee if they saw data from other districts that resulted from similar recommendations.

Dr. McClanahan stated they saw these educational settings provided students with more options and has improved student interest.

Mr. Murphy asked how the three-year academic program would affect students involved in extra-curricular activities.

Mr. Spiess commented the students choosing this program are students not always interested in the extra activities. They want to get their high school diploma and move on to the next stage in life.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked Dr. Sebring what she feels will be the next step after hearing the recommendations from the committee.

Dr. Sebring stated the question is timely because the district may have tried to implement a pilot but serious budget cuts make it more difficult. There may be funding sources outside the district that may help fund this inside the district. She also clarified this committee was never charged with "fixing" the dropout rate. The graduation study

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has been misrepresented twice in stories about the 19-credit diploma. The basis of this committee was to look at a 21st-century diploma, about looking at high-performing high schools and what they offer students and thinking about possibilities for the Des Moines district.

Item No. 16**Page 1 of 3****Subject: SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM****For: INFORMATION/DISCUSSION****Contact: Sandy Huisman**
(sandy.huisman@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7712)**Attachments: None**

Issue: Participation in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) continues to grow. Many changes have been made in the program which makes school meals healthier than ever. Several nutrition education programs are also being offered to Des Moines Public School students.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board receive an update on the school nutrition program.

Presenter: Sandy Huisman, Director of Food and Nutrition Management

Background: The school nutrition program provides more than 30,000 breakfasts, lunches and after school snacks to Des Moines Public School students on a daily basis.

Healthy Meals: Students are offered a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and whole grains. Foods produced at the Central Nutrition Center (CNC) are lower in sodium and fat than most comparable foods available. Prepared foods served to students are produced to specifically meet the nutrition guidelines required by the NSLP.

Benefits of School Meals: Students who eat school meals provided through the NSLP and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) are more likely to be at a healthy weight.* Students who eat school breakfast have greater gains in standardized test scores and show improvements in math, reading and vocabulary scores.**

Wellness Policy and Iowa Healthy Kids Act: The wellness policy implemented by DMPS in 2005 served as a model for the development of the nutrition standards that will be implemented statewide in July 2010 as part of the Iowa Healthy Kids Act.

Other Programs: Additional programs offered through Food and Nutrition Management include the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program at 12 schools, BASICS Nutrition Education, Provision 2 status at seven elementary schools and the summer feeding program.

Future Plans: Plans for the 2010–2011 school year include implementation of new computer software. This will allow for online payment, e-mail notification of account balances and the ability to view what students are purchasing. It also will allow more efficient and cost effective purchasing and inventory management.

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**Source Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, August 2003*

***Source: Classroom Breakfast Scores High in Maryland, Maryland Meals for Achievement. October 2001*

Minutes

Speaker: Rossi Frith, 1229 15th Street

Sandy Huisman presented an update to the Board on school nutrition and how it can affect student learning. She shared information on how many lunches and breakfasts are being served and how participation has been steady the last few years. She emphasized the variety of foods being offered and the nutritional value of what is being served, and the standards that are set for serving foods with nutritional value. She also quoted some figures on numbers of students who participate in the free and reduced-cost lunch programs. There will be a new computer program in the future that will offer parents the option of depositing money in their students account online.

Dr. Sebring commented how important the breakfast program is to students and how it affects learning.

Mr. Murphy asked for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. He commented on the information presented and how helpful it is. He wanted to help get some of this information out to the public.

Mrs. Woods suggested this information be presented to the public on Channel 12.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson commented on the summer meal program and how successful it is. She wanted to make the public and everyone aware of this service and how it can benefit families. She asked Ms. Huisman to explain the process that is followed when students have dietary restrictions.

Ms. Huisman explained parents are asked to fill out proper paperwork when their student has special dietary needs and those restrictions are followed very carefully in the building.

Ms. Buckton asked if a student has an unpaid lunch balance can they fill out an application for free and reduced-cost lunch and have that application be retroactive.

Ms. Huisman responded that is not retroactive.

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Ms. Buckton commented on the computer-based system and option being available for people in the community helping out with outstanding lunch balances in the future.

Ms. Huisman agreed this would be an option that hopefully will be in place to help relieve some of the outstanding lunch balances.

Item No. 17**Page 1 of 5****Subject: RACE TO THE TOP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING****For: ACTION****Contact: Leigh McGivern**
(leigh.mcgivern@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7603)**Attachments: 10-004**

Issue: A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the state (Iowa Department of Education) and Des Moines Public Schools must be approved by the Board by January 13, 2010, if the district wishes to become a participating LEA eligible to receive federal Race to the Top (RTTT) funding.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the MOU that allows the district to benefit from any RTTT funding that may be awarded to the state of Iowa.

Background: RTTT is a competitive federal grant program for states. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriated \$4.35 billion for the Race to the Top Fund and Iowa will compete against other states in one of three tiers, based on population, for the dollars.

The program is designed to encourage and reward states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform; achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers; and implementing ambitious plans in four core education reform areas:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

Projections show that Iowa could receive anywhere from \$60 to \$175 million. Half of the money would go directly to the public school districts that participate, voluntarily, and the other half to the state to build the infrastructure to support the implementation of RTTT.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) is creating the state's plan with stakeholder input to ensure the plan is supported by all education stakeholders and is not solely a plan devised by the governor or the DE. The RTTT application is due mid-January so a great deal of work, discussion and, likely, compromise will occur within the next month. The timeline for the grant is:

- Phase 1 is due by January 19, 2010; Iowa must have the application in the mail by January 15, 2010, due to holidays, etc.
- Phase 1 applications will be awarded in April 2010. States not awarded in Phase 1 will receive feedback and can reapply in Phase 2.
- Phase 2 applications are due June 1, 2010 and will be awarded in September 2010.

Application for funding is forcing speedy debate about huge educational issues, such as using growth in student performance as one component of teacher and principal evaluation, basing teacher compensation on student performance and changing the structure of schools and the options available to districts for turning around low-achieving schools.

The program would allow local districts to leverage their resources with new federal dollars to move forward with implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum and also provide resources for other ongoing endeavors such as building data systems, improving schools, etc.

There are two eligibility requirements for states to participate:

- Approved for State Fiscal Stabilization (Phase 2) prior to the award (Iowa's application is due January 11, 2010).
- There can be no legal barriers at the state level to linking student achievement data to teachers or principals for the purposes of evaluation (Iowa does not have such legal barriers).

The DE needs to ask the Legislature to make the following changes in the law for the state to be eligible:

- Remove the cap on the number of charter schools allowed in Iowa (currently there is a cap of 20, but only eight are currently operating).
- Ensure policy explicitly allows school boards to dramatically transform the lowest-achieving schools toward the goal of increasing student learning.
- While a specific change isn't needed in the Iowa Code, in order to make Iowa's application as competitive as possible, the state also is discussing with many stakeholders what it would look like if school districts used multiple measures of student performance and growth in teacher and principal evaluations. Is your

district ready to engage in these conversations? If so, you are well positioned to take advantage of RTTT program funds.

Participation in RTTT is voluntary. Being a participating school district means the Board has chosen to work with the state to implement all or a significant portion of the state's RTTT plan. A participating school district that receives Title I funding will receive a share of the 50 percent of a state's RTTT grant award that the state must distribute to participating school districts, based on each participating school district's relative share of Title I.

States must accept all applications from qualified school districts that want to participate, as long as the district meets the "participating school districts" definition, which means that you choose to work with the state to implement all or significant portions of the state's RTTT plan and the terms of the state plan. The state plan will be available on January 4, 2010 and will be on the DE Web site.

The minimum criteria and expectations for districts that sign up is the school board will have to provide an assurance that their policies and practices align with the timetable outlined in the state plan. This will be determined by the DE and details will be ready by January 4, 2010, when the Department of Education will publish the RTTT plan details and requirements. From that date, districts will have about 10 days to decide whether to participate.

Boards wanting to participate must:

- Agree to and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at a meeting between January 4 and January 14, 2010. By approving and signing this, a district agrees to the participation criteria, and pledges to discuss and move toward the state's plan.
- Ensure the Board chair/president signs the MOU; the state's application will be stronger if school districts can also get signatures from the superintendent and union representative.
- Submit a plan within 90 days of the grant approval describing how the district will spend the grant money.
- Make sure the district's policies, processes and practices all align with the state application and the district is able to report progress as required during the grant period.

Minutes

Speaker: Alan Young, DMEA President

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Ms. Boesen commented on the Department of Education grant process. Districts must have Board approval by January 13, 2010, if they choose to become a participating LEA eligible to receive RTTT (Race to the Top) funding. She stated there is \$4.35 billion for the RTTT fund and Iowa will compete with all other states in one of three tiers. Dr. Sebring and Ms. Boesen recently attended a meeting to hear what the state of Iowa was proposing. She feels the district needs more time to figure out what is being asked, what the ramifications are and as with any program there are rules and mandates and it is difficult to find time to do all of it. One of the things the state is asking for is as much participation as possible because that will make the grant proposal look better. She feels the district needs to decide whether it will be valuable.

Dr. Sebring stated there was skepticism about whether Iowa would receive any funds in the first round but would receive feedback on the proposal that would help the state be better positioned to receive funds in the second round. Dr. Sebring will be attending another meeting on January 6. One of her concerns is the amount of work the district would be asking teachers to do by being involved in committees, developing assessments, etc., to get all this work done. The district is facing serious budget shortfalls and teachers will be taking on more students in the classroom. The application does not require a Board vote. It only requires one Board signature however it strengthens the application if there are signatures from the Board president, the superintendent and the DMEA president.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson commented the amount of money that would be received by the state at the low end would be \$60 million. Half of this money goes directly to the Department of Education for implementation and \$30 million would be spread across the districts. She questions the \$30 million for implementation and wondered if any of that amount would trickle down to the districts.

Mr. Murphy asked Patti Schroeder what the state normally would get for implementation of federal money coming into the state.

Ms. Buckton responded there is a block grant bill the state passes every year that sets ceilings in different categories. The percentages vary.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson wants to clarify the district would not submit the application by January 13 but would wait for phase II.

Dr. Sebring stated the district is being encouraged to apply for round one and realistically would not receive funds, but would put the district in a good position for round two. She feels the states receiving money in round one have already been identified.

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Ms. Boesen reiterated the district needs to look at this closely and decide how much would be gained because of the time involved.

Item No. 18**Page 1 of 2****Subject: EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT — COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR)****For: ACTION****Contact: Patricia Schroeder**
(patricia.schroeder@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8527)**Attachments: 10-002**

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

External auditors McGladrey and Pullen, LLP have completed their audit of the financial statements of the district for the year ended June 30, 2009.

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

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

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

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

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

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Compliance — The auditors made recommendations to remedy “certain immaterial instances of noncompliance.” However, the auditors stated in their report (page 134) that they did not believe that any of the deficiencies described was material.

Federal dollars — The auditors stated the district “complied, in all material respects, with the requirements ... applicable to each of its major federal programs.”

Lastly, the audit report contains on pages x and xi copies of the Certificates for Excellence in Financial Reporting that the district received during FY 2009 based on its FY 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the second year in a row that the district has received these Certificates of Excellence.

The Letter of Transmittal (pages iii – vii), as well as Management’s discussion and analysis (pages 3 – 13), provide summary information in an easy-to-read format.

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

Minutes

Patti Schroeder and Angela Burch, CPA and Director at McGladrey and Pullen, LLP presented a summary of the external audit report. Ms. Schroeder commended the business and finance staff for the work they contributed to this report.

Angela Burch reported the district was issued an unqualified clean opinion on this report meaning McGladrey and Pullen believe the district’s financial statements are free of any material misstatements.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson moved to accept the external audit report. Second by Woods.

Ms. Link asked what the district needs to do about the cash flow within a school building.

Dr. Sebring stated the district needs to get to a cashless system so there is not cash in schools. The district is looking at this issue.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.