

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
BOARDROOM — 1800 GRAND AVENUE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 16, 2010

PUBLIC FORUM – 5:45 p.m.

The Board of Directors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, in the boardroom at 1800 Grand Ave., Connie Boesen presiding.

Speakers: Bill Taber, 2913 Virginia Place
Frank Hilton, 5325 Shriver Ave.

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, February 16, 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

Ms. Strong moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Caldwell-Johnson.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Boesen stated there is a correction in the minutes. The year in the approval of minutes for January 19 should be corrected as 2010.

Ms. Strong moved approval of the minutes of February 2, 2010, as amended. Second by Murphy.

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

DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Sebring congratulated the DMEA and the Professional Development Steering Committee and others who helped design and carry out the professional development day on February 15. She stated there were many positive comments.

Dr. Sebring expressed her appreciation to the Polk County Board of Supervisors and Prairie Meadows Race Track and Casino for the partnership that has been developed to ensure revenues from Prairie Meadows are returned to benefit many areas of the community. The partnership has resulted in more than \$3.2 million going directly to Polk County students since 2007. She introduced Dr. Andie McGuire and Angela Connelly from the Board of Supervisors who presented a check for \$478,961.38. Since the initial grant in 2008, the district has used this funding to support online learning opportunities and technology equipment for classrooms. This year the funding has supported the purchase of licenses for the APEX online learning program. More than 750 Des Moines students will use the APEX program this school year compared to 100 students last year. The funding also has supported the purchase of access to Rosetta Stone software used in foreign language instruction. Prairie Meadows funding was an important source in the district's expansion of secured wireless network into all Des Moines Public Middle Schools this year. Laptops with wireless access were also part of the middle school wireless project.

Ms. Boesen expressed her appreciation.

CONSENT ITEMS – 6:20 p.m.

7. Architect Payments -----	1
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9. Contracts for Approval-----	5
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11. List of Bills for Approval -----	11

Ms. Buckton 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 \$1,327,232.03 and unpaid bills in the amount of \$2,183,448.36. Second by Woods.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:10 p.m.

12. Mechanical Retrofit — Howe Elementary School -----	13
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OTHER – 6:12 p.m.

13. Establishing Quarter-Mile Boundary Around Choice Schools -----	15
14. Establishing Distinct Boundaries for King Perkins Elementary Schools and for Merrill/Callanan Middle Schools -----	19
15. Early Childhood Partners and Funding Sources -----	23
16. Monitoring Report for Management Limitation 2.8 — Board Awareness & Support -----	29
17. Finalization of the Sale of Statewide Penny Sales Tax Bonds, Series 2010 -----	31
18. Additional Early Retirement — Eligibility to Be Based on Seniority -----	33
19. Proposed 2009-2010 Calendar Revision to Accommodate Snow Days -----	35

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION – 8:12 p.m.

Ms. Buckton requested a follow-up on Reach Out to Dropouts. The Board received data on dropouts in their red folder. Bryce Amos stated the data the Board received in their folders includes all students that enrolled through summer activities, dropout walk, etc. Several strategies the district had in place before the dropout walk. The number of dropouts has decreased from 710 to 649. About 63 percent of the students re-engaged are still in school.

These figures do not include students who chose to get their GED. Mr. Amos stated the state classifies students in the GED program as a dropout so the district cannot include them in the data of students who have re-engaged. There are several students in the district who are in the GED program.

Ms. Buckton requested a presentation sometime in the future on the dropout programs the district has in place, similar to the presentation on early education.

The Board asked for a copy of Charlie Bruner’s report regarding early childhood programs. The Board asked for a copy of the PowerPoint on early childhood that was presented by Ms. Guest and Ms. Tallman.

Ms. Buckton suggested the Board indicate an approximate deadline when information is requested.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Ms. Boesen reminded everyone of the public forums on the budget.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Sebring commented she had met with Judy Jeffrey from the DE and shared many things the Des Moines district is doing. She also reminded everyone that Wednesday, February 17, is lobby day.

ADJOURN 8:15 p.m.

Item No. 7
Page 1 of 1**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 that the following architect/engineer payments be authorized.

<u>Architect/Engineer/Project</u>	<u>Percent Paid</u>	<u>Estimated Fee</u>	<u>Previous Payments Due</u>	<u>Current Payment Due</u>
<u>Baldwin White Architects</u> Jackson Elementary School Architect App. 20	87%	\$371,430.00	\$315,325.09	\$8,071.00
<u>Gould Evans Goodman</u> Roosevelt High School Architect App 24	86%	\$2,128,149.00	\$1,822,892.31	\$8,995.34
<u>RDG Planning & Design</u> Central Campus Architect App. 30	91%	\$1,446,111.00	\$1,306,513.08	\$9,971.28
<u>Taylor Ohde Kitchell</u> Program Management Application No. 110	86%	\$19,351,769.00	\$16,566,049.94	\$105,623.76
			Total	\$132,661.38

Presenters: None**Background:** None

Item No. 8
Page 1 of 2**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 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>Baker Electric Inc.</u> Jackson Elementary (SALES TAX) Fire Alarm App.5 Sealed Bid No. 5212-09	47%	\$48,918.00	\$19,112.10	\$4,085.00
<u>Edge Commercial</u> Jackson Elementary (SALES TAX) GC App. 09 Sealed Bid No. 5210-09	77%	\$4,012,611.00	\$2,861,308.89	\$232,393.27
<u>Larson & Larson</u> Roosevelt High School (SALES TAX) GC App. 09 Sealed Bid No. 5226-09	60%	\$17,595,256.00	\$10,067,704.78	\$533,600.88
<u>Neumann Brothers, Inc.</u> Career Tech Exterior (SALES TAX) GC App. 12 Sealed Bid No. 5205-08	95%	\$2,068,335.00	\$1,954,732.69	\$10,185.56
<u>Neumann Brothers, Inc.</u> 3 rd Floor and Stairs (SALES TAX) GC App. 10 Sealed Bid No. 5214-09	79%	\$8,273,585.00	\$6,366,038.90	\$169,402.58

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<u>Midwest Fire Sprinkler</u>	80%	\$60,880.00	\$37,719.47	\$10,785.63
Jackson Elementary (SALES TAX) GC App. 02 Sealed Bid No. 5213-09				
<u>Rochon Corporation</u>	91%	\$2,548,005.00	\$2,207,107.75	\$105,136.02
Roosevelt Fine Arts (FUND RAISING) GC App. 11 Sealed Bid No. 5208-09				
			TOTAL	\$1,065,588.94

Presenters: None**Background:** None

Item No. 9**Page 1 of 3****Subject: CONTRACTS FOR APPROVAL****For: ACTION****Contact: Various****Attachments: None**

Contract No. 10-007

Project: Partnering in Communities at Findley Elementary, Moulton Extended Learning Center, Harding Middle School and Hiatt Middle School.

Contractor: Des Moines Independent Community School District

Background: The Des Moines Independent Community School District has been awarded a Fund for Title I Schools in Need of Assistance grant from the Iowa Department of Education in the amount of \$48,750. The Partnering in Communities project is designed for community leaders who have a stake in quality of life for families, provides opportunities to learn about choice families and communities can make to improve the learning of local children and youth, and results in a collaborative action plan for providing knowledge and skills to families in key areas that affect their children's learning.

Des Moines Independent Community School District is subcontracting services from Community! Youth Concepts, to implement the Partnering in Communities project at Findley Elementary, Moulton Extended Learning Center, Harding Middle, and Hiatt Middle School. Services include salaries, supplies, and professional services. Total cost of these subcontracted services will not exceed \$32,000.

Funding:

Revenues: \$48,750 (from Fund for Title I Schools in Need of Assistance Grant)

Expenses: \$32,000

Term: January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010

New or Renewal: New

Contact: Mike Munoz

(michael.munoz@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7660)

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Contract: 10-008

Project: Visiting Nurse Services (VNS)

Contractor: Des Moines Public Schools

Background: Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) provides service coordination and family training services to Early Access students and families in accordance with Early Access Iowa Administrative Rules.

Funding: The total contract cost is \$52,000 to be distributed over a 15.5 month period. This will be paid from Early Access ARRA funds.

Term: The agreement is from March 22, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

New or Renewal: New

Contact: Shelly Bosovich
(shelly.bosovich@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7594)

Contract No. 10-009

Project: Teaching American History Grant: *Project Clio*

Contractor: Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

Background: The Des Moines Public Schools has been 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 professional development to support teachers' use of inquiry, historical thinking, primary source documents, and instructional technology in elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms. The grant also supports teachers' increased content knowledge of American History. As required by the U.S. Department of Education, DMPS has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to provide instructional materials for history education, digital resources for students and teachers, professional development, and historians' visits during each year of the grant. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nationally recognized non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the study and love of American history for students, teachers, scholars, and history enthusiasts.

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Funding:

Expenses: \$52,000 to be paid from grant funds

Term: 2009-2010 school year

New or Renewal: New

Contact: David Johns/Connie Cook

(david.johns@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7947/connie.cook@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7725)

Item No. 10
Page 1 of 1**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
Burlage, Elizabeth	Garton, Multicategorical	06/08/10	Family responsibility
Kolsrud, Kristen	From Leave of Absence	06/08/10	Family responsibility
Wold, Darcy	Cowles, Preschool	06/08/10	Family responsibilities

REGULAR RETIREMENT

Name	Position	Effective Date
Schultz, Miriam A.	Leave of Absence	06/08/10

COACHING DIFFERENTIAL

School	Name	Position	Effective Date	Amount
East	Beall, Scott	Assistant Boys Soccer	03/06/2010	\$2,599.00
East	El-Baroudi, Samy	Head Girls Tennis	03/06/2010	\$2,855.00
Lincoln	Sears, Sandy	Assistant Girls Tennis	03/06/2010	\$856.50
Lincoln	Gerdis, Tony	Assistant Girls Track	02/06/2010	\$1299.50
Lincoln	Banowetz, Pauls	Assistant Girls Track	02/06/2010	\$1299.50
Roosevelt	Eltjes, Chad	Assistant Boys Basketball	11/14/2009	\$3,284.00

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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. 12**Page 1 of 1****Subject: MECHANICAL RETROFIT — HOWE ELEMENTARY 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 the mechanical retrofit package for Howe Elementary School. Publication for the Public Hearing was included in the Des Moines Register on February 10, 2010.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board approve the plans and specifications prepared by OPN Architects for the mechanical retrofit package for Howe 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.

A copy of the plans and specifications are available for review at the district's facility management office.

Funding: Statewide penny (Students First Program)

Minutes

Ms. Boesen opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, she closed the public hearing and Dr. Sebring introduced the recommendation.

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the specifications for Howe Elementary. Second by Strong.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.

Item No. 13**Page 1 of 3****Subject: ESTABLISHING QUARTER-MILE BOUNDARY AROUND CHOICE SCHOOLS****For: ACTION****Contact: Nancy Sebring/Beth Nigut****Attachments: 10-009**(superintendent@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7766/elizabeth.nigut@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7837)

Issue: Establishing a boundary of a quarter-mile around the choice schools: Cowles Montessori School, Downtown School, Jefferson Traditional School, Phillips Traditional School, Walnut Street School, and Goodrell Middle School.

Presenters: Dr. Sebring and Beth Nigut will be present to answer any questions.

Background: When the superintendent's Facilities Advisory Committee presented its recommendations in June 2009, one of the recommendations was for students living close to a choice school be given enrollment priority. The attached proposal titled "Enrollment Policies of Choice Schools" is a result of this recommendation.

This proposal is viewed as a beginning and not an end. District administration will continue to monitor the effect the neighborhood boundary has on each school in order to assess whether the boundary needs to be expanded. District administration will also continue to monitor the manner in which the waiting lists are maintained in order to obtain greater equity and efficiency with regard to this process. The administration is presenting this plan in response to the Facilities Advisory Committee recommendation and to help create consistency with respect to waiting lists at each of the choice schools and to provide priority enrollment for those students living within a quarter-mile radius to the school. This plan also provides guaranteed enrollment to a student living within the quarter-mile radius who is enrolling in the entry-level grade of the respective choice school and who submits his or her application two weeks prior to the start date of school.

Minutes

Speaker: Rossi Frith, 1229 15th Street

Ms. Boesen introduced the issue.

Mr. Murphy moved to accept the recommendation to establish a quarter-mile boundary around the choice schools. Second by Strong.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson stated she plans to vote against the proposal. She believes the district needs to provide opportunities for students in the neighborhood to attend a

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choice school. She opposes the way the quarter-mile boundary was established and has concerns on the housing density.

Ms. Buckton stated she would vote in favor of this proposal knowing this is an ongoing process and the Board will revisit the boundary issue again. There will be more consistency in the district policy rather than distinct school-based policies for the application process. She feels this is a very important first step in students anywhere in the city being able to attend a school of their choice. She commented on students being on a waiting list at age 3 will create more consistency and opportunities for more students.

Ms. Link asked about the enrollment policy on the enclosed attachment. Cowles and Walnut Street accept applications after a child turns 1 year old and it was her understanding age 3 was consistent throughout the district.

Ms. Nigut responded Cowles and Walnut Street have early childhood so the age requirement is different. When a parent completes an application, they need to indicate whether they are applying for preschool or kindergarten. Most students entering kindergarten at Walnut Street have gone through the early childhood program.

Ms. Strong wanted to reiterate the quarter-mile boundary allows the Board and district to see what the impact will be on enrollment in those schools. She is in favor of this boundary and the Board will evaluate this decision again and decide if the boundary can be expanded at different schools.

Ms. Nigut reiterated this is a starting point not only for the boundary issue but the modification of the waiting lists within the choice schools and the district will continue to evaluate the process for improvements.

Mr. Murphy stated he will support the choice schools boundary with the understanding this is a step. In the future, the Board must consider the boundary may not be the same around each building. The population densities and diversity issues will vary based on the location of the building.

Ms. Woods supports the boundary issue and she believes children should be able to attend a school of their choice in their neighborhood. A comment she has heard from parents is if the district has waiting lists, more of the schools need to be reopened. She feels the boundary needs to be larger.

Ms. Boesen supports the boundary proposal and feels the boundary issue will not impact that many students, however the bigger issue is the concept of the choice

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schools and whether the district needs more or less and the waiting lists need modification.

Aye: Boesen, Buckton, Link, Murphy, Strong, Woods

Nay: Caldwell-Johnson

Motion carried.

Item No. 14**Page 1 of 4****Subject: ESTABLISHING DISTINCT BOUNDARIES FOR KING/PERKINS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND FOR MERRILL/CALLANAN MIDDLE
SCHOOLS****For: ACTION****Contact: Connie Cook**
(connie.cook@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7725)**Attachments: 10-010**

Issue: Establishing distinct boundaries for Perkins and King Elementary Schools and for Callanan and Merrill Middle Schools.

Presenters: Connie Cook, Associate Superintendent Northeast Region

Background: On January 19, 2009, Connie Cook presented the Board with information regarding proposed plans to identify distinct boundaries for King and Perkins elementary schools and for Merrill and Callanan middle schools. Currently, there is an "optional boundary area" for each of the four schools. This means if residents live in this "optional area," they may choose to enroll their student at either King or Perkins for elementary school and at either Merrill or Callanan for middle school. This situation has led to overcrowding at these schools at different points in time.

The district administration is recommending that distinct boundaries be identified for each of these four schools: King, Perkins, Merrill, and Callanan, just as there are for every other school in our district. The recommended boundaries are reflected in the attachment.

At the January 19 Board meeting, the criteria that were used in developing the recommended boundaries were presented. For your review, the criteria include the following:

1. United States Supreme Court case requiring race not be a factor in student assignment to schools
2. The Facilities Advisory Committee recommended that each school maintain distinct boundaries
3. Equity in building enrollment
4. Equity in class size
5. Demographics of the neighborhoods
6. The size of the buildings and the maximum capacity of each of these buildings
7. The effect of the ELL program at King Elementary and its impact on enrollment
8. The effect of the IB program at Hubbell and its effect on enrollment at Merrill

Subsequent to the January 19 Board meeting, Connie Cook and Susie Tallman, Executive Director Northeast Region, visited with parent groups from each of these four schools to obtain input and feedback. As a result there is a change to the Merrill/Callanan boundary proposal. The proposal for creating distinct boundaries for King and Perkins remains the same as it was when presented on January 19.

The recommendation for distinct boundaries for Merrill and Callanan has changed and the attachment reflects the prior proposal and the current proposal. Essentially, the recommendation divided the "optional area" into a north section and south section requiring the north section to attend Merrill and the south section to attend Callanan. The current proposal divides the optional area into an east section and west section requiring the east section to attend Callanan and the west section to attend Merrill.

Each of the parent groups favored the current proposal over the former proposal. In addition, the current proposal for Merrill and Callanan still achieves the goals of the above stated criteria.

Minutes

Speaker: Rossi Frith, 1229 15th Street

Ms. Boesen introduced the issue.

Ms. Link moved to establish the distinct boundaries for King/Perkins and Merrill/Callanan Middle Schools. Second by Buckton.

Connie Cook, associate superintendent, stated there have been parent meetings in each of these four schools since the Board held discussion on this boundary issue at the previous Board meeting. There was agreement at these meetings that if a boundary is necessary, the 22nd Street boundary for King/Perkins was the best recommendation. With Callanan/Merrill, the parents were presented with all the plans that were considered and the majority preferred Plan 6 over Plan 3, which is more of a straight north/south division and would not split up neighborhoods. Transportation agreed the boundary issue presented would benefit the district financially by eliminating some routes. The district could save approximately \$25,000. Callanan students living east of Martin Luther King would be eligible for busing. The King/Perkins boundary at 22nd Street also would eliminate four bus runs with a cost savings of approximately \$20,000. Ms. Cook stated cost was a part of this decision, however it is not the only concern. The district wants to have better predictions of the numbers of students in sixth grade at each middle school.

Ms. Link thanked Connie Cook and Susie Tallman for responding to community and Board concerns in a timely manner.

Ms. Buckton asked how many parents participated in each of the meetings.

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Ms. Cook responded there were about 30 parents attending the Perkins meeting and about 12 at each of the other schools.

Ms. Buckton asked how soon the district would realize the cost savings with the boundary change.

Ms. Cook responded the district would realize savings the following year. She also assured parents that open enrollment was still an option and forms were available that night. The district will be very sensitive in trying not to split up families.

Mr. Murphy asked about the breakout of the free and reduced-lunch students. His concern was Callanan/Merrill. He asked how this fits with the district's diversity plan.

Ms. Cook responded the percentage of students on a special lunch program remains about the same at Callanan and Merrill.

Ms. Nigut stated the district currently has existing schools that do not have equal percentages of free and reduced numbers. There are schools with a high level of free and reduced numbers and schools with a moderate level. The point of the diversity plan was never to require an equal percentage of free and reduced-lunch students at every school in the district. The diversity plan speaks to between-district open enrollment and also within-district open enrollment to the extent there is space available in the school.

Mr. Murphy understood the district was going to try to provide more of a balance among the schools with this boundary issue.

Ms. Buckton asked how the percentage of free and reduced-lunch students can go down in both buildings. If one number goes down, the other number would have to go up.

Ms. Cook stated the percentages are a projection. The district average for students on free and reduced lunch is 65 percent. Some neighborhood schools are much higher than this.

Mr. Murphy asked if the number of people who came to the meetings were potential Callanan or Merrill parents.

Ms. Cook responded both Callanan and Merrill parents were represented.

Mr. Murphy stated he would not support this proposal. He would like to see more balance of the district's socioeconomic status with a boundary change.

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Dr. Sebring commented the discussion/action tonight is referring to a small space within the district. To impact enrollment in terms of SES (Supplemental Educational Services), district-wide boundaries need to be reconsidered.

Ms. Strong commented the intent of the proposal was to equalize enrollment based on building capacity. All of the other DMPS buildings have boundaries and this was an exception.

Ms. Link asked if the Board had made it clear the reason for proposing these boundaries was based on SES or making sure there was not an optional boundary. The Board should have been more specific in the request.

Mr. Murphy clarified he is in support of not having an optional boundary but when the boundaries are established the district needs to make sure there is a balance in economic diversity in the schools.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson commented in moving forward, the district needs to use every opportunity available to achieve greater balance whether it's socioeconomic, racial, etc.

Ms. Strong suggested this be an option the Board needs to look at in the future and decide if that is a factor that would be in the best interest of the district.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson commented another important issue to recognize is even within our feeder patterns, which may or may not be King and Perkins, but even outside those feeder patterns that go into Merrill and Callanan, there are a number of variables that impact the SES and other issues of balance.

Mr. Murphy commented he had talked to Dr. Sebring several times about the district-wide boundaries and hopes this discussion will begin that process.

Ms. Cook had commented the district wants to look at all boundaries in the future, which had been discussed in the parent meetings.

Mrs. Woods asked if students in lower SES schools have the opportunity to open enroll.

Dr. Sebring responded yes but granting open enrollment is dependent on two things: transportation, which is not provided, and building capacity.

Ms. Strong commented the Building Facilities Advisory Committee had sited the issue of boundaries.

Aye: Boesen, Buckton, Link, Strong, Woods
Nay: Caldwell-Johnson, Murphy
Motion carried.

Item No. 15**Page 1 of 5****Subject: EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES****For: DISCUSSION****Contact: Susie Tallman/Susie Guest****Attachments: None**

(susie.tallman@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7725; susie.guest@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8612)

Issue: Early Childhood Partners and Funding Sources**Superintendent's Recommendation:** The superintendent recommends the Board discuss funding sources for early childhood education.**Presenters:** Susie Tallman, Pre-K-8 Executive Director and Susie Guest, Early Childhood Programs Administrator.

Amy Larick, Early Reading First and Sandy Bjerk, Head Start, will be available for questions.

Background: There was discussion at a previous Board meeting in regard to early childhood funding sources. This presentation will provide information about the eight early childhood partners/funding sources. For each funding source, information will be provided regarding the number of classrooms, number of students served, what services the funding provides, the requirements of families and the requirements of the district in order to maintain the funding.

Minutes

Susie Guest, Early Childhood Programs administrator, and Susie Tallman, pre-K-8 executive director, presented a PowerPoint with information the Board had requested on early childhood partners and funding. Amy Larick, Early Reading First coordinator; Barbara Niffenegger, vice principal at McKee; and Sandy Bjerk, Head Start coordinator were present to answer questions.

Ms. Guest explained all the early childhood standards that have to be met by the district and the reporting that is necessary to receive funding from the various programs.

Ms. Boesen asked if all early childhood teachers are hired through the district and if those teachers are all certified.

Ms. Guest responded that all the teachers are certified. The only partners Des Moines Public Schools has that are not hired by the district are the two classrooms at Bear Basics through Harkin funding, seven teachers in the faith-based schools and three at private schools: Westminster, Grace Methodist and the Science Center. They are

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employed by those agencies.

Ms. Link asked if some of the grants are renewed.

Ms. Tallman responded the district applies each year for funding.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked if the early childhood programs were at capacity.

Ms. Guest responded all the Head Start slots are filled. One of the struggles in the universal programs is there are four to five full-day programs where the half day is free and half day is parent pay. The parents are struggling to pay. There are no waiting lists for those programs for that reason. All of the half-day programs, shared vision and empowerment are full.

Ms. Tallman commented the Harkin grant was revisited this year and accommodations were made so the district can capture more families who need financial support. The allocation of funds was reviewed.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked if the locations for early education opportunities in our district are a concern and if the district can find ways to target the placement where there is a higher need.

Ms. Guest responded the district works very closely with the Child and Family Policy Center. Charlie Bruner's group just conducted a study of Des Moines and one of the pockets being missed is the ELL population. Many ELL families are located on the north/northwest side of town. The district is trying to figure out how families can be assisted in getting these children to preschool. There are a couple suggestions for the use of part of the Harkin funding being applied for the upcoming year. One is an ELL recruitment specialist who is familiar with the families and the culture and helps them embrace the preschool concept. There is some planning to try to increase programming in that particular area of town.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson asked if data was available about the various student outcomes in the early childhood programs.

Ms. Guest responded this is a project that has begun this year. Through Infinite Campus, the district is able to code every funding source. In addition, those students in the various programs can be flagged and information can be collected.

Ms. Tallman responded Mr. Bruner provides all the information on the progress of preschool students. Most recently in November 2009 he did a study in regard to progress and the study verified that children in Head Start, and especially the low SES students, are making significant gains in preschool and kindergarten readiness. Based on that data alone, the district has seen very good results.

Based on the data available, Ms. Strong asked how many students who enroll in the Des Moines Public Schools as kindergarteners have not had preschool.

Ms. Tallman responded that some of the information provided indicates the district has been able to serve all but 500 students in this district.

Mr. Boesen and Ms. Strong commented previously it was around 50 percent of the students were never served.

Mr. Murphy asked if a majority of the students not being served were ELL students.

Ms. Guest responded yes, according to the most recent data.

Ms. Strong asked if a summer program was still available for a few weeks to children who had not attended preschool. The program provided an opportunity for a short session before they entered kindergarten.

Ms. Guest responded there is funding for Early Reading First summer programs. She commented there will be six classrooms this summer for the students who have been in Early Reading First.

Amy Larick commented the elementary schools that will have elementary summer school based on 21st Century Grants are King, Moulton, Carver. There are 19 rooms. Holy Family is a district partner and they have their own summer school. Summer school will be based on parent interest, if the student is kindergarten eligible for the fall, attendance, and the likelihood the child will transition well for a three-week session.

Ms. Tallman commented that because of some of the work that has been done this year regarding data and benchmarking preschool students, kindergarten teachers will have immediate access to data when the students enter into the classroom. The teacher can recognize which students have had a preschool experience and can recognize strengths and weaknesses in the students. Hopefully this will increase the time at the beginning of the school year that teachers will be able to spend with students.

Ms. Buckton asked what the range in cost is per student for the various programs.

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Ms. Guest responded that each funding source is different. For Head Start, the Des Moines district is the delegate. Drake provides the funding so the cost is based on a delegate agreement. This year it was \$1.6 million. That breaks out to a little less than \$3,400 per student. For universal preschool students, the cost is \$3,114.80 per student. That includes the 10 percent across-the-board cut. For empowerment classrooms, the district receives a lump sum. The funding from empowerment this year is \$321,000. That is less the 10 percent. Shared Visions gives each school a specific amount. Prairie Meadows is a lump sum of \$220,000. The United Way classroom is \$57,000.

Ms. Boesen commented and Ms. Guest confirmed the programs are the same regardless of the funding source.

Ms. Link commented that universal preschool community members consistently comment they would be willing to pay for preschool and they feel guilty taking a spot from someone who needs the financial aid. She is concerned that students who have more of a need are not getting the preschool opportunity because of financial need.

Ms. Guest responded the original grant that was written specifically to support students from low socioeconomic families.

Ms. Tallman stated the grant also requires the district to serve all 4-year-old students on a first come, first served basis.

Ms. Boesen commented the bill is written this way; that preschool be made available to everyone.

Ms. Buckton commented this is a legislative issue and the concept of the word "universal" indicates everyone has access. People can contribute to United Way and direct their contribution to Early Childhood.

Dr. Sebring commented most of the eight funding sources for preschool are targeted to low-income students.

Ms. Boesen stated that none of the funding for preschool is under the funding for the K-12 funding.

In regard to the 500 students who are not participating in preschool, Mr. Murphy asked if some of those families are avoiding preschool because of the image of the public schools.

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Ms. Tallman responded many of those students are in in-home day cares and getting another type of preschool experience. She had not had negative feedback from students who are not being served through the district.

Ms. Boesen stated she has heard comments that the district needs more preschool opportunities rather than fewer. She feels a half-day format does not work for families who are not available during the day to pick up their child from preschool so that would be another reason they do not participate in preschool.

The Board members requested copies of Charlie Bruner's report and a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

Item No. 16**Page 1 of 2****Subject: MONITORING REPORT FOR MANAGEMENT LIMITATION 2.8 —
BOARD AWARENESS & SUPPORT****For: ACTION****Contact: Leigh McGivern**
(leigh.mcgivern@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7603)**Attachments: 10-011**

Issue: Board Governance Policy 3.4 — Monitoring Superintendent Performance includes a schedule relative to monitoring reports that requires an annual monitoring report on Management Limitation 2.8 — Board Awareness and Support.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the board receive and take action on ML 2.8 — Board Awareness and Support.

Presenters: None. Leigh McGivern will be available to answer questions.

Background: On July 21, 2009, the Board held a work session to discuss the monitoring report presented with respect to ML 2.8 Board Awareness and Support. At that time it was decided the schedule to receive ML 2.8 would be modified so that information from the monitoring report could be known before the superintendent's annual evaluation, which is scheduled to take place in February.

Minutes

Ms. Boesen introduced the Monitoring Report 2.8.

Mr. Murphy moved to accept the Monitoring Report 2.8. Second by Strong.

Ms. Buckton suggested the Board consider a future policy on a standard timing of responses to Board requests that take place throughout public discussions during a meeting.

Mr. Murphy responded the Board does not have a standard policy but the Board could establish that time frame at the time the request is being made.

Dr. Sebring commented the topic of the request would depend on the amount of time allowed or needed to respond to a specific request.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson suggested the Board be more specific, at the time of a discussion, on what the time frame of a response to a request for information

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should be. If there is a sense of urgency, the Board needs to acknowledge that.

Ms. Buckton stated she would like any requests for information that are made anytime during a meeting discussion be noted under requests for information in the minutes. She also suggested there should be record of the requests that were satisfied by the Board and if that was not done, what was the reason.

Dr. Sebring responded those lists for information are kept internally but have not been included in Board packets but that information can be provided to the Board if necessary.

Ms. Link and Ms. Boesen commented they make notes at each meeting on any requests the Board has and they are discussed at the next agenda planning meeting.

Ms. Link requested the record state the Board collectively requested information on preschool funding.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.

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Subject: FINALIZATION OF THE SALE OF STATEWIDE PENNY SALES TAX BONDS, SERIES 2010

For: ACTION

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

Attachments: None

Issue: Board actions necessary to finalize the sale of School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2010.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends that the Board take separate action on each of the following:

- Approval of the Resolution Appointing Paying Agent, Bond Registrar, and Transfer Agent, Approving the Paying Agent, Bond Registrar and Transfer Agent Agreement and Authorizing the Execution of Same.
- Approval of the Tax Exemption Certificate.
- Approval of the Continuing Disclosure Certificate.
- Approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Terms of Issuance and Providing for and Securing the Payment of School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds

Presenter: Patti Schroeder will be available for questions.

Background: On February 9, the Board approved the sale of \$70 million Revenue Bonds to J.P. Morgan Securities Inc.

Therefore, consistent with state law and local rules, the board must individually approve the following actions:

1. Approve the resolution appointing Banker's Trust Company of Des Moines, Iowa, to serve as paying agent, bond registrar, and transfer agent; and approving the agreement for the paying agent, bond registrar and transfer agent; and authorizing the execution of same.
2. Approve the Tax Exemption Certificate — assuring that interest on bonds received by the owners of the bonds is tax exempt.

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3. Approve the Continuing Disclosure Certificate — assuring bond holders that the district will provide an annual report to the National Repository and disclose the occurrence of certain significant events should they occur.
4. Approve the Resolution Authorizing the Terms of Issuance and Providing for and Securing the Payment of School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Bonds — assuring that the provisions of Chapters 423E and 423F of the Code of Iowa will be followed and also providing for a method of payment of the bonds.

In addition, but not requiring Board action, the Board Chair and/or Board Secretary, as required by law, will sign the:

- Delivery Certificate — certifying the delivery of bonds to J. P. Morgan Securities, Inc.
- Authentication Order — authorizing the registrar, Bankers Trust Company, to authenticate the bonds, complete the records required with respect to registration and deliver the bonds to the purchaser, J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc.
- District Certificate — certifying that certain facts relative to the district are true.

Minutes

Mrs. Woods moved approval of the finalization of the sale of the Statewide Penny Sales Tax Bonds, Series 2010. Second by Murphy.

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

Nay: None

Motion carried.

Item No. 18**Page 1 of 2****Subject: ADDITIONAL EARLY RETIRMENT — ELIGIBILITY TO BE BASED ON SENIORITY****For: INFORMATION****Contact: Twyla Woods/Patricia Schroeder** **Attachments: None**
(twyla.woods@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7972/patricia.schroeder@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-8527)

Background: On February 2, 2010, the Board approved an additional early retirement offering. The time frame for applying for early retirement will be from March 1, 2010 through the close of business on March 12, 2010. District administration informed the Board that the additional opportunity for early retirement will be available to the first 15 eligible employees as determined by date of receipt of Request of Early Retirement form by the Office of the Chief of Staff and Student Affairs.

In the past, when an additional opportunity to request early retirement was approved, a limited number of employees applied. However, given the current environment of potential budget cuts, it is believed there may be a higher number of applicants than in the past. After revisiting this issue, district administration is of the opinion the process would be more equitable if the opportunity for early retirement is given to those with the most district seniority. Accordingly, the superintendent is providing information to the Board that eligibility for early retirement will be based upon district seniority as opposed to the first 15 to submit his or her request. This change in process will be made known to all employees who are eligible to apply for early retirement via e-mail. District administration also will work with building administrators to make sure eligible employees are notified of this change.

Minutes

Ms. Boesen introduced the change in the Early Retirement Eligibility. The option will be made available to 15 employees and it will be based on seniority.

Dr. Sebring commented the district reconsidered this option and realized there would definitely be a limited number of early retirements that could be approved. The decision to award 15 employees the early retirement option will be based on seniority.

Ms. Boesen confirmed the time frame would be March 1 through the end of the day on March 12, 2010.

Dr. Sebring asked Alan Young, DMEA President if this decision was endorsed by DMEA.

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Mr. Young responded this item is not an item that DMEA is allowed to bargain on. Human Resources did contact DMEA for their opinion. He clarified the first time it came to the Board and was approved it was a first come, first served basis. Human Resources did contact DMEA when it was decided seniority would come into play.

Mrs. Woods stated she had attended the retirement meeting and she did have some questions regarding the first come, first served basis and felt it was a good decision to change the process to include seniority.

Ms. Buckton asked why the district limited the early retirement to 15.

Dr. Sebring responded that is the estimated number the district could afford.

Item No. 19**Page 1 of 6****Subject: PROPOSED 2009-2010 CALENDAR REVISION TO ACCOMMODATE SNOW DAYS****For: DISCUSSION/ACTION****Contact: Twyla Woods**
(twyla.woods@dmps.k12.ia.us; 242-7972)**Attachments: None**

Issue: Revision of the 2009-10 calendar due to snow days.

Superintendent's Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board discuss and take action to revise the 2009-10 calendar to recoup snow days. District administration is requesting action be taken in order to provide parents and staff appropriate time to make the necessary adjustments to implement this plan.

Presenters: None. Twyla Woods will be present to answer any questions.

Background: The Calendar Committee convened to review and discuss the results of the survey that explored potential options for making up the snow days. The committee requested that district officials contact the Iowa Department of Education (DE) to determine whether the 30-minute extension approved by the Iowa DE could be added to school days in a non-consecutive manner. The Iowa DE approved the following plan for DMPS to implement.

The district is requesting that starting on Monday, April 5, and continuing for the remainder of the school year, each school day be lengthened by a total of 30 minutes as follows: start times will be moved up 10 minutes, dismissal times will be moved back 10 minutes, and another 10 minutes of instructional time will be added during the day by trimming passing periods, recess, etc., at each building's discretion. Lunch periods will not be shortened. Four snow days will be recovered by these means.

A longer extension either for start time or dismissal time would have resulted in lost bus routes due to the district's partnership with DART for transportation of middle and high school students. That would have effectively denied access for many students, and it is a scenario district administration deems unacceptable.

Because an earlier start time and end time affect the collective bargaining agreement with the Des Moines Education Association, Alan Young, DMEA president, obtained approval from DMEA's membership to amend the contract in this regard.

Each building will be required to submit its plan to regional leadership regarding how the building will capture the additional 10 minutes of instruction time. The remaining two

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snow days will be added to the end of the year so that the last day for elementary and middle schools will be June 9, and the last day for high schools will be June 10.

The plan does not call for any Saturday classes, which were the least popular option in the survey that explored potential ways to recoup lost days and meet the state mandated requirement of a 180-day school calendar.

Scheduling classes on Friday, March 12, was a popular choice in the survey but rejected because March 12 is already counted towards the district's 180 calendar days. This date is counted toward the 180 calendar days because it comes at the end of a week where the 27.5 hours of instruction per week threshold will have been satisfied by Thursday, March 11. Iowa's DE does not allow days to count twice toward the 180-day total.

Changing the early outs remaining on the calendar back to regular dismissal times was also explored but ruled out because of the same principle. The February 15 professional development day for teachers was not considered due to contractual obligations to service providers hired for those dates.

Minutes

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

Ms. Boesen introduced the recommendation for making up the snow days.

Mr. Murphy moved to accept the calendar proposal. Second by Strong.

Twyla Woods explained the district is proposing 30 minutes of instructional time be added to the school day. She thanked the calendar committee and everyone who responded to the survey. When discussion began the district thought there was a set of opportunities available. As time progressed, some were not viable. The committee continued to work with the DE (Department of Education). The DE gave the district permission to use the 30-minute dismissal. With this district being so large, transportation is an issue. The district will take 10 minutes each at the beginning and end of the day and transportation can be accommodated with both the district and city transportation. The associate superintendents and executive directors have worked with building administrators to ensure there will be an additional 10 minutes of instruction included sometime during the day. This accommodation will make up four of the snow days and the additional two days will be added to the end of the year. This will give the district the ability to add on one more snow day at the end of the year without Board

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approval. If the Board approves this proposal, there are plans to put an FAQs link on the district Web site so parents and community can get answers to questions they may still have.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson stated she feels it is very important for the district and Board to evaluate the effectiveness of the option being proposed. This information would be important if the district is in this position again.

Ms. Twyla Woods commented the DE made this suggestion to the district.

Ms. Caldwell-Johnson reiterated the proposal, if passed, warrants an evaluation.

Ms. Strong commented on the March 12 date that could not be used as a make-up day because it already is counted as a student contact day. She wants the record to state she was very disappointed the DE would allow the district to count March 12 as a student contact day. When a district is faced with this type of a situation trying to make up instruction time, it is very evident the best choice would be to provide a full day of instruction that would reap the most benefit to students. The district is now in the position of being forced to make a decision that is not in the best interest of students. Declaring March 12 as a student contact makes no sense and she believes the DE in the state of Iowa should open their eyes and have laws and regulations that are in the best interest of students. In this case it is not and it is despicable. The district and Board are forced to deal with the cards that were dealt and the proposal that is on the table is the best the district can do in this case. She feels this is an important topic that needs to be dealt with and the district should be able to utilize that day after conferences for a day of instruction.

Ms. Twyla Woods commented the March 12 day was very difficult to explain to the public but she did not know if the community was aware that staff does work additional time in the evenings for conferences.

Ms. Strong understands why the day is counted as a student contact day, her point was in extenuating circumstances as this year has been, the district should have the flexibility and be able to use common sense and do what is best for students in this case.

Ms. Buckton questioned whether lengthening the school day will add quality instructional time for students. She commented on a decision to add days on to the end of the school calendar will substantially interfere with summer educational opportunities for students or staff. The DE guidance does not say will interfere with vacation plans for students or staff. Adding days on Saturday or eliminating days during spring break could work, however those choices were not popular with the survey and the decision has

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been made not to use those options. She is concerned about making up the extra 10 minutes during the school day. She is inclined not to support the 30-minute addition to the school day.

Ms. Strong commented the district is using the designated snow days on the calendar. Her thought is if the district has to cancel school another day this year, the district has one more day, June 11, to use as a make-up day. She also commented on the Saturday option and if the Board decided to use that option, DMEA would have to sign off on that option.

Ms. Twyla Woods commented with Saturday being an option, there was a concern about availability of staff and extra cost for substitute teachers. She also had heard from several religious groups that Saturday is their Sabbath and the calendar committee wanted to honor that.

Mrs. Jeanette Woods commented that attendance could be a problem because so many students have jobs on the weekend.

Ms. Strong commented this is not the most desirable way to make up the minutes by adding to the end of the day, she believes these are unique circumstances and like so many things in daily life, the district is going through the motions to satisfy a requirement. She would rather see the days made up in complete days but feels the Board is in a position where that option is not available.

Ms. Nigut confirmed that Twyla Woods had been in contact with the DE several times and even brought forth the idea that the Des Moines district is somewhat unique with transportation issues, could the district extend the day by 20 minutes and extend it to 16 days equaling one make-up day or adding minutes to the early out days. She stated the calendar committee came up with many scenarios to cover these days and were repeatedly told no by the DE. She also commented the committee had to be financially responsible when considering the options.

Mrs. Jeanette Woods asked if there were any figures available that indicated what the cost will be in overtime for support staff.

Ms. Twyla Woods stated she had worked closely with the different departments and they did not anticipate any cost in this proposal.

Ms. Link commented the Board needs to remember what their role is and realize teachers are very creative and adding 10 more minutes to class time and engaging students will not be a problem for most teachers.

Dr. Sebring heard from several administrators that adding minutes to a day that is already in session will provide more quality learning than going later into June. She felt most administrators were in favor of this proposal.

Ms. Buckton commented all the options that have been on the table are also rationale for considering spring break days. Every make-up day would not have to be at the end of the school year if snow days could be built into spring break.

Dr. Sebring stated there have been many discussions about the next calendar and how snow days will be built in and what the order of priority will be.

Mr. Murphy agrees with Ms. Buckton's comments and feels it is difficult to add minutes to make up four whole days of instruction. He understands why this decision was made but goes back to what the role of the local School Board is. In this case it is to defend a decision that was made. So many parameters were put on the Board, it made the decision difficult and the Board is simply complying. In regard to March 12, he feels that would not be a good choice because students would be out of school for conferences, go to school for one day then have spring break for a week. He feels it is difficult to hold students' attention during the final four days of school no matter what. He is disappointed now that he was in favor of the calendar that was approved by the Board in December. He questions whether the district needs time off for conferences. With parents being able to keep up with their student's progress on Infinite Campus, are they really necessary? There are two days of conferences in October and two days in March. He questions the Martin Luther King holiday in the middle of winter. He feels kids need to be in school. He realizes it is an in-service day but that in-service day could be moved to the beginning of the year. He questions what percentage of the students in Des Moines actually use spring break for vacation and spring break should be revisited. Tighten up the school year and eliminate days off during the year so there is more latitude at the end of the year.

Ms. Buckton commented the teachers in the district are very creative and do amazing work with limited resources and a diverse student population. It is the job of the Board to make sure the kids are learning. If the Board carried that philosophy to an extreme, the Board would never ask for evidence that students are learning. Part of what that evidence does is help the Board decide what the teachers need in terms of support in order to be the most creative entrepreneurs of learning they can be. That is part of the role of the Board.

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Board members asked what other districts were doing to make up days and Mr. Murphy commented many schools were adding on days at the end of the year but the small districts have the luxury of starting late. Because of transportation issues this district can not use that option.

Ms. Nigut and Dr. Sebring said other districts were adding time to the end of the day and some were using Saturdays as an option.

Ms. Boesen feels the Board and district have made the best decision possible, considering the parameters.

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

Nay: Buckton

Motion carried.

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