

BOARD RETREAT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF JOHNSON, STATE OF IOWA
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
9:00 AM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009
PRESIDENT PATTI FEILDS, PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT : Fields, Cooper, Dorau, Klouda, Cilek
ALSO PRESENT: Lane Plugge, Jim Behle, Ann Feldmann

Welcome

President Fields called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Ground rules were established for the meeting. Director Shaw arrived at 9:11 a.m. Director Swisher arrived at 9:23 a.m.

Governance

- a. Board members discussed their self assessment
 - i. Board will seek input before writing policy
 - ii. Superintendent receives direction from the Board as a whole, not from individuals or committees
 1. Board members must understand the budget, so they may need to talk with staff members aside from the superintendent
 2. This item was tabled to the parking lot for future additional discussion
 - iii. Board members must participate in budgeting, a budget development process could be referred to a new committee, a Finance Committee
 - iv. Board members discussed how they respond to personnel matters that constituents bring to them; they discussed how they should make patrons aware that they do not get into personnel matters not because they don't care, but because they may have to sit in judgment at some point regarding the matter and having prior knowledge may disqualify them
 - v. Board members noted that they have legal obligations to treat confidential information as such
 - vi. The development of policy regarding board members' conduct was referred to the governance committee
- b. Board members discussed board and district goals
 - i. Klouda described how the superintendent's goals were changed to reflect state evaluation requirements
 - ii. It was expressed that board goals and superintendent goals should be aligned
 - iii. Dorau asked if Ends Policies should be more specific and a discussion ensued about the origin and purpose of Ends Policies. It was noted that the board purposefully wrote the Ends Policies to reflect the thinking of educational measurement experts
 - iv. The governance committee will work on Board goals for 2009-10 and bring them back to the entire board for review and adoption
 - v. Superintendent Plugge distributed copies of his 2009-10 goals
- c. Policy Recommendations
 - i. Board members discussed the policy that describes their organizational meeting
 - ii. It was suggested that a joint meeting of the communications and governance committee will discuss the new board communication policy

Break from 10:40 – 10:53 a.m.

Code of Conduct

- a. Board members discussed expectations for members in their interactions with each other, with the public, and with staff. It was agreed that members have a responsibility to ask questions but that this should be done in a way that models respectful interactions
- b. The governance committee will consider updating board policies to reflect expectations for board members' interactions

Redistricting

Members discussed and will determine at an upcoming board meeting that the redistricting committee be officially named a board committee.

- a. Priorities
 - i. Board members clarified their four priorities for the redistricting committee and will take formal action to adopt them at an upcoming board meeting. (see attached document)
 - ii. Board members shared thoughts that the redistricting committee should not consider one priority as more important than the others; all four should be considered and balanced in any scenario presented to the board by the committee.
- b. Committee charge and process
 - i. Board members expressed the desire to make clear that qualifying for free or reduced lunch, ethnicity, and race do not equate to an inability to learn. Board members expressed that they wish for the redistricting committee to state how all of these factors are impacted by each of their proposed scenarios.
 - ii. A discussion was held regarding the concept that “everything is on the table” for the redistricting committee to consider.
- c. Committee information
 - i. Superintendent Plugge informed the board that he is finalizing the list of redistricting committee members. He is waiting to hear from one municipality and will meet with the Equity Committee on Wednesday, November 11, prior to determining the last several at large assignments.
 - ii. Directors Cooper and Dorau will serve on the redistricting committee.
- d. Boundary Duration
 - i. Board members stressed that both a short term and long term solution to high school enrollment issues should be forwarded by the redistricting committee
 - ii. Board members expressed that all scenarios will have to consider carefully the costs associated with changes.
- e. Third high school
 - i. Board members continued the discussion regarding financial feasibility of all parts of any scenarios that are offered by the redistricting committee

Directors Cilek and Cooper leave at 2:09 p.m.

Communications

- a. The governance committee will draft for board consideration a proposed finance committee charge. The board will then determine if this is a committee they wish to adopt.
- b. Swisher suggested the district/board invite a writer/expert to Iowa City to share ideas about redistricting based upon demographic data. Board members suggested that this idea could be brought up in a regular meeting.
- c. Board members expressed a desire to have redistricting committee meetings taped and broadcast. It was suggested that staff ask for help with the quality of taping from Channel 4 staff.
- d. Board members expressed a desire to attend and observe the redistricting committee meetings.

Budget

- a. Bussing Changes
- b. Finance Committees
- c. Facility Strategic Plan
- d. Brainstorming Opportunities

TABLED DUE TO LACK OF TIME

MOTION BY DIRECTOR KLOUDA, SECOND BY DIRECTOR DORAU TO ADJOURN AT 2:38PM.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0-2

Pattie Fields, Board President

Paul Bobek, Board Secretary