

EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF JOHNSON, STATE OF IOWA
509 S. DUBUQUE STREET
2:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010
PRESIDENT PATTI FIELDS, PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE: Michael Cooper, Tuyet Dorau, Patti Fields, Gayle Klouda, Michael Shaw, and Sarah Swisher.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Toni Cilek

President Fields called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

It was noted that 24 hour notice was not possible for today's board meeting as the action the board took earlier this week on January 12th to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and subsequent legislative action makes it necessary to conduct this board meeting with less than 24 hour notice. In addition, time is of the essence for the board to file the MOU with the Department of Education.

Action on submitting Race to the Top MOU

Dr. Plugge noted that the board earlier approved the MOU on January 12, 2010 and the district is concerned that the language and the speed at which the Iowa Legislature is moving as it relates to collective bargaining in low achieving schools and the MOU. In addition, there is concern about the potential consequences with the loss of Title I funds. Dr. Plugge recommended the district not submit its Memorandum of Understanding application to the Department of Education by the 4:30 PM deadline.

Directors discussed the potential impact on the district of both submitting and not submitting. It was noted that if the district does not submit its MOU and the Iowa Department of Education does have its grant application approved, the Iowa City School District would not be eligible to participate in the Race to the Top funding of \$1.7 to \$2.1 million over a four year period of time. In addition, it was noted that all UEN schools were conducting this emergency meeting. It was reported that the ICEA will sign the MOU that the board approved on January 12th. Directors discussed the IASB's recommendation of not submitting the MOU as opposed to submitting it with language allowing for a withdrawal and then withdrawing the submission.

Sue Dvorsky addressed the board not speaking on behalf of the ICEA or the ISEA, but strictly as a citizen, and encouraged the board for Iowa City to once again be leaders within the Urban Education Network. Ms. Dvorsky said it would be a mistake for the board not to submit and if the board does not submit the MOU, the Iowa City Community School District would lose its moral authority to lead the UEN.

Jeremy from ISEA reported that the ISEA submitted a letter supporting the state's application and left it up to the local education associations to sign off if they chose. Jeremy reported that 70% districts had signed on as of yesterday. Coy noted that if the district does not submit its MOU and the state's application does get approved, the district loses out of \$1.7 to \$2.4 million. If on the other hand the district does not submit and the state is not successful in its application, then there might be another opportunity for a second application.

Directors discussed the risks associated with not submitting the district's MOU and the potential financial consequences.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR KLOUDA, SECONDED BY DIRECTOR COOPER TO SUPPORT DR. PLUGGE'S RECOMMENDATION OF NOT SUBMITTING THE DISTRICT'S MOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. DIRECTORS COOPER AND KLOUDA VOTED YES, DIRECTORS SWISHER, DORAU, FIELDS, AND SHAW VOTED NO. DIRECTOR CILEK WAS ABSENT. MOTION WAS DEFEATED 2-4-1.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR KLOUDA, SECONDED BY DIRECTOR DORAU TO ADJOURN AT 3:07 PM. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1.

President

Board Secretary