

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, COUNTY OF JOHNSON, STATE OF IOWA
509 S. DUBUQUE STREET
7:30 AM., MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010
PRESIDENT PATTI FIELDS, PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Cooper, Patti Fields, Gayle Klouda, Michael Shaw, and Sarah Swisher.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Toni Cilek, Tuyet Dorau

President Fields called the meeting to order at 7:37 AM.

President Fields thanked the board members for attending an early morning special meeting.

Board Response to CCA Board

President Fields distributed a draft apology letter to the Clear Creek-Amana School board. Directors discussed which audiences should receive the letter. It was suggested that the Clear Creek-Amana School board with a copy to Superintendent Vincent receive this letter. President Fields noted that an apology letter from the Iowa City Community School District's Board of Education should be sent to the Clear Creek-Amana board given a board member's suggestion regarding dissolving the Clear Creek-Amana School District.

Director Dorau arrived at 7:40 AM and recommended the board not send the letter, but Director Dorau herself would personally send the letter to the Clear Creek-Amana School board. Directors discussed and decided the letter should come from the board as a whole.

Director Cilek arrived at 7:42 AM.

Directors also discussed sending a separate letter to the Williamsburg Community School District. President Fields will finalize the letter, put it on letterhead and sign the letter on behalf of the board. Director Dorau inquired if she should also send a personal letter as this was her intent. Director Swisher noted that communications should be from a united board and that a letter from the board should be sent.

Board Response to Community

President Fields inquired if there was a need to communicate to the Iowa City Community School District community. Director Dorau noted that her comments were the consensus view of an entire table at a recent re-districting meeting. Director Cooper expressed concern about how a conversation, even in a brainstorming session, can have on the entire community. Director Cilek expressed concern about how a board member's comment can impact the rest of the board members when the rest of the board is unaware of the comment or suggestion. Directors reached consensus to copy the Clear Creek-Amana letter to the Press-Citizen. Director Dorau requested that the letter include the context which was a brainstorming work session at a redistricting meeting.

Board Evaluation

President Fields said the board needs to determine how to work together and that the recent actions cannot continue. Director Cilek noted that community members view the board as

dysfunctional and this dysfunction takes the board's focus away from students. Directors discussed the need to work well together as a group recognizing the board's current issues are the Superintendent Search, redistricting, and budgeting. Directors also discussed how these actions will be viewed by Superintendent candidates. Not all directors agreed on the dysfunction of the board and cited examples prior to this previous school board election. Director Cooper acknowledged that change is very slow and difficult and has been frustrated in the past to get change done but does not believe board members going to the press to garner public support is the way to effectuate change. Director Cooper noted that all board members need to change to correct this perception of dysfunction. Director Dorau expressed concerns that the board does not promote creative thinking and noted that it appears that each board member has their own agenda and senses a lack of trust amongst board members. Director Klouda noted that the board should agree to try to speak with one voice as a board, to apologize to the Communications Committee for not taking more seriously the recommendations as the boundary committee and superintendent search have been very time consuming, and suggested that it may be a good thing in that change comes slowly as one of the guiding principles is first do no harm.

Director Klouda left at 8:38 AM.

Director Swisher requested a board education team building activity. Director Swisher also discussed her plans with summer school and coordinating those activities in a logical way. President Fields cautioned board members about individual board members working directly with staff on an issue prior to a board directive.

MOTION BY DIRECTOR SWISHER, SECONDED BY DIRECTOR CILEK TO ADJOURN AT 8:53 AM. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1.

President

Board Secretary