



Iowa City Community School District

Educational Services Center

Stephen F. Murley Superintendent of Schools

509 South Dubuque Street • Iowa City, IA 52240 • (319) 688-1000 • Fax (319) 688-1009 • www.iccsd.k12.ia.us

BOARD GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
509 S. DUBUQUE ST. IOWA CITY, IA 52240
4:30 PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2011
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tuyet Dorau, Marla Swesey and Sarah Swisher.

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Murley, Ann Feldmann, Becky Furlong, Pam Ehly and Kim Colvin,

Call to order at 4:47pm

Open Records Legally Required Board Policy

Murley reviewed the current policy 901.1 and presented a draft of a revised suggested policy. Murley reviewed the revised policy stating the first paragraph better explains which records are open for public examination. The second paragraph specifies who the custodian of records is and that administration will develop guidelines and procedures for implementation of the policy. The third paragraph defines how to go about obtaining records and states a fee is involved. Murley stated the language is clarifying and that the district has developed a process to log and track requests. Dorau asked that the necessary adoption and revision dates be added to the document along with the legal reference. The document will be placed on the October 25, 2011 Board agenda for a first reading.

Senior Year Plus Legally Required Board Policy

Ehly reviewed the history behind the recommendation for the Senior Year Plus Policy. She stated in the 1980's legislation passed a bill for students to take college level courses (Post Secondary Enrollment Option) with the only courses applicable being those that were not offered by the district. In the 2000's came concurrent enrollment and career academy. In 2008 legislation rolled all collegiate programs into one legislation; Senior Year Plus. In order to qualify students needed to be proficient on most recent ITED's which excluded some students who were currently taking courses as they were not proficient on ITED's. Many district shared with the State that this was problematic. The State recognized this thus the rationale for the development of the Senior Year Plus policy. Ehly reviewed the policy with the committee stating each bullet point was actually a recommendation from the Department of Education. Murley stated this policy is somewhat time sensitive as it would require a first, second, and third reading by the Board for approval. The policy will be placed on the October 25, 2011 Board agenda for a first reading. Ehly will provide the committee with a link to the document from the Department of Education and Furlong will present the policy at the Board meeting.

Board Ends Policy

Swisher asked committee members for a priority of what they would like the committee to review. Dorau stated she would like to review Ends Policies as she feels they need a lot of work. She gave an example of the character education policy. She feels the focus on academic areas should have been the

priority over the character education policy. She would like to see a revision of policies to correlate to core curriculum and prioritize policies into a tier pattern. She stated the language in the policies is often misinterpreted and that the language should spell out exactly what it intends. Swesey stated she would like to review the superintendent limitations to help direct the superintendent. Dorau stated Ends Policy directs the superintendent and superintendent limitations tell him what he can't do. She stated the Board should not get too prescriptive with the superintendent. Swesey stated she feels the directives are too vague and Dorau stated they are intended to be. Swesey stated she would like to see limitations reviewed as they were last done in 2007 and much has changed. Swisher stated her priorities include establishing community linkage associated with all policies, and achievement as she would like to look at how ends policy addresses compliance.

Use of Community Conversations Planning Guide

Swisher briefed committee members on the Community Conversations Planning Guide she previously emailed to them. She stated the Kettering Foundation was a non-profit organization who developed templates on how to have policy communication. Dorau asked Swisher to help her understand how she is weaving all these things together. Swisher stated it could be a method for communicating with stakeholders which is a two-way street often empowering stakeholders with decision making. Dorau questioned how this fits in with governance and stated linkage was handed off to the Communications Committee.

Board Goals

The committee agreed that two of the current goals are associated with the Governance Committee, those being:

1. We will adopt a second tier of Ends Policies stipulating educational targets for ICCSD students that are of equal priority and second to the basic academic core areas addressed in the first tier.
2. We will work with administration to develop compliance for all Ends Policies and Superintendent Limitations.

Swesey stated she would like to see a Board goal for class size. Dorau stated she would see class size as more of a limitation as opposed to a Board goal but cautioned that it would be a very scary limitation and it would not be simple. She stated there were too many variances depending on the area of the district you are in. Swesey stated she realizes there are formulas used for FTE's to give the Superintendent direction to help in variances in buildings however she does not want that to be at the superintendent's discretion. She would like to have something in place that specifies action when class size reaches a certain number. Swisher stated she believes there should be a way to find better input on class size. Dorau stated putting additional limitations on the superintendent sends the message we don't trust the superintendent to know and it is dangerous to do so. At the next Board meeting the committee will report they are looking to review Superintendent Limitations and also looking at Board goals to have written somewhere that the Board values a certain class size.

MIS Schedule

Murley inquired if the internal monitoring report being used for reporting works for the committee. Members agreed it worked fine.

District Surveys

Murley stated a start of the school year survey was done and the next scheduled survey would be a community survey slated to go out in the next few weeks. The district held off on this survey as to not confuse it with the survey done by SYNESI who is doing the process audit of the district. Swisher stated she would like to see Board questions regarding communication with the public on the survey. Swesey stated she thought the Communications Committee was currently working on that. The committee stated they would like the Board to receive a draft of the survey before it is sent out.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on October 31, 2011 at 10:00 am. Swisher will develop a draft an agenda which will include ends policies.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.