

The Board of Directors of the Spencer Community School District met in REGULAR SESSION on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 5:30 P.M. in the Board Room at the Central Office, Spencer, Iowa.

QUORUM Vice President Mechler called the meeting to order. Dean Mechler, Barb Van Wyk, Ed Ver Steeg and Les Zobrist answered roll call. Dave Schilchtemeier is absent, scheduled to arrive later.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

AGENDA Motion by Les Zobrist, second by Barb Van Wyk to approve the meeting agenda. All voted affirmative. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA Motion by Barb Van Wyk, second by Ed Ver Steeg to approve the consent agenda with the additional bills and bank information as presented. Items included in the consent agenda are as follows:

- Minutes of previous meetings
- Approval of Bills
- Bank Information
- Open Enrollment Requests
- Personnel as listed:

Resignations:

Ryan Toxel – 9th Grade Boys Basketball coach

Brian Dirks – 8th Grade Boys Basketball coach

New Hires:

Tacey Walburg – School Administration Manager for Middle School for approximately 40 hours per week at a salary of \$12.50 per hour

Laurie Murray - School Administration Manager for Elementary School for approximately 40 hours per week at a salary of \$12.50 per hour

Deb Kimbell – Increase FTE from .5 FTE to .7 FTE for a salary of \$30,525 effective October 1, 2007

Michelle VerSteeg –Elementary Special Education for a salary of \$18,745 (BA 15 – 10, .5 FTE)

Chris Fitzgerald - 8th Grade boys basketball coach for a salary of \$1,742.

Stipends for Building Leadership Team and District

Leadership Team - Building Leadership Team - \$500; District Leadership Team - \$100

Stipends for Teacher Quality Committee – Mick Ketchum - \$500, Tori Storm - \$500, Glenn Graettinger - \$500

All voted affirmative with Ed Ver Steeg abstaining. Motion carried.

VISITORS Visitors were recognized.

PSY REPORT

Allison Simpson provided information regarding events that PSY is doing, including providing meals to honor extra-curricular participants, Middle School Interaction Night, "Family Meals" booklet distributed at Parent/Teacher Conferences and "Family Reading Night" at the elementary buildings.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

Lucas DeWitt reported on the reading initiatives at the elementary buildings. Their focus is on small group reading where 40-60 minutes per day are spent with children at their rate of learning. Students are taught comprehensive strategies where teachers model strategies for students in addition to fluency practice. An additional 45-60 minutes are scheduled throughout the day in Language Arts, whole-group learning. If more individual attention is needed, other interventions are scheduled to assist the student.

Steve Barber shared on the Middle School reading initiatives. Continue to make teachers aware of lexile scores and how to use in learning strategies. Focus is on vocabulary, multi-disciplinary units and analyzing student work. Teacher's Professional Development and Learning Team times are spent looking at implementation of QAR strategies and how it is working. Each student has 43 minutes of English and 43 minutes of Reading per day. Students with identified needs will receive an additional 43 minutes of instruction.

Joe Muetting shared of the need to continue to find more time for students to free-read during the day outside of the curriculum. We continue to stress that ALL teachers are reading teachers. Science and Math curriculum require more reading and increases vocabulary and understanding even though not a reading class. The MAP testing, CASA and FAME programs are some of the programs that allow us to teach to the reading level of students.

Discussion between board members and principals shared the need to move reading scores forward and the implementation of long-term plans and not just short-term fixes. Focus is on strategies that have a proven track record. Parent involvement is also essential. Formal training for teachers is beginning on how to use the MAP testing data to continue to assist students.

Kathy Elliott shared a Literacy Improvement Pyramid and components necessary to improve reading. Time spent reading must be increased at all grade levels K-12. Two to three hours per day is necessary to show improvement and maintain literacy level. Literacy strategies must be explicitly taught. Four key components of reading curriculum are word knowledge, fluency, comprehension and writing.

Dave Schlichtemeier arrived at 6:30 PM.

**LEADERSHIP FOR
LEARNING**

Two questions are to be discussed tonight. How are we doing? What are the common beliefs and values as a team? We are just beginning to see results from implementations and it is still early to really assess our progress. The Lighthouse group is looking at our data in addition to staff/board surveys and is putting together a presentation for the board. Discussion regarding current attitude and how to change it to effectively see a positive movement. We have an attitude that we want to improve and we have implemented data sources to help diagnose problems and begin to solve them. Every student is valuable and the focus of our efforts. We believe everyone can do better.

The board took a short break at 7:05 PM

**INNOVATIVE
CALENDAR 2008-09**

Motion by Dean Mechler , second by Les Zobrist to set a hearing date for the next regularly scheduled board meeting to act on the Innovative Calendar for 2008-09. All voted affirmative. Motion carried.

EARLY START DATE

Motion by Les Zobrist, second by Ed Ver Steeg to approve a hearing at next regularly scheduled board meeting to have the option of starting school prior to September 1 for the 2008-09 school year. All voted affirmative. Motion carried.

BOARD POLICIES

The Board reviewed Board Policies as listed:

- Accountability Test Integrity
- Public Forum 204.14

Motion by Ed Ver Steeg, second by Les Zobrist to approve the first reading of the Board Policy on the Accountability of Test Integrity. All voted affirmative. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Board Policy on Public Forum 204.14 and the notification required to be put on the board agenda. The board would like to discuss this issue further at the next scheduled board meeting.

DISCUSSION

Information/Discussion Items:

- Certified Enrollment Count – budget enrollment is down 25.1 students
- Spencer High School National Debate Qualifying Tournament –a 2:30 PM dismissal for High School to accommodate this tournament.
- School Assemblies and Athletic Activities – Flag Etiquette – administrative expectations to be implemented 2008-09 school year. In support of the Administration -
 - Motion by Dean Mechler, second by Les Zobrist that the Board approve the administration recommendations for National Anthem/Flag Respect etiquette. All voted affirmative. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Evaluation Changes – Iowa standards are being implemented at the State level
- IASB Convention – November 14 – 16

SUPT COMMENTS

Board photo has been rescheduled for Monday, October 29 at 6:00 P.M. Public hearing will follow at 6:30 P.M. Teacher presentations will begin in November.

ADJOURN

Motion by Ed Ver Steeg, second by Barb Van Wyk to adjourn. All voted affirmative. Motion carried. The time 8:15 P.M.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY