

The Board of Directors of the Cedar Falls Community School District in the County of Black Hawk, State of Iowa, met in regular session pursuant to the laws and rules of said Board at the City of Cedar Falls City Hall, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the President and the roll being called there were present Joyce Coil in the chair, and the following named Directors: Eric Giddens, Jeff Hassman, Susie Hines, Jenny Leeper, Jeff Orvis and Sasha Wohlpart. Others in attendance were: Dr. Andrew Pattee, Superintendent, Douglas Nefzger, Director of Business Affairs, Daniel Conrad, Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Adrian Talbot, Director of Human Resources, and Pam Zeigler, Director of Elementary Education. Also present Brian Cross, Justin Urbanek, Kenton Engels, Cody Mills, Amy McCabe, Susan Langan, Brenna Griffin, Heidi Anderson, Megan Tresemer, Jason Wedgbury, Jeremy Jones, Bill Boevers, Christine Mangrich, and Andrew Wind.

President Coil called the meeting to order and reported that we are here to focus on students and student achievement

Item No. 1– Approval of the Following Consent Agenda Items:

Director Giddens moved and Director Wohlpart seconded the motion the Board approve the following consent agenda.

1. Approval of the December 11, 2017 Board of Education agenda
2. Approval of the November 27, 2017 special work session and regular Board of Education meeting minutes as presented
3. Approval of the bills as presented for payment as reviewed by the designated Board member, Director Giddens.
4. Human Resource Report
5. Aplington-Parkersburg River Hills Consortium Agreement
6. Computer Network Equipment Sale

**Human Resources Report  
December 11, 2017**

**2017-18 School Year Resignations - Recommended for Approval**

Keli Boren	Southdale	Kindergarten	EOSY	2017-2018
Haley Roehrkasse	Southdale	Kindergarten	EOSY	2017-2018

Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 2– Public Comment:

None

Item No. 3 – Communications

High School Student Senate representative Arlo Hettle reported on the following:

- Student Senate 6<sup>th</sup> grade dance party on December 19, 2017
- Luminaries will be constructed and hung on businesses in downtown on December 21, 2017
- Winter dance will be held January 27, 2018

Dr. Pattee reported on the District news letter

- District made the College Boards 8<sup>th</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll, one of only three school districts in the State of Iowa to receive that distinction and one out of 447 in U.S. and Canada.
- Michelle Droe Lincoln Elementary music teacher is a finalist for the 2018 Grammy Educator Award
- Parent University update
- Instructional coaches presentation at University of Northern Iowa
- Dance team State competition
- Google certification for Instructional Coaches
- Student participation in “House of Code”. There were over 100 million students worldwide that participated in the project.

Item No. 4 – Secretary’s Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Nefzger reviewed the monthly balances for November 2017 in the general, schoolhouse, student activity and food service funds. President Coil reported that the report would be filed subject to audit.

Item No. 5 – Informational Report: Learning Based Grading (LBG)

Christine Mangrich and Megan Tresemer presented on Learning Based Grading within the school district. Ms. Mangrich began the presentation by reporting the idea for Learning Based Grading began back in 2011 when the District started exploring Professional Learning Communities (PLC). In 2015 work included guaranteed viable curriculum and central learnings, additional book studies, work-shops and conferences. Ms. Mangrich reviewed the following four critical questions of PLCs:

1. What do we want students to know?
2. How do we know they have learned it?
3. How do we respond if they have not learned it?
4. How do we respond if a student already shows they have learned it?

Megan Tresemer discussed the book “Learning by Doing” was central in developing a specific shift in the use of assignments where teachers worked in collaborative teams to clarify the criteria and ensure consistency among team members when assessing student work. The PLC process lead staff to the learning based grading process. During the presentation it was noted that if we base our grades on standard rather than attendance, behavior, or extra credit (which often has nothing to do with course objectives) we can actually help students grapple with the idea of quality and walk away with a higher degree of self-sufficiency. We can and should report information about student performance in areas like attendance and effort, but we can report separately from academic achievement. Ms. Tresemer stated there are already a number of school districts across the State of Iowa that have moved towards learning based grading. Those Districts include: Ankeny, Cedar Falls Elementary, Cedar Rapids, College Community, Des Moines Public, Waukee, Solon, and West Branch.

Ms. Tresemer reviewed the mission statement of the school District, which is educating each and every student to be a life-long learner and a caring, responsible citizen, stating a true mission of a school is revealed by what people do, not by what they say. Therefore, educators committed to bringing their mission statements to life in their school are relentless in examining every practice, procedure, and decision in asking, “Is the consistent with our mission of high levels of learning for all students?”

Various teachers presented videos throughout the presentation. Those videos came from Brittan Engles High School world language French, Brenna Griffin High School English, Heidi Anderson High School English, Susan Langan High School counselor, and Josh Wilkinson High School math.

The high school advanced math department provided a survey of 36 students concerning Learning Based Grading. The results of that survey indicated that 97% of the students believe the grading process used was fair and 100% of the students felt they were getting good feedback to support their learning and the teacher was clear in communicating ideas that need to be learned. Additional information and comments were shared by students in the survey on Learning Based Grading in that advanced math class.

Learning Based Grading pilot teams were established for the 2016-17 school year and were expanded for the 2017-18 school year. In addition, Mike Mattos and Thomas Guskey provided in district professional development during this time. Ms. Tresemer noted that information needed for college credit is not changing and the District not dropping letter grades at the secondary level.

At the end of the presentation the following questions and comments were offered by Board members.

- What does the success of the student based grading look like once implemented?
- How were teachers adjusting to the student based grading over the traditional practice grading?
- It is a mind shift for parents and students concerning letter grades to student based grading process.

At the end of the presentation President Coil thanked the presenters for all their work.

Item No. 6 – Approval of High School Outdoor Track Repair

Mr. Nefzger reviewed the bids for the resurfacing of the high school track. There were a total of 5 bids received. It is the recommendation of the administration to accept the low quote from Midwest Tennis & Track of Dennison, Iowa in the amount of \$99,017. This project will be funded by the 2017-2018 Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) and is part of the 10 year PPEL plan. Director Wohlpart moved and Director Hines seconded the motion to approve the High School outdoor track repair project bid from Midwest Tennis & Track of Dennison, Iowa in the amount of \$99,017. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 7 – Approval of Food Service Delivery Van Bid

Mr. Nefzger reviewed the bids for the food service delivery step van. Two bids were received. It is the recommendation of the administration to accept the low quote from Dick Witham Ford, Waterloo, Iowa in the amount of \$56,382. Director Orvis moved and Director Giddens seconded the motion to approve the bid from Dick Witham Ford of Waterloo, Iowa in the amount of \$56,382. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

Item No. 8 – Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Pattee reported on the following:

- January 8, 2018 Board Meeting
- Administrative Council/Board Retreat is scheduled for January 10, 2018
- Plans to set up tours for Board members to visit the new Aldrich Elementary currently under construction.

Item No. 9 – Questions, Comments, and Concerns

Director Hassman stated the District is working on the first draft of a process to create and utilize Benchmarks to assist in comparing Cedar Falls Schools against other schools within Iowa and the Midwest. Any input from the staff and public is welcomed.

Item No. 10 – Adjournment

Director Hines moved and Director Hassman seconded the motion to adjourn. Directors voting in favor of the motion: Coil, Giddens, Hassman, Hines, Leeper, Orvis and Wohlpart. Those voting “no” none. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Secretary

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President