



DAVENPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes

MISSION STATEMENT: The Davenport School District, in collaboration with parents/guardians and the community, will provide a caring, safe and stimulating environment that empowers students to persevere and become contributing members and problem solvers in our diverse and ever-changing world.

Meeting: Special Board Meeting
Date: Friday September 6, 2019

Location: District Office Conference Room
Start Time: 12:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call Heather Panke called the meeting to order at 12:06 PM. Board members present were Deanna Fitzpatrick and Kristi Bell, Gabe Gants, and Brad Sweet. Also present were Superintendent Jim Kowalkowski, Elementary Principal Courtney Strozyk, MS/HS Principal Chad Prewitt, District Administrative Assistant Stephanie Linstrum and one audience member (Elementary teacher Katy Fisk).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Discussion of Superintendent's recommendation to advertise for an Elementary Teacher Position.**

-Jim Kowalkowski informed the directors that his recommendation is based on current enrollment numbers being higher than anticipated in the first grade and kindergarten. In addition, the ending cash reserve is significantly higher than earlier projected. Mrs. Strozyk noted that the kindergarten currently has 2.5 teachers for 47 students and that the schedule seems to be working well. Several options for the higher than anticipated numbers in first grade (46) were considered by the administration, including a combo class, increased aide time, etc. We budgeted for class sizes of 43 for these two classes and actual enrollment shows an increase of 4 students in kindergarten and an increase in 3 students in first grade. Several directors expressed concerns that adding another elementary teacher had not been "on the radar" during budget preparations and development. Mrs. Fisk shared the challenges of working with a large class. There was considerable discussion regarding the recommendation. Mr. Kowalkowski informed the directors that one of the elementary paraprofessionals was going to be working half-days instead of full days this year and that Mrs. Strozyk and Mr. Prewitt will combine resources and condense overall instructional aide time by .5FTE. This will help offset increased costs due to the proposed new certificated position.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Acceptance of Resignation – Paraprofessional Teresa Vesneske**

-Brad Sweet moved to accept the resignation of instructional paraprofessional Mrs. Teresa Vesneske. Deanna Fitzpatrick seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

2. **Approval of Superintendent's recommendation to advertise for an Elementary Teacher.**

-Board member Gabe Gants recused himself from the vote because he felt, having a child in the first grade, he could not be impartial with his vote.

-Board member Kristi Bell also recused herself from the vote. As a potential applicant for the position she felt she could not be impartial either.

-Deanna Fitzpatrick moved and Brad Sweet seconded to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to advertise for an elementary teacher. The motion passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further action; Heather Panke adjourned the meeting at 12:52 PM.

Board Chair

Board Secretary