

Special Meeting  
Board of Education  
February 23, 2009

The Board convened in special session at 6:00 p.m. in the Diagnostic Learning Center. The following members answered the roll call: Butler, Gorenz, Parker, Ross, Stowell and Wolfmeyer. Members absent: Spangler

**PRESENTATION BY AUDIENCE ON ACTION ITEMS – none**

**DELIBERATION AGENDA – APPROVAL OF TRAVEL REQUESTS** – Moved by Stowell, seconded by Parker that the Travel Requests be approved as submitted.

Mr. Hinton began by explaining that the Travel Requests were tabled at the last meeting and administration is presenting tonight a revised Travel Request listing. He noted that descriptions and additional information has been provided. He confirmed that travel will be greatly restricted for the remainder of the 2008 - 2009 school year and each travel request will require an additional explanation of the funding source and professional development requirements.

Carla Eman explained that many grants have a professional development component that requires people to travel or consultants to present at the District. An example would be the Reading First Grant, this grant requires that Reading Coaches participate in professional development. Mrs. Eman noted that administration has done their best to write the grants to have a mix of travel to conferences and consultants coming to the district. Mrs. Eman also noted that law requires that the Title 1 grant include 10% for professional development.

Board members discussed and stated their concerns regarding travel requests. Main concerns related to the need to travel out of state, travels being submitted in an untimely manner and the number of staff attending the same event.

Dr. Gorenz summarized that 1) travel requests need to come to the Board before the travel takes place 2) Superintendent Hinton will institute a process to look at the travel requests more critically.

On roll call, 6 ayes. Motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. GOAL 1 – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
2. GOAL 2 - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
3. GOAL 3 - QUALITY STAFF
4. GOAL 4 – SAFE, CARING ENVIRONMENTS
5. GOAL 5 – CULTURE OF CUSTOMER SERVICE – **PARENT PARTNERSHIPS** – Mr. Hinton explained that Mrs. Burke, District School, Family and Community Partnership Liaison/Coordinator, has been working to prepare a plan to fully engage our parents in the education of their children. The purpose of the plan as stated is to “Positively impact student achievement by developing a system of supports that enhance more inclusive and effective relationships between schools, families and the broader community.”

Mrs. Burke discussed her work this year. She reported on the challenges that the District needs to consider, and her recommendations. The highest priority of the plan is to present a district-wide approach to working with families as partners to impact our goal of student achievement – currently we do not have a plan. The second would be for the District Leadership Team to elevate the conversation to all levels of the community on how we engage and support our families. The third would be to develop a unifying framework using the Joyce Epstein model.

Mrs. Burke also the noted work being done to develop a Parent Advisory Council. Each school has identified 2 parents to serve on the committee. This group would do planning work this school year,

ADJOURNMENT – Dr. Gorenz adjourned the special meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Julia A. Cramer,  
Board Secretary

ATTEST:

David L. Gorenz  
Board President

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