

**UNION COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
DYSART-GENESE0-LA PORTE CITY
Regular Meeting
December 19, 2022**

Call to Order: Board President Corey Lorenzen called the public hearings to order at 6:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Reid Carlson, Maureen Hanson, Lindsay Piph0, Ben Schemmel and Jenna Scott.

Approval of the Agenda: On a motion by Schemmel, second by Scott, the agenda was approved as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Consideration of Action on Consent Items:

Minutes of the November 21, 2022 Board Meeting
Approval of Board Policies – Second Reading
Approval Board Policies – First Reading
Approval of Resignations:
 Jennie Lorenzen MS Track
Approval of Transfers/Reassignment: none
Approval of New Hires:
 Kevin Long 7th Grade Boys’ BB Head Coach
 Sydney Sanford DG Counselor (pending licensure)
 Sage Goddard LPC Spec Ed (pending licensure and background check)
Financial Reports:
 Invoices
Open Enrollment Requests

On a motion by Schemmel, second by Piph0, the board approved the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0, with Lorenzen abstaining.

Correspondence: The Board received a Christmas greeting from a neighboring school. Supt. Howard read a letter by a UNI student who completed her student teaching experience with HS PE/Health teacher Erin Wittenburg. She shared the positive experience she had in the Union District.

Comments from Public: A group of high school teachers were present to share their opinion with changing from a trimester to a semester schedule.

Superintendent’s Report: Instructional update: Looking to refocus aspects of the special ed program. IDEA Differentiated Accountability Assessment scores are in. Union exceeded the State average in 15 of 19 scored areas; met or exceeded the average in 21 of 25 areas, and our total score is one of the highest in the AEA. Financial Update: will be bringing Larry Siegel from ISFIS to speak to the board in January. Facility updates: Met with KCL about high school facilities assessment. Middle school gym floor should be done the first week of January and new graphics have been ordered. Communicating with architect on the time line for Phase III and security cameras. The safety/security grant is nearly complete, and will be submitted to the federal government for approval. Food service had a terrific site visit from the State. Staffing: Still looking for baseball and softball coaches. Safety/Security: Items for the classroom emergency buckets are being gathered.

Presentations:

Julie Miller, Central Rivers AEA Regional Administrator, and Maureen Hanson, Central Rivers Board member shared with Union school board members the services offered to Union administration and staff.

Corindy Stoakes reviewed the Mentoring and Induction program. It is a two-year program for all first- and second-year teachers. They must participate both years in order to receive a Standard teaching license. Mentees are required to complete a coaching cycle with the curriculum coordinator, have two formal observations and attend monthly meeting with the mentor. The mentors record their discussions and conduct observations and assist the teachers with implementation of the Iowa Core Teaching Standards.

Jason Toenges, High School Principal highlighted the professional development work being accomplished in his building. They continue work on the Standards Based Grading with the middle school staff, which will be fully implemented no later than the 2025-2026 school year. Some staff already utilize standards-based grading. Scope and Sequence is a plan for courses which lays out what they teach, how long it takes to teach and the standards covered. The outcome of this work will provide a clear connection to standard three of the Iowa Teaching Standards; provide administration the ability to see how each lesson fits in the broader picture; as new staff onboard they will have a clear understanding of what is being taught in each class they will be teaching; and they will be able to clearly articulate what standards are covered and when they are covered in each class. The goal is to have one class done this school year; half the classes outlined next year and all classes the year after. Professional Learning Communities meet at least one hour each month to review classroom instruction, student results, and discuss student behavior and help to support student learning. Toenges told the board they needed more time for professional development. Toenges then spoke on the walkthroughs/observations he conducts each year on a weekly basis and concluded his presentation with other building changes including attendance/behavior contracts and parent meetings; Minga the electronic pass system to control issues; and reinforcement of the cell phone policy, along with the proposed schedule change for the 2024-2025 school year.

New Business:

Consider approval of a Union CSD boys' soccer program. On a motion by Schemmel, second by Piphoo, a boys' soccer program will be established for the coming year contingent upon an agreement and coaching authorization being received. Motion carried 5-1, with Hanson opposed.

Consider approval of the Tama County Hazardous Mitigation Plan. On a motion by Carlson, second by Schemmel the Board approved the Tama County Hazardous Mitigation Plan. Tama County Emergency Management requires local board action so they may apply for grants in the event of a local disaster. Motion carried 6-0.

Lindsey Piphoo left the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Jenna Scott stepped out briefly and returned.

Consider approval of the 2023-2024 At-Risk/Dropout Prevention Plan. On a motion by Schemmel, second by Hanson, the 2023-2024 At-Risk/Dropout Prevention Plan was approved. Motion carried 4-0.

Consider approval of the SBRC Request for At-Risk/Dropout Prevention. On a motion by Hanson, “I move that the board of directors of the Union Community School District approve the application to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) in the amount of \$251,476.00 for At-Risk/Dropout Prevention during the 2023-2024 school year,” second by Schemmel. Motion carried 5-0.

Consider approval of selling district property per board policy 803.1. On a motion by Scott, second by Schemmel, the board approved selling district property that is stored in the Dysart bus barn. Motion carried 5-0. There is an accumulation of desks, chairs, mower parts, etc. that will be offered for sale.

Adjourn: On a motion by Scott, second by Hanson, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM. Motion carried 5-0.

Corey Lorenzen, President

Diane Roberts, Board Secretary