

SPRING BOARD WORKSHOP
March 27, 2006

Board President Randy Bauer called the session to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Educational Services Center Board Room

Board members present: Randy Bauer, Sandy Flatgard, Greg Kelsey, Norm Zahradnik, Shirley Exline, Brian Farmer; absent: Laurie Hughes. Administrators present: Dick Whitehead, Jim Rotter, Mark Gronemeyer, Greg Leytem, Ying Ying Chen, Dave Brauhn, Sue Skala, Ann Wooldridge, Kathy Miller.

Others in attendance: Trace Pickering, Project Coordinator of the Mid-West Center for Innovation and System Design at Grant Wood AEA. Jim Barth, Regional Facilitator at Grant Wood AEA.

President Bauer presented the format for the workshop which included introductions of all in attendance.

Trace Pickering addressed the group on the topic: Understanding Change and Culture in Turbulent Times. Mr. Pickering referenced a number of sources to explain the reality of culture and how it can both help and hinder the change process. The group was led through an activity to better understand 1st and 2nd order changes and how those are perceived and understood in different ways by different individuals. Groups were formed to further discuss the change that is occurring in education and specifically at College Community.

Jim Rotter, Director of Business Services provided information concerning the 2006-07 preliminary budget. Data was presented which outlined the Districts taxable valuation growth the past 25 years. The past 7 years have averaged a 3.58% growth rate compared to an 8.90% average in the previous 7 years. The valuation growth rate on the General Fund has averaged only a 2.5% increase during this same time. The District residential valuations are currently growing at twice the rate of the commercial and industrial valuations. Other factors bearing on the budget included the impact of the \$28,500,000 bond sale scheduled for April 10 and the cash lost (-\$510,000) due to assessed valuation settlements which will force the District to levy back additional dollars. The concept of Cash Reserve levy was discussed to help Building Administration and Board Members understand the necessity to position the District to finance the cash flow necessary to add staff and open the new Middle School.

Superintendent Whitehead presented information concerning the Challenges and Opportunities that exist at College Community Schools. The focus of his presentation was on the change and culture at Prairie. Other factors that were identified and effect change at the District include No Child Left Behind Legislation and the "Iowa Plan". Challenges that face the District include the need to centralize what needs to be taught and what strategies are best practice while allowing individualization on how to teach to the standards and when to use specific strategies. Using analogies of other professions and the unique culture of the District as a guideline, the group was challenged to identify the opportunities presented by our current environment and describe the role of the Board, Administrators, and Teachers to help move forward with the appropriate change. All groups reported out their recommendations which will be recorded and used as a focus for change.

It was recommended and agreed that the Board and Building Administration should schedule quarterly meetings utilizing the Board Work Session time when possible.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:14 PM.

Jim Rotter, Board Secretary