

Dunkerton Community School
March 29, 2023
Work Session Board Meeting 5:30p.m.
Meeting Moved to HS Library
<https://meet.google.com/wfp-hwnv-yvj?hs=122&authuser=0>

Directors: President-Kirby Marquart, Vice President-Lyle McIntosh, Dan Knebel, Chad Wolfensperger, Elizabeth Downs, Superintendent-B.J. Meaney

Guests: Patty Foster-Elementary Principal, Kory Kelchen-Secondary Principal, Stephanie Abels, Karin Bloomquist, Dan Fox, Mike Hiller, Heather Howland, Sara McIntosh, Allison Westfall, Jill Wurzer

Virtual guests: Karen Bartholomew, Renae Brandle, Hannah Corbin, Natalie Crawford, Jordan Cusick, Dan Cutsforth, Shelby Dolph, Christie Drake, Ashley Fairchild, Milissa Fratzke, Anne Graham, Rachel Hauptly, Amy Henninger, David Henninger, Joseph Knebel, Hannah Knight, Christina Kramer, Todd Kuntz, Leta Magee, Cathy Mills, Micah Monroe, Britney Opheim, Alysia Pratt, Krista Pugh, Ronda Rathe, Becky Reichen, Bryce Rigdon, Rose Scarborough, Amber Schmitt, Linda Schmitt, Andrew Snyder, Justina Snyder, Kelli Snyder, Halie Sorenson, Jenn Toneff, Marci Titera, Stacey Wach, Rylee Warthen, Liz Waskow, Charles Wingate

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Kirby Marquart.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Motion made by McIntosh, second by Knebel to approve the agenda. Motion carried: 5-0.

President Marquart shared personal comments regarding upcoming New Business discussion.

President Marquart is deeply saddened by the current financial situation of the District. Despite previous staffing adjustments made due to declining enrollment, he and the Board of Directors take responsibility for not doing enough to prevent necessary action needed now to reduce District staffing to align with FY24 Budget.

Superintendent BJ Meaney shared updated Financial Indicators presentation created by Iowa Association of School Board personnel. Based on enrollment trends and an overestimation in FY23 revenue, the District must reduce their budget by approximately \$250,000 in FY24 and another \$225,000-250,000 in FY25 to meet allowable fiscal budgets. District expenses have exceeded Federal, State & local revenue income the past three years and staff reduction is the way to meet these necessary Budget limits.

Superintendent and Administrators shared a proposed list of staffing reductions and welcomed additional recommendations and ideas from Board members and guests. Discussion on ways to increase enrollment & promote the Dunkerton Community & School District followed. The Pandemic and a lowered connection with the community & local City Council, has made it difficult for the School District to complete renovations of school facilities and for **needed** housing developments to move forward at a faster pace. Until this connection is reestablished, staff member Allison Westfall asked “how can we find ways to sell the District”. The District will need to continue to make adjustments based on trending enrollment numbers. More discussion on this topic will continue during the regular board meeting in a few minutes. Currently, through attrition, District could reduce staffing. With options presented, Administrators need to know Board preference.

President Marquart requested additional comments from visitors and virtual guests. No comments received.

Motion made by Knebel, second by Downs to adjourn the Work Session meeting at 6:36 pm; “all in favor” by Marquart. Motion carried: 5-0. A brief break was requested before the start of the regular meeting.

Kirby Marquart, President

Amy Morley, Board Secretary

* These minutes are unofficial until approved at the next board meeting.