

MINUTES OF THE  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
IKM-MANNING COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014  
7:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

IKM-Manning Directors Present: Lynn Barry, Amy Ferneding, Sam Hansen, David Heller, Scott Hodne, Eric Ramsey, Jim Thraen

IKM-Manning Directors Absent:

Administrators Present: Supt. Dr. Thomas Ward, Principals Wendy Hammrich, Brian Wall, Sharon Whitson  
Administration Absent:

Secretary: Beth Dickson

Guests: Several guests were at the meeting.

Location: IKM-Manning Auditorium in Manning

**Call Regular Meeting to Order/Approve Agenda**

President Dave Heller called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the agenda. Hodne made the motion, seconded by Ferneding to approve the agenda with the amendment of the addition of 3.D Public Input on Schoolhouse Construction Recommendation under Communications and the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Input to Non-Agenda Items**

**Public Input on Schoolhouse Construction Recommendation**

Pat Wuestewald stated that a number of people do not agree with the three options, cost projections, and negligible transportation costs presented by Iowa Schoolhouse Construction. He presented the board with what he referred to as Scenario D. 1) Middle School in Manilla; Preschool in Manilla and Manning; Elementary and High School in Manning. This scenario would prevent moving central office; reduce two administrators as has been suggested in reports by the consultants. If the board closed the Irwin building there would be one bus going there and back each day. If that building is left open there would be 3 buses traveling there and back each day and over the course of 10 years that could be a significant cost. They suggest closing third floor in Manilla. There then would be no cost for heating and air conditioning; the Lab space could easily be moved to second floor as all the hookups are there; Music room could be moved to the two rooms by the new gym. If you used the Manilla building you would have two useable gyms. If you used the Irwin building you would have one gym. He stated there would be significant costs in upgrading the Irwin gym that they felt had not been clearly portrayed. He stated a new scoreboard would be needed as the current one does not work. New bleachers would be necessary as current ones are damaged and not safe. The system to raise and lower side baskets would need to be replaced. The girls locker room is not in a condition to use with a walk in freezer currently in it and the boys locker room is in terrible condition. All of these improvements would be at a significant cost. In Manilla the boiler is not needed but the heating distribution system would need repairs; Air conditioning would not be necessary on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, only on the north side of 2nd floor, the cafeteria, and Music room if it was moved to the rooms by the new gym. Costs for this scenario would be significantly lower than what was presented by the consultants. He also discussed handicapped accessibility at this time. He reminded the board that Manilla Utilities offered a donation of \$250,000 to put toward these costs and that it is the right of the board to refuse, reject, or accept their offer but the Manilla Utilities have never received a reply and would like this to be addressed at some point. He also noted that the option the consultants recommended would be the worst possible option for the possibility of losing students to open enrollment. He asked the board to not take only what was presented by the consultants into consideration but to consider other option possibilities that may save the district money.

Jeff Blum, representative of Manilla Utilities, spoke to the board regarding facts of utilities. He stated that per square footage the Manning building is 37% larger than the Manilla building and the Irwin building is 40%

smaller than the Manilla building. Last year the Manning building utility costs were \$109,254, the Manilla building utility costs were \$48,394 and the Irwin building utility costs were \$45,404. This is due to 34% higher water rates in Irwin than Manilla, 152% higher sewer costs in Irwin than Manilla, and 56% higher electricity costs in Irwin than Manilla. He also noted that in the past 5-6 years Manilla is one of the few towns in Iowa that have lower electricity rates due to hydropower renewable energy. He noted that 2 yrs. ago when air conditioning was installed on the south ½ of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the Manilla building the cost was \$30,000. He contacted the same contractor that did that work and at worse the cost would be \$60,000 to finish air conditioning on the north ½ of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. He stated the boiler is not the problem but the boiler valves are and estimated repairs at \$300 per register for 40 registers. He also noted that the last bid that was received for roof repair was in the amount of \$175,000 and he estimates roof repairs would be comparable today to that bid with a possible 10% increase. He stated that none of these upgrades need to be done immediately.

Dan Muhlbauer spoke at this time. He noted that population and declining enrollment is the main problem and stated that each one of our communities has its own unique and strong school pride. He feels the board should look long range and look at keeping part of each building open until we are in one building. He noted property tax dollars received by the four counties in the district and encouraged the board to look at the heartbeat of all in the district.

Sandy Gruhn, cook in the Manilla building, then voiced her concerns regarding the availability of breakfast to the students that currently eat breakfast in Manilla questioning if these students would be transported to the other buildings in time for breakfast. They currently serve approx. 20-55 breakfasts each day. She also expressed concerns regarding supervision in the gym on late start days and possibilities of moving rooms to the shop area and locker rooms in Manilla.

The board thanked all for their comments and concerns and please feel free to contact their board members at anytime.

## **Correspondence**

### **Reports**

#### **Student Representatives**

Student representatives, Jez Schechinger and Joey Thraen discussed the high school suggestion box and the various activities ongoing at the high school: SWIBA & Lewis and Clark Jazz Band Festivals; Basketball regional tournaments; NHS selection and induction ceremony Feb. 23; Girls track practice to begin Feb. 24, boys begin March 3; upcoming National FFA week; well attended Pops Concert Feb. 16; Spring Play; The Foundation Basketball Tournament Feb. 22 which proceeds from this event help purchase educational aids for classrooms; Student Council Red Cross Blood Drive March 13 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. in the HS gym; District Individual Speech March 1 and State Individual Speech March 15; ASVAB testing for Juniors.

Dr. Ward congratulated Joey at this time for his selection to play in the Iowa Shriners Football game this summer.

### **Principals**

Principal Hammrich discussed a handout presented to the board in regards to Benchmark FAST Reading Results; noting she is pleased with the student growth and also that the teachers have been working hard to prepare students. She also discussed Math Screeners, noting the math screenings are not done yet. She stated that preschool screening signup in Irwin is Feb. 26 and March 5 in Manning. Currently there are 8 students signed up in Irwin and 14 in Manning.

Principal Whitson discussed FAST assessment proficiency scores; RTI; Wolf Pack Minute to Win It held by Student Council; MS has collected 8-9 boxes of nonperishable foods for their Can Drive to donate to the community; Junior High Mathcounts, noting our students placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 15 teams at Council Bluffs.

Principal Wall noted upcoming spring testing: ASVAB, Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery; National Career Readiness Testing for Seniors; Upcoming NWEA testing and Iowa Assessments for Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors.

**Superintendent.** Dr. Ward noted that employee health insurance will increase 2.23% for fiscal year 2014-2015. The increase is due to the Affordable Healthcare Act fees included in the premium, otherwise the district would have had a 3% decrease.

### **Discussion Items**

#### 5.A Discussion on The Schoolhouse Construction Recommendations to Building/District Configuration.

Dr. Ward presented the board with a handout regarding another district reconfiguration scenario, the Hybrid Scenario, which was compiled by the administration. In this scenario the Irwin building would be a primary building housing one preschool and grades K-2; Manning building would house one preschool and grades 3-12; Manilla gym would be kept open for junior high volleyball and basketball practices and all junior high basketball games; central office could be located in either Irwin, Manilla, or Manning. The administration team felt the pros in this scenario would be: Reduced utility cost; Reduce shuttles by 3; Combining JH and HS teachers will increase offerings and will also add periods for three traveling teachers which amounts to 540 more hours of instruction for JH and HS students; Reduces the long term maintenance cost on the Manilla building (roof, lighting, heating, and cooling); Reduces the need for added infrastructure cost at Irwin for science FCS Room, and gym updates; As space opens up, classes are moved into those rooms at Manning site; What funds are saved in the infrastructure cost will be used to upgrade security and intercoms in both Manning and Irwin; Utilizes all classrooms in the two buildings. The cons: Transporting younger students; Gym space in Manning.

Discussion was held with regard to the Hybrid scenario. The positives presented were no costs involved other than the possibility of one part time administrator in the Irwin building for one year during the transition period and the costs involved in moving the central office. The administration felt that this option would be the best educationally and efficiently as you could better utilize 5-12 staff; educationally sound to have a primary building; more instructional time for JH and HS teachers that will no longer be traveling between buildings; staff collaboration time; supports current programs such as Band; keep grades 5-8 together as a lot of good things are going on in the middle school. The downfall they see is transporting younger students on buses.

### **Action items**

#### 6.A Approve Consent Agenda.

The consent items were presented to board members prior to the board meeting for their inspection. Hodne made the motion, seconded by Barry to approve consent items A.i through A.v as follows. The motion carried unanimously.

- i. Minutes – Jan. 23, 2014 Regular Meeting, Jan. 30, 2014 Work Session, Feb. 5, 2014 Work Session
- ii. The payment of Feb. 2014 board bills:

General Fund	\$265,430.16
Capital Projects	\$3,167.63
B. Fisher Trust	\$500.00
Activity Fund	\$13,115.87
Hot Lunch	\$16,813.47
- iii. Activity Report – Financial Statement for Jan., 2014
- iv. Food Service Report – Financial Statement for Jan., 2014
- v. Board Secretary/Manager Report – Financial Statement for Jan., 2014

6.B Set Budget Workshop. The board will contact Dr. Ward with available dates for holding a Budget Work Session. No action taken at this time.

#### 6.C Set Special Meeting for March Board Bills and Early Start Hearing.

Special March Meeting. The board scheduled a special meeting to approve the payment of March board bills for March 20.

Early Start Hearing. No action was taken at this time to set the date, time and place for an Early Start Waiver Public Hearing.

### **Personnel Items.**

Hodne made the motion seconded by Thraen to approve the resignation of Beth Hagedorn as the Assistant Softball Coach, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Board Reports and Communications/Next Meeting and Future Agenda Items.**

Regular Board Meeting March 6 at 7:00 p.m. in Auditorium in Manning to take action on district reconfiguration; Special Board Meeting March 20 to approve March board bills; Budget Workshop date to be determined; Budget Hearing and Early Start Waiver Hearing dates to be determined; Regular Board meeting April 10 at 7:00 pm in Central Office.

**Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Hodne made the motion to adjourn seconded by Hansen and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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David Heller, President

Attest:

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Beth Dickson, Secretary