



Mastering New Worlds

Manson Northwest Webster Community School Board of Education Meeting April 29, 2010

The Manson Northwest Webster School Board participated in a special joint meeting with the Prairie Valley School Board on Thursday, April 29, 2010, at the Prairie Valley Middle School, Farnhamville.

President Paterson called the MNW meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MNW Board present: Tony Jacobsen, Zuella Swartzendruber, Dan DeWall, Duane Paterson.

Absent: Terry Lawler, Julie Hewitt, Brent Johnson.

Others present: Supt. Egli, Board Secretary Wallace, Erin Schroeder

Prairie Valley Board present: Deb Doyen, Scott Hansch, Brian Holmgaard, Rick Brand, Shannon Miller, Emilea Lundberg, Clark Taylor

Also Present: Jim Dick, Erin Frahm and 40 public members

Motion by Jacobsen, second by Swartzendruber, to approve the agenda.

Joint Meeting:

PV Pres. Deb Doyen briefly summarized that discussion tonight between both boards for incentives on the administrative function was because both boards have same goal of NOT reorganizing, avoiding the transportation of students, and to improve the quality of teaching and course offering that lead to increased student achievement and success.

Proposal to share operational functions between Manson Northwest Webster and Prairie Valley were discussed. Declining enrollment over the past decade has greatly impacted rural schools. In the past two years Iowa Schools have seen board cuts of 1.5% and 10% with allowable growth reduced from 4% to 2%. This with loss of enrollment has caused a downward spiral to districts unspent balances and cash reserves. Currently the State of Iowa allows for sharing incentives which will sunset in the year 2013. Sharing is being discussed in the five administrative areas of Superintendent, Business Manager, Human Resources, Transportation, and Operations of Maintenance.

Some advantages to sharing incentives include:

- 1) Investing in staff capacity to increase equity like virtual classrooms, regional vocational centers, alternative centers, and expansion of ICCC Charter School.
- 2) Pooling existing resources to create a critical mass of support for the greatest needs
- 3) Encouraging cost avoidance through multiple purchasing options and reduction of inefficiencies – option to share administrative functions and programs, classes, textbooks
- 4) Retaining and sharing highest quality teacher in shortage areas instead of having to eliminate programs available to students.
- 5) Use innovative calendar to add professional development, 177 student days, 3 shared professional development days, common calendar. Also possibility of sharing curriculum coordinator will be a possibility which currently Prairie Valley does not have.
- 6) Increase student learning time with virtual classes and online learning use of technology to reduce the travel of students

Some disadvantages to sharing incentives include:

- 1) Community members not wanting to change with the decreased enrollment and not wanting to change with our technology and where it is leading us. Change often causes turmoil which leads to fear of unknown.

It was decided that the next joint board meeting would be in July 2010, in Barnum with an invitation for Southeast Webster Grand CSD to also attend.

Motion to adjourn by Jacobsen, second by DeWall. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President