



**Manson Northwest Webster Community School
Board of Education Meeting
September 4, 2008**

The Manson Northwest Webster Community School Board held an education meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2008, in the boardroom at the elementary center.

Pres. Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Present: Fitzgerald, Paterson, DeWall, Hewitt, Swartzendruber, Lawler, Bush.

Also present: Principals Holloway, Davis, and O'Brien, Maureen Lenz, Laura Horan, Kim Keller, Bryan Willer,

Motion by Paterson, second by Hewitt, to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Fitzgerald welcomed the group and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

High school Principal Shawn Holloway reported on the high school's professional development for this year which will continue to emphasize rigor and relevance. The staff will participate, along with another school, in an online program called CORR, an acronym for Collaborating Online for Rigor and Relevance, sponsored by the Successful Practices Network. Teachers will work together online to develop high quality lessons.

He informed the Board that 27 students are taking Mr. Harman's Weight Lifting/Leadership class.

Mr. Holloway reported that the OdysseyWare software was tested during the summer and is now being used by the alternative school. The District has purchased six stations allowing a maximum of six students to be online at one time completing course work. Mr. Holloway suggested that the program might be used in other areas for credit recovery, such as during the summer to possibly replace sending students to the ICCC Success Center. The program has curriculum for grades 3-12. Mrs. Davis, PK-8 principal, said the program is being used in conjunction with the acceleration of a middle school student to the next grade to assure the student has the learned knowledge for the move to be successful.

Mrs. Davis reported the fall BRI (K-6) and DIBELS tests (K-2) were completed this past week. The MAP test will be given to grades 2-11 between September 20 and Oct. 10. These tests will be the baseline for measurement of student growth during the year. The BRI and DIBELS tests are given three times a year while the MAP is twice a year. The tests will not only measure student growth but ensure fidelity to the Iowa Core Curriculum and the MISIC standards and benchmarks.

The middle school has revamped the 7th and 8th grade advisor/advisee program to include components of character counts, service, team building skills and vocabulary expansion.

The guidance counselor, Maureen Lenz, is teaching guidance classes as well as working with the 8th grade on developing their 4-year high school plan by means of the Choices software.

Mrs. Davis reported a new technology exploratory will be taught by Mrs. Jill Carlson using 21st century technology skills that many of our students are using already on a personal level. From web cameras to web pods, the students will design projects to be presented to faculty at the end of the quarter. This will also be a learning experience for the teachers.

Mrs. Davis commented that she is very impressed with the P.E.P. Club and Cougar Club services to the school.

Mrs. Davis reported that a fall middle school musical has been planned for grades 5-8. The play "Annie Junior" will incorporate up to 40 roles for those participating. Mr. Blean will be directing the instrumental part of the show, and Mrs. Langstaff will be the vocal director.

Assessment specialist Laura Horan presented the district assessment report for 2007-08. She explained the AYP as being the report required at the Federal level. These scores include only those students who were in the District for a full academic year (FAY). The District met its AYP goals. Because some of the grade levels did not improve or they had a drop in their scores on the Iowa tests, increased focus will be given to those tests this year.

Mrs. Horan explained the school's 2008-09 professional development plan. The K-12 emphasis will be to develop a shared vision for teaching and learning and describe what that vision looks like/sounds like, and develop a system to monitor progress toward achieving the vision. A component will be the study by all staff members of the book, *Whatever it Takes: How Professional Communities Respond When Students Don't Learn* by Richard and Rebecca DuFour.

Rabiner Treatment Center Principal John O'Brien reported the composition of RTC clientele has necessitated a different focus for the staff as suggested by a quote from Alfe Kohn, "It's not about teaching; it's about learning." Mr. O'Brien stated that the change in clientele reflects more mental health issues with medical diagnoses that the staff need to understand. Their professional development plan centers on the Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) program, which assesses what kids are doing and their success factors. The end result is to help them be successful and determine when interventions are needed.

Supt. Mark Egli reported that the CORE Curriculum is Iowa Department of Education's primary initiative at the present time. The Core consists of a set of concepts and skill sets intended to challenge teachers and students to deeper and more applicable learning. Egli also expressed his interest in Technological Literacy as being an underlying theme in the District during the current year with an increase of technology applied to the classroom.

High school band instructor Bryan Willer asked for the board's opinion on a prop he would like to use in flag corp performances. The prop was deemed by the board to look too much like a weapon which would violate the board policy on weapons and look-alikes (policy no. 502.4). The board encouraged him to find another prop which could be used in the same manner by the flag corp.

High school drama instructor Kim Keller was present to ask permission for drama club students to take an out-of-state trip to Minnesota on October 11-12. The trip will provide the students with drama experiences as they will attend performances at Chanhassen and Minnesota State University at Mankato. Motion by Hewitt, second by Swartzendruber, to approve the trip. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by DeWall, second by Lawler, to approve the purchase from Rost Motor Co. of a preowned 2005 Ford Freestyle Van, with 20,000 miles. The need for this van has arisen because all of the District's vans are on Special Education routes. Cost would include the Certified Pre-owned Program which includes an extended warranty, at a total cost of \$17,289. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Lawler, second by Paterson, to approve two open enrollment applications in from Fort Dodge, and four students in from Rockwell City/Lytton, all due to family's move to new district of residence. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Swartzendruber, second by Bush, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Board Secretary

Board President