Claymont City Schools
Board of Education
Special Board Meeting – Work Session
September 28, 2015
6:30 p.m.

The Claymont City School District Board of Education met in special work session on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administrative Office with Mrs. Golec presiding.

ROLL CALL: Present – Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Host, Mr. Shamel, Mr. Cottrell, Mrs. Golec

Visitors and Personnel – The following personnel and visitors were present: John Rocchi, Superintendent; Lori Statler, Treasurer; Jodie Miles, Curriculum Director; and, Michele Sproul, member of the public.

Work Session Open Forum:

Mrs. Golec asked about Letters Training, a 2 day training last spring. Mr. Rocchi passed around a copy of the district's literacy plan which is for students in grades K-3 and will be used to help improve reading skills. The district is working with Step By Step Learning to improve reading skills. Mr. Rocchi provided a K-2 learning plan and a list of dates that K-3 teachers will receive professional development. Mr. Rocchi explained that the elementary schedules were reworked to support reading and math instruction and the teachers are using data for student learning to help the teachers provide services.

Mr. Cottrell asked how students are placed in a class. Mr. Rocchi stated that beginning with the 2015/2016 school year, students were split evenly to lower class size and placed in classes evenly based on academic levels.

Mrs. Golec stated that she did not realize there was inclusion for special education students at the elementary level. She wanted the superintendent to explain how that works and how those students are getting quality instruction. Mr. Rocchi explained that there has always been inclusion. Trenton has been very inclusive and Eastport has not. For the 2015/2016 Mr. Rocchi wanted consistency throughout the district and has worked with Eastport to develop a more inclusive environment. He stated that resource rooms have been established for students. Mrs. Golec feels that special education students deserve the same quality education as every other child. Mr. Rocchi believes there are still pockets of individuals on an island and there is still a power struggle with them on how they run their buildings.

Mr. Rocchi stated he spoke with most teachers at Eastport and Trenton last year and changing their schedules was one of the items they discussed.

Mrs. Golec wants to make sure special education students are getting the education they need while in the classroom. She has also heard concerns from teachers about SLOs. Mrs. Miles responded there were concerns because special education students were not included in SLOs last year but should have been.

Mr. Cottrell wanted to know how Park students interact with other students when they get to the Intermediate since there are no special education students at Park. Mrs. Miles feels they are at somewhat of a disadvantage.

Mrs. Golec thinks Mrs. Miles and Mr. Rocchi need to go back and revisit issues at Eastport.

Mrs. Grant feels the teacher needs to bring issues to Mr. Rocchi and not go directly to board members.

Mr. Cottrell feels that employee issues should be dealt with. All other board members agreed that issues should be dealt with by the administration.

Michele Sproul asked if upward evaluations are done and Mr. Rocchi responded in the negative.

Mr. Cottrell asked about the ongoing bussing issue in Rush Township. Mr. Rocchi stated that Mrs. Peterman and Mr. Shaw went out and reviewed the route and possible alternatives. The route will be adjusted beginning on October 5, 2015, after all parents have been notified.

Mr. Cottrell was notified that the public cannot email the board via the link on the district's website. Mr. Rocchi stated he would look into that issue.

Mr. Cottrell asked if there was wifi on the busses. Mr. Rocchi responded that there were no plans currently to add that. Mrs. Host thought this would be a good idea.

Mr. Cottrell inquired about the district logo and what we were paying to use it. Mrs. Statler explained that the district pays Western Michigan University $100 per year to use the logo.

Mr. Cottrell asked what the status of the search for the head girls' basketball coach was. Mr. Rocchi responded that there were 5 applicants and those would be screened for interviews. Mrs. Grant requested to know who will be interviewed for the position.

Mr. Shamel requested that the cafeteria menu be more specific as to what the item is being served.

Mr. Cottrell would like to have updates from the Principals. The board agreed that they would like to have the principals send them, on a monthly basis, copies of building correspondence sent to parents.

Mr. Cottrell wanted to know the status of the High School National Honor Society. Mr. Rocchi stated the fee has been paid by the district.

Mr. Cottrell asked if the senior class was going to wear all brown gowns for graduation and if so, whether the board members had any issues with that decision. Mr. Rocchi responded that was still under discussion. The other board members indicated they had no issue with the change.

There was a brief discussion regarding a photographer for the district. No decision was made.

Meeting Adjourned
Mr. Shamel made the motion, and Mrs. Host seconded the motion that the special board meeting of the Claymont City Board of Education be adjourned. On roll call vote: Mr. Shamel, yes; Mrs. Host, yes; Mrs. Grant, yes; Mr. Cottrell, yes; Mrs. Golec, yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Approved: _____
President

Attest: _____
Treasurer