

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Strategic Plan Update
February 22, 2016

President Donohue called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. at the Forum with the following members present: Barton, Beytien, Donohue, Prochaska, Ryan, Siegert, Wittman. Additional officer of the Board present: Lucas.

Moved (Ryan) and seconded (Siegert) to enter closed session as permitted by Iowa Code 21.5(1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session. Motion carried 7-0. [Time 4:02 p.m.]

Moved (Ryan) and seconded (Barton) to return to regular session. Motion carried 7-0. [Time 5:24 p.m.]

President Donohue reconvened the meeting at 5:31 p.m. with the following members present: Barton, Beytien, Donohue, Prochaska, Ryan, Siegert, Wittman. Additional officers of the Board present: Lucas, Rheingans. Executives present: Devaney, Kelleher, Kramer.

Moved (Ryan) and seconded (Beytien) to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried 7-0.

Moved (Ryan) and seconded (Siegert) to authorize administration to submit to the Iowa Department of Education a request for Modified Supplement Amount application for at-risk/dropout prevention for the 2016-17 school year in the amount of \$4,731,288 (or the maximum allowed by the department). Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Rheingans indicated that administration has been very intentional in evaluating the financial health of the district, especially in light of the fact that the legislature has not set the state supplemental aid. Knowing this day was coming, he stated that budget reductions in the range of \$2.8 million to \$3.2 million are necessary to prepare for next school year. He reported that funding for school districts utilizes categorical funding with specific requirements for use. 81.3% of the budget is salaries and benefits, which puts stress on the general fund. The following terms were reviewed: spending authority - the amount of money a school district is allowed by the state to spend; supplemental state aid - formerly known as allowable growth, this is the percentage of spending authority growth established annually by the legislature (the amount should be set 16 months in advance of the fiscal year, which traditionally has not happened); unspent balance - the end-of-fiscal-year amount remaining after all expenditures are subtracted from authorized budget (savings account). Mr. Rheingans reviewed the unspent balance history over time. The state goal is to have an unspent balance in the range of \$5 million to \$10 million and our district goal is around \$10 million. The projected unspent balance for next year is \$5,463,671 with no budget reductions or \$8,463,671 with the recommended amount of budget reductions. He shared that the district used supplemental state aid of 2.45% which equates to a deficit of \$3.2 million in our projection.

Moved (Ryan) and seconded (Prochaska) to authorize the superintendent to research, develop and present a budget reduction recommendation for the 2016-17 school year in the range of \$3 million that puts priority on minimizing the impact to students and classrooms to the greatest extent possible. Motion carried 7-0.

Superintendent Rheingans updated the board on the status of the 2015-16 Strategic Plan priority initiatives. Of the 22 initiatives, five have been completed, twelve have significant progress, four have steady progress, and one has some progress.

President Donohue declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Joni Lucas, Secretary
Board of Education