CITY OF DERBY
BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES – OCTOBER 5, 2010
City of Derby
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Derby Middle School Cafetorium
6:30 p.m.

Call to order: meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: all rose and pledged allegiance

Roll Call: Andy Mancini, Laura Harris, Ken Marcucio - Chairman, Stephanie D’Onofrio, George Kurtyka, and Kim Kreiger. There is a quorum.

Also Present: Dr. Stephen Tracy, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Bonina - DMS Principal.

Absent: Martin Hubbard, Rebecca O’Hara and Casey Picheco.

Public Participation
No one from the public spoke.
Public Portion closed.

Board Goal #1: Academic Achievement

Improving Reading Performance at the Derby Middle School.

Ms. Bonina addressed the board. There are 41% eighth graders not at a proficient reading level, seventh grade has 38% not at proficient reading level and sixth grade has 24% not at proficient reading level.

Literacy experts have said this is the norm. The goal is to stop it at the 24% level.

The Middle School will use the RTI or the State Response to Intervention group along with the AlMES Web and the CMT scores.

The children are put into tiers with different reading interventions.

Twice a month there are vertical teams (sixth, seventh and eighth grade teachers of every subject meet).

There is assessment, analysis, and smart goals set. Strategies are looked at.

Lesson plans are addressed.

Board Goal #2: Student Motivation & Engagement


Student Well Being Survey
Dr. Tracy stated he has two graduate students from SCSU, Nick Perrone & Georgina Tusundro who will work on this survey regarding safety, belonging, power, freedom, fun and whether students feel they are being given quality work to accomplish. The goal is to administer this three or four times a year.

Results of Staff Survey on Choice Theory
There was an online survey with a 7-10 day window to respond. An email was sent out.

There were 209 responses.

Of the on-line responses (34) one was a support staff person, while the others were certifled educators.

The total number of responses were evenly distributed among all four schools.

From the on-line survey:
31% had 3-5 years of experience while 53% had 6 or more years experience teaching. The rest were below 3.

62% had familiarity with Choice Theory and 38% were very familiar with it.

59% read some material.

32% participated in basic intensive week.

20% said they have not incorporated any of the principals in their teaching.

56% have incorporated some.

23% have incorporated a lot of the principals.

65% have said they have found the impact of the effort somewhat useful.

12% found it to be very useful.

No one said they have not tried it or said it was not useful.

50% said the concept had some potential while 21% said it had a great deal of potential.

Motivation & Engagement PD Plans
In the summer of 2009 there was a superintendent, six administrators, teachers, social workers, school psychologists and guidance counselors and some community members from PCRC. This year there is six more teachers, a couple of interns and another school counselor.

Last year eleven teachers participated in in-class coaching.

Derby is trying to build a base of people who understand a basic premise of Choice Theory which goes toward motivation and engagement of the students. The bottom line is relationships.

The plans for this year include more in-class coaching and facilitating the first basic practicum.
Board Goal #3: Strategic Planning

Development of the District's Strategic Plan
Dr. Tracy is still in the process of assembling a planning committee of 20-24 people to serve. It will be a lot of work between November and May. The plan will come back to the Board of Education for recommendation to adopt, etc. SCSU grad students will be involved as well.

There will be four phases: take a look at the district’s mission statement, looking at past and future data, what are the broad goals and mission the committee wants to pursue (ie: regionalization, reorganizing, on-line learning, early childhood, etc.), specific objectives and timelines.

Board Goal #4: Budget Development

Development of a Draft Budget for FY 2012
The draft will be a set of assumptions about what is happening with revenue and expenses, what it would take to have a maintenance budget with enhancements.

ESEA Title 1 Grant Application
An overview was presented and is due later in the month. The grant is approximately $338,000.00. It will be spent on the Middle School and High School. The specific proposal will be brought before the regular Board of Education meeting. Money will be spent on the reading effort, staff training regarding motivation, engagement and self discipline. A small amount will be spent on grant administration.

Federal Education Job Funding
In August the Congress passed several billion dollars out to schools for saving jobs. Derby’s piece was $400,000.00. The money can be used to support the current payroll.

Some funds need to be reserved for the power school system, a dashboard for the Middle School to identify key indicators of the health of the school, counseling program and the athletic department.

The money can be used until September 30 2012.

Budget, Personnel & Facilities

Establishment of an Additional Paraprofessional at Irving School
A MOTION by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Ms. Harris to add a paraprofessional to the Irving School by using the funds from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, all in favor, motion passes.

Maintenance Overtime
Unable to hear Ms. Mangini on the tape.

Residency & Registration Issues
Mr. Saccu is not present. Report is deferred.

Old Business
There was a question regarding if the Capital Planning meeting was held. Dr. Tracy will look into it.

The Bradley principal search continues, there were eleven interviewees, the committee has narrowed down to four people.
New Business
The board would like to look at the attendance policies of all schools, disciplinary policy and health issues.

Executive Session
A MOTION at 8:41 p.m. by Ms. Kreiger with a second by Mr. Mancini that the Board of Education move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing an early retirement proposal for senior members of the faculty and collective bargaining matters, and that Superintendent Tracy be invited to attend, all in favor, motion passes.

Public Session
A MOTION at 8:58 p.m. by Ms. Harris with a second by Mr. Kurtyka that the Board of Education return to public session, all in favor, motion passes.

Adjourn
A MOTION by Ms. D'Onotrio with a second by Mr. Mancini to adjourn at 8:58 p.m., all in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Cesaroni
Recording Secretary

****These minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Education at their next regular meeting.