



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February 15, 2021

Early Work Session

Regular Board Meeting

Late Work Session





College Community Schools Board Meeting Highlights

These Are Not Official Meeting Minutes

Work Session / Early Board Meeting February 15, 2021 Educational Services Center

Work sessions are intended to provide opportunities for members of the school board to study district issues, gather and analyze information, and learn more about specific topics. No decisions or actions are made at work sessions.

At the February 15, 2021 early work session, School Board members received a 7-12 Activities and Fine Arts update from Rocky Bennett Assoc. Principal/Activities Director Prairie High School, Andrew Davis Assoc. Principal/Activities Director Prairie Point and teachers in our fine arts programs.

[Activities and Fine Arts Update](#)



Student Engagement Survey: Laura Medberry, Executive Director of Learning Supports gave a presentation on student engagement survey results. The survey uses approximately 50 questions to measure a student's engagement in both their school work and school community. This is the first time the district has used this tool with students. The tool is designed to provide educational leaders with important information such as:

- How students spend their free time
- Their perception of the rigor and relevance of the curriculum
- How they utilize various support systems
- Their involvement in school life
- Career interests
- Planning they have done for life after high school graduation

[CCSD 2020 Survey Overall Report](#)

Iowa Big Update: Trace Pickering, Executive Director/Co-Founder of Iowa BIG presented an update on the Iowa Big. Iowa BIG is a learner-centered program for students within the Cedar Rapids, Linn-Mar, and College Community School Districts. Currently 80 Prairie students are involved in the Iowa Big Program. Starting in the 2021-2022 school year, Linn-Mar will no longer be participating in the program.

[Iowa Big Presentation](#)

Staff Attendance and Substitute Update: Jeri Mortiz, Executive Director of Human Resources and Equity, provided the board with a Staff Attendance and Substitute Update. The report included staff absences, Substitute Teacher Fill Rates and information on how to become a Substitute Teacher or a Substitute Paraprofessional.

[Staff Attendance and Substitute Update](#)



CCSD Career Academy Next Steps Presentation: Eric Townsley, Executive Director of Information and Technology, gave a brief update on the next steps for the Career Academy Program. Eric shared information about academy design steps, advisory teams and pathway design. Next steps include examining career tech offerings and pathways and development of a new medical career pathway.

[Career Academy Next Steps Presentation](#)

ESSER Funds Update: Angie Morrison, Chief Financial Officer, provided the following ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) update. The District will receive \$1,668,940 in ESSER II funds from the Federal Government for COVID relief on a reimbursement basis. Some possible uses include recouping over \$400,000 in leave due to COVID, COVID related PPE, equipment and cleaning supplies and virtual learning costs. College Community is also planning a 3-week summer learning program for K-6 students and exploring credit recovery options for secondary students.

Derecho Storm Damage Update: Angie Morrison, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on building and campus damage caused by the August 10 derecho storm. Angie reported that the District is working with our insurance company and contractors to work through the list of damage caused by the storm.

Resolution in Opposition to Senate File #159 - State Wide Voucher Proposal: The Board approved a resolution against SF159 - Scholarship Funds, Vouchers, Education Savings Accounts, and expanded Tax Credits.

[CCSD Resolution Against SF-159](#)

2022-2023 School Calendar: The Board approved the 2022-2023 School Calendar using hours to meet state attendance requirements.

[2022-2023 School Calendar](#)

Regular Board Meeting Agenda: [Click here](#) for the complete agenda for the regular board meeting.



At the February 15, 2021 late work session, School Board members received the following reports:

Preliminary Budget Information: Angie Morrison, Chief Financial Officer presented information on the general fund, tax levying funds, tax levy comparisons and trends and next steps.

[Preliminary Budget Information Presentation.](#)

Open Enrollment Transfers and Insufficient Classroom Space:

Superintendent Dr. Doug Wheeler provided the School Board with an overview regarding the District's enrollment process. Examination of class size / open enrollment is an annual process established in Board Policy.

Due to recent significant and anomalous declines, likely linked to the recent pandemic and natural disaster, the Board is considering opening limited Open Enrollment for NEW student enrollments for the 2021-2022 school year. Each grade will have an established number of open slots ranging from 4 to 12, depending on grade-level and building needs. This process would foster the goal of mitigating the financial impact of the enrollment loss with balancing impact on grade levels. This decline in enrollment is not significant to adjust construction plans for building facilities, but is significant enough to limit plans for creating new programming for students or maintaining current programming beyond this budget year.

College Community Schools have been closed to new enrollments to manage growth over two decades. The process is intended to be a one-year recovery of enrollment to assist the district in managing the compounding financial impact of an enrollment decline of this type. This process is intended to assist in financial assurance to continue expanding programming for students and families. Money to support program development comes entirely from general fund dollars, which is driven by enrollment. The expansion of programming and the creation of programming is essential to serving our students in a large district.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the College Community Board of Education.