

IOWA CITY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTS' ORGANIZATION

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2019

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/164311133714057/>

ICCSA: <https://www.iowacityschools.org/Page/49>

I. Gathering time (Lunch & Socializing) (11:30)

Those attending included: Rachel Salamo, Traci Oleson, Claudia Moore, Ben Brozene, Kristen Hixenbaugh, Lori Kramer, Yu Yu, Shawn Eyestone, Tea Ho, Jenni Mettemeyer, Angela Pitkin, Susan Brennan, Ellen Sweet, Kilee Dunham, Chris Loftus, Sizamme Ja;eles, Kari Blomberg, Laurel Faga, Charlie Eastham, Eric Johnson, Jacki Marquardt, Michael Tilly, Amy Kraber, Maryanne Nelson, Lillian Erdahl, Shwetal Vyas, Betty Tannous, Brad Kelly, Marla Swesey, Mary Murphy, Andy Gahan, Miriam Timmer-Hackert, and Steve Murley.

Representing: Penn, Coralville Central, Shimek, Garner, Southeast Junior High, Hoover, ICCSD Board, Lincoln, Shimek, Parent, ICCSD Foundation, Christine Grant, Wickham, Van Allen, Lemme, Kirkwood, School Board Candidates, North Central Junior High, Lucas, Weber, Lincoln, Horn, Longfellow, and Transitions.

II. District Parent Organization Officer Reports (11:35)

- Co-Past President Miriam Timmer Hackert opened meeting and welcomed everyone. General introductions took place. Miriam is hoping to be able to provide teachers and students with information regarding sex trafficking as this is becoming an issue in our area.
- No past experience necessary to hold office.
- Co-Presidents Elect - still looking for second co-president elect for 2019-2020 school year.
- Co-Secretaries - Approval of May minutes to take place in October 2019. Still looking for a co-secretary for 2019-2020 school year.
- Treasurer - Please pay dues if haven't done so.
- Many thanks to Tea Ho for providing information about transportation to ICCSD music lessons after school. Past DPO Office and Lincoln parent Tea Ho stated ICCSD has free music lessons and if a parent needs assistance, the district can help provide instruments. There are group band and orchestra lessons after school. There are two concerts per year (elementary). Getting kids to and from school for lessons can be difficult. Some schools have options--e.g. Lemme has a van. Tea has investigated options, which also include:
 - i. Yellow Cab - Roger Bradley is contact. Drivers are vetted by police. The current cost is \$14.50 per van so school parents figure out the cost per ride and calculate it by the year. The van only goes to lessons. Parents will have to bring their children home.
 - ii. For the Lincoln program, the PTO pays music lesson transportation costs for students on FRL (free reduced lunch). Tea has preliminary data--5 students not paid, 20 students total. Some parents will pay extra.
 - iii. Tea has a copy of a form for schools to adapt and use as a template.

III. Welcome from Coralville Central Principal Andy Gahan (11:45) Principal Gahan welcomed everyone to Coralville Central Elementary. He is in his 6th year as principal, and his 20th year in education. He was a teacher previously. Coralville Central just added a 3rd section of 4th grade, has a 52% FRL. He considers Coralville Central a “melting pot of ICCSD.” Coralville Central has four resource teachers, an ELL and ELP programs, art music, and PE for 470 students. The student population is a transient one with about 100 plus students in and out of the building. He states the “FMP is an unfinished project.” Coralville Central has an award winning chess club and art and gardening clubs.

III. Iowa City Community School District Reports (11:55)

- The School Board Representative was Sean Eyestone, who was also a presenter. Sean stated the following:
 - i. 27 board meetings since the last DPO meeting.
 - ii. District developed update for special education.
 - iii. Board will get a student survey.
 - iv. Board got a safety advisory committee report.
 - v. Board is considering a threat assessment team.
 - vi. Climate change resolution took place.
 - vii. Board is looking at a comprehensive diversity and inclusion plan.
 - viii. Board received WRAM test scores. [See <http://go.boarddocs.com/ia/iccsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BDAL6J53E691>]
 - ix. Board is looking at mental health services.
 - x. Board discussed goals at retreat.
 - xi. Board heard a lot about SROS. “Board doesn’t agree with having SROS in schools” but a “lot of gray area in between.”
- Administration Representative
- Foundation Representative Susan Brennan noted we are fortunate to live in an area that supports the arts and where the community is passionate. She highlighted many of the things the Foundation does for our children including but not limited to Run for the Schools (Sunday, October 27, 2019), School of the Wild program (funded by Green State Bank), Visiting Author program, any Given Child Fine Arts Programs, M.C. Ginsberg Artist in Residence, Live Arts at Hancher, helps fund AVID, Grants to schools, etc. Susan thanked everyone, including the banks. When you give to the Foundation, you are helping all kids including the ones who can’t otherwise afford it.

V. Presentation: District Fundraising and Budget

Prestentors:

Shawn Eyestone presented on “School Finance and Budget Impacts.” Here is a link to his presentation

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3IPqw9HIA1LSjl4WFdtNGkzTGJ2TFM1LUhxcEpgQmJHTWfV/view?fbclid=IwAR057MQj15rO5SjAWQB3nWwkgYat4n9L_5Z5T6RyH3tXN9bTI

[iyDvdQx5mo](#) To access the embedded links, you will probably have to download the presentation.

Sean stated the general fund is the main source for district operations and its revenues come from property taxes and other sources. A key concept to understand is spending authority, a state imposed limit on how much district's can spend. Budget reductions were needed so ICCSD doesn't exceed its spending authority. The board voted on the budget reductions last April to take effect this school year. Sean also shared elementary counts.

Tea asked about Wram calculation. Superintendent Murley said there were about 12 weighted factors including but not limited to FRL, ELL, etc.

A parent noted the WRAM policy was not adequately equitable for WRAM 5. The same parent asked about pairing. Board member Eyestone said it was part of the conversation and that he knew WRAM was rough for class sizes. The parent noted this was not true for all schools and the board member agreed.

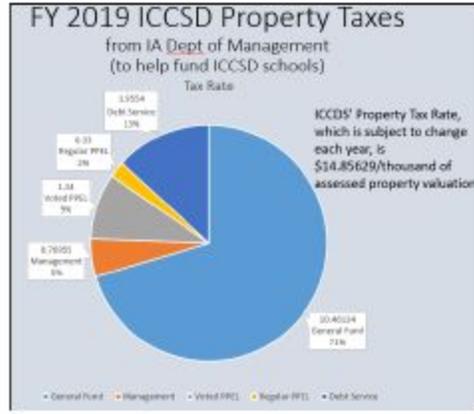
A parent noted her disappointment that WRAM was not done in a public board meeting and that it was hard to find information. She asked "What are the results of WRAM? How certain are we that the results are worth the struggle?" Board member Eyestone said the data suggests it is helping but we don't know if there is causation or just correlation. Amy Kortemeyer (Assistant Superintendent) said administration is looking at the numbers every day and no one wants large class sizes.

Mary Murphy used a fund graphic to show the various school funds and summarize what funds could be used for.

Governmental Funds			Proprietary Funds	Fiduciary Funds
General Fund Flexibility Account #10 Checking Account	Special Revenue Funds	Capital Project Funds	Enterprise	Trust Funds – for gifts & property
<p>Includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local property taxes & school income tax surcharge, tuition, etc. & state sources like state foundation aid, teacher leadership state aid, preschool state aid, AEA flow-through, at risk, early literacy, etc. & federal sources such as Title 1, 21st Century McKinney Homeless grants, etc.. Moneys districts receive go into GF unless law requires different account to be used. Much of GF depends on enrollment. Oct. 2017 certified enrollment of 14,197.5 used to calculate funding for 2018-19 school year. 10/1/18 certified enrollment 14,285.06. About 84% of ICCSD general fund used to pay salaries & benefits of employees. For fiscal year ending 8/30/18 GF revenues=\$102,894,810 & GF Expenses = \$105,761,057 (including staffing needs due increased enrollment & opening of Liberty). 	<p>Mgmt Levy Fund #22</p> <p>Funded by property taxes. Spending limited to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> cost of unemployment benefits. liability insurance and costs of judgment or settlement relating to liability. costs of insurance agreements. costs of judgment. cost of early retirement benefits. costs of mediation and arbitration including legal fees. 	<p>PPEL = Physical Plant & Equipment Levy #36</p> <p>Money from property tax of \$1.67 per thousand dollars of assessed property valuation. Can be used for building construction & remodeling (not maintenance), improve grounds, purchase or lease of equipment or technology > \$500 (can bundle e.g. Chromebooks together), purchase school buses, repairs to transportation equipment > \$2,500, purchase playground equipment.</p> 	<p>School Nutrition Fund #61</p> <p>For school meal program.</p>  <p>Child Care #62</p> <p>Regular Education Preschool #63</p>	<p>Agency District must use funds for benefit of students. Examples of Agency Funds include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -School Children's Aid #82 -School based health clinics #84
<p>General Fund used to pay for expenses such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> salaries & benefits, purchased services related to instruction, some supplies and equipment, board of education expenses attendance & social work, guidance, library media, instruction-related technology services, executive & school administration services, business fiscal services, personnel services, administration technology services, and operation & maintenance of physical plant  <p>Spending in one GF expense area can limit what is available to spend elsewhere.</p> <p>Moneys for Grant Wood AEA come into and flow out of general fund.</p>	<p>Student Activity Fund #21</p> <p>Comes from e.g. admissions, activity fees, student dues, student fundraising.</p> <p>Used to pay for expenses such as transportation and supplies for students.</p> 	<p>Capital Projects #33 (SAVE)</p> <p>Funded by penny sales tax or SAVE /Secure an Advanced Vision for Education. District gets sales tax money yearly. Recently extended from ending in 2029 through 2050. District can borrow money against future sales tax revenues by selling sales tax revenue bonds (e.g. 15 or 20 year bonds). Revenue Purpose Statement approved by majority of ICCSD voters voting in 2013.</p> <p>ICCSD's Revenue Purpose Statement sets forth how sales tax money may be used - e.g. building construction and remodeling, furnishings, improve grounds, technology, equipment, establish and maintain playgrounds, supervise recreational activities, community education including Family Resource Centers. May also be used for long term debt reduction.</p>	<p>Internal Service</p> <p>Funded by premiums - employee withholding & ICCSD contributions.</p> <p>Used to pay claims for self-insured health (#71) & self-insured dental (#74) benefits</p> <p>Flex Benefits #72</p>	
<p>There can be limited overlap among funds. Relatively small amount of general fund has sometimes been used to pay for expenses PPEL and/or SAVE could pay for.</p> <p>e.g. musical instrument or desk >\$500 is equipment that could be paid for by General Fund, PPEL, or SAVE if money available in funds.</p> <p>Sometimes school district can go to state <i>School Budget Review Committee (SBRC)</i> to ask for permission to spend more money (modified supplemental state aid)—special education, English Language Learners, Drop-Out prevention or returning funding, extra first-year staffing for new school.</p> <p>Some GF \$\$ sources are restricted in what they can be used for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. Teacher Leadership (TLC) monies help pay for leadership positions such as instructional leadership & cultural proficiency team members. Also used to help fund curriculum coordinators and instructional design strategists. e.g. can't use gifted and talented money to buy land. <p>Some GF \$\$ sources have limited flexibility.</p> <p>e.g. professional development supplement can now be used for textbooks & curriculum materials if they contain professional development.</p>	<p>PERL = Public Education Recreation Levy Fund</p> <p>ICCSD does not have.</p> <p>Can pay for playgrounds and community education (lifelong education process)</p>	<p>Capital Projects from General Obligation Bond Funds #31-32</p> <p>ICCSD voters authorized district to issue bonds ≤ \$191.525 million on 9/12/17 for school infrastructure/building plan.</p>		
		<p>Debt Service #40</p> <p>Fund used to repay interest & principal on bonds.</p> <p>Bonds are used by school districts to borrow money. Schools issue bonds and get money now (like a loan). Purchasers of bonds expect to be paid back with interest over time by school district using property or sales taxes.</p>		

The growth in teachers seen below is probably partly due to the addition of TLC (Teacher Leadership Compensation) which are monies that can only be used for limited purposes. Administrators and technology staff have also grown. The growth in paraeducators is probably due to the district coming into compliance with federal and state special education laws. The district has the opportunity to ask for additional spending authority for special education expenses, English Language Learners, first year increase in staffing costs when it opens a new building while growth catches up,

School funding sources include, but are not limited to local property taxes, money from state & federal governments, etc. Iowa also has an income tax surcharge.



Iowa school districts subject to limits on spending and on what funding sources can be used to pay for expenses.

The general fund money Iowa school districts can spend yearly on operation expenses (e.g. teachers, administrators, textbooks, curriculum, grounds care, etc.) is capped every year (spending authority) to help make education more equitable for students in poor Iowa property districts versus rich Iowa property districts. So some districts get more money from state than others.



Iowa schools have many funding sources, and some sources can only pay defined expenses for "students, special programs, or special purposes"—known as *categorical funding*. Much of what goes on inside a classroom is paid for by the general fund and within that fund is some categorical funding.

All Iowa school districts must pay certain fixed expenses along with other expenses to remain open and provide good academic outcomes for our children

The Iowa legislature sets allowable growth for schools. The percent growth increase recently approved is 2.06% or about \$139 per student (new money).

Year	Percent	Year	Percent
2011	2%	2016	1.25%
2012	0%	2017	2.25%
2013	2%	2018	1.11%
	2% + one-time		
2014	2%	2019	1%
2015	4%	2020	2.06%

Employee FTE's From ICCSD Quarterly Reports	6/30/16	6/30/17	6/30/18	6/30/19	Change from 16-19	Employee FTE's From ICCSD Quarterly Reports	6/30/16	6/30/17	6/30/18	6/30/19	Change from 16-19
Administrators	53.5	56	58.5	62.5	+9	Maintenance/Custodial	128.75	128	130.00	145.25	+17.5
Teachers	968.71	1009.13	1075.01	1119.18	+150.5	Technology/Supervisory	66.75	64	70	83.73	+16.98
Secretaries	121.87	126.59	124.5	122.18	-31	Para-educators	362.71	375.60	438	494	+167.29
Food Service	77.07	90.25	104.2	106.13	+29.06						

of staff counted in October

General Fund funding is very dependent on enrollment – it is good to be a growing district. Iowa City Community School District Cost Per Pupil for Year ending June 30, 2020 (from IA Dept. of Mgt).

State categorical supplements (not including AEA) funded through state aid.

- Regular Program: \$6,887 (up from \$6,748 per pupil for last school year) + additional supplement amounts for Teacher Salary \$569.76, Professional Development \$70.29, Early Intervention \$72.17, & Teacher Leadership \$333.24.
- Special Education students can bring additional monies as weighted at .72, 1.21, or 2.74 in addition to 1.0. There is also supplemental weighting for At Risk and ELL.

Mary used ICCSDs fourth quarter financial report, which included year to date numbers, to point out that salary expenses, which represent about 84% of the general fund include not only teachers but other personnel like administrators. Further, there are millions

spent on categories like professional services, other purchased services, and supplies and these categories present opportunities for savings in budget crunch times. Further the district has some flexibility about what funds to use to pay for example, for equipment (e.g. PPEL and General Fund can pay for equipment >\$500).

Disbursements by Object												
Fd#	Fund	Budget FY19	Y-T-D Salaries 100-199	Y-T-D Employee Benefits 200-299	Y-T-D Professional Services 300-399	Y-T-D Purchased Services 400-499	Y-T-D Other Purchased Services 500-599	Y-T-D Supplies 600-699	Y-T-D Equipment 700-799	Y-T-D Other Obj. & Other Uses 800-899	Total	% Spent
10	General Fund	\$ 170,885,212.00	\$ 113,083,665.95	\$ 31,591,373.09	\$ 2,558,067.74	\$ 1,067,726.94	\$ 8,661,146.84	\$ 7,172,107.51	\$ 314,508.55	\$ 6,680,609.83	\$ 171,129,206.45	100%

Miriam closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Murphy
Secretary, DPO

Next Meeting:

6:30p October 9, 2019 at Hoover

Feel free to email dpoiccsd@gmail.com with feedback or questions.

District Parent Organization Executive Board:
Co-Presidents: Stevie Toomey and Noor Miller
Co-Presidents Elect: Chad Meacham
Co-Presidents Past: Miriam Timmer-Hackert and Eric Johnson
Co-Secretaries: Mary Murphy
Treasurer: Cyndi Crossett-Powell