

DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board Work Session  
March 22, 2021

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. at the Forum with the following members present: Bradley, Donohue, Prochaska, Parks, Ryan, Sainci, Wittman. Additional officers of the Board present: Kelleher, Lucas, Rheingans.

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

Superintendent Rheingans recapped ESSER II funding that was presented in January. Word from the Department of Education on ESSER III is “don’t ask.” They are concentrating on I and II, and do not have any information to share on ESSER III at this time. The district’s unspent balance is projected to decline rapidly in the near future. With ESSER funding, it pushes the declining unspent balance out by one year. Rheingans stated that two-section elementary schools are not as efficient to operate as four-section schools. He also mentioned the possibility of creating a two middle school model.

Tim Oswald, Piper Sandler, presented a SAVE update and indicated that the district must sell SAVE bonds to fund the remainder of the Senior High School renovation project. The bond closing is set for July 6. This sale will maximize the amount of bonding capacity available until the FY26-27 years. Oswald discussed a couple of alternatives for the short-term. General Obligation (GO) Bonds would require 60% voter approval. He also suggested the Board consider increasing the PPEL to \$1.34. This would require 50% voter approval.

Rheingans sought the level of seriousness by the Board to proceed with the proposal of moving to a two middle school model. Does the Board agree that we do not see a path by which we can maintain unspent balance using traditional methods? Is there consensus that the district needs to do something different and direct administration to explore those options? There was no objection from Board members. They requested that the superintendent, with the help of an architect, bring back a plan to the Board at an upcoming work session, possibly in the fall.

President Ryan declared the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Joni Lucas, Secretary  
Board of Education