

ICEA Building Rep Council Meeting Minutes

Feb 8, 2017

Mann Elementary School 4:45PM

Buildings Represented: Horn, Mann, Lincoln, Wickham, Transitions, Twain, NWJH, City, Wood, Tate, ESC, Hoover, Coralville Central, Alexander, Shimek, Longfellow, Borlaug, SEJH, West

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Brady Shutt at 4:45PM

Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved by a voice vote.

A sympathy card for Co-President Mitch Gross was passed around. Gross's father passed away the previous weekend. Service arrangements are pending at the time of this meeting.

Shutt provided an update on **SSA Funding** from the State of Iowa:

The Iowa House voted to approve a 1.1% increase to Supplemental State Aid—an increase of \$40 million, or about a \$73/student increase. The Iowa Senate voted last week to do the same. Both the House and the Senate bill removed the requirement that the Legislature set two-years of SSA within 30 days of the start of the session. Governor Branstad will likely sign this legislation even though his Condition of the State speech called for a 2% increase over the course of the next two years. The Iowa City School District's budget plan was based on 2% SSA. Luckily, we are a growing District, so 1.1% SSA is equivalent to about 3.3% for ICCSD. That said, the 1.1% SSA increase may impact programming and class sizes because the budget was premised on 2%SSA.

The House and Senate bills also include increases an increase of 1.1% for categorical spending items (supplemental pay, ELL, special education, teacher leadership, professional development, at-risk, etc.). On February 6th, 2017 Pat Grassley introduced a Bill in the Iowa Senate that, if passed, would give school districts more latitude in how they spend the professional development categorical funds. Additional "local control" bills that grant more flexibility in how categorical funds are used are likely as the legislative session continues.

Shutt also provided an update on **collective bargaining rights under Chapter 20** of Iowa Law.

Identical legislation to gut collective bargaining rights was introduced in the Iowa House and Iowa Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. All indications are that the legislation has the necessary votes and the support of the Governor's Office to pass and to take effect immediately. Shutt distributed and discussed an overview of the legislation and its likely impact on ICEA. If passed, the collaborative and positive relationships that have been developed with school board members and ICCSD administrators will be critical to the maintenance and improvement of workplace conditions because of the removal of all topics except for base wages from the list of "mandatory" topics for negotiations. Shutt stressed that the need for unity is greater than ever. Talking points and an overview of collective bargaining was distributed to building representatives who were present. The documents will be distributed electronically as well. Building rep council members who would like help in talking with members in their buildings or figuring out what the legislative proposal means were encouraged to contact Brady or Mitch.

Negotiations open on Thursday, February 9. Because of the impending and probable legislative changes, the negotiations team will attempt to start and finish the negotiations process before the signing of the legislation. If the process is not completed and ratified by both the ICEA members and the Board of Education, the negotiations process will have to start over with the new rules and restrictions. Shutt explained to those present that they should expect a ratification vote request over the weekend or on Monday of the following week. Building reps will need to help in this process by explaining the changes that will come from the legislation and the need for a speedy process and ratification. Members of the negotiations team are: Monique Cottman, Angie Hayes, Robin Fields, Tom Cronk, Susan Rekwart, Megan Johnson, Brady Shutt, Mitch Gross, Jane Elerding (ECUU)

Shutt--a member of the **District Health Insurance Committee**--also provided an update on District Insurance Policy for 2017/2018: individual premiums will increase by \$45 for next year (from \$630 to \$675) and family premiums will increase from \$1310 to \$1400. In addition, out-of-pocket expenses (deductibles and co-pays) will increase for the plan for next year. In

order to maintain the solvency of the District's self-funded insurance plan, these changes were necessary and were made after careful consideration and hours of analysis by the Committee (which is comprised of several ICEA members, ECUU representation as well as representatives from the other collective bargaining groups in the District). Shutt noted that Insurance will become a prohibited topic if the legislative proposal on chapter 20 actually passes. Again, the collaborative and positive relationships developed on the Health Insurance Committee will be ever more important.

Because of the introduction of the Chapter 20 legislation, the discussion with Director Kingsley Botchway and TLC Facilitator Mark Brockmeyer were postponed.

There was no building (Mann) business.

A request was made to hold the next building rep council meeting at an off-site (non-ICCSD building) location. Efforts will be made to accommodate that request.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00PM.