

**Atlantic Community School District**  
**Minutes of the Board Work Session of the Board of Education**  
**August 28, 2024**

*Unofficial – Pending Board Approval*

**Call to Order**

The Atlantic Community School District Board of Education met for a board work session on August 28, 2024. The meeting was called to order by board president, Kristy Pellett at 5:30 pm.

Board Directors: Josh McLaren, Kristy Pellett, Laura McLean, Jodi Goodrich and Gini Jordan  
Administration: Superintendent Beth Johnsen and Board Secretary Lisa Jones

**Approval of Agenda**

McLean moved to approve the consent agenda. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Work Session Discussion**

The Board has begun discussing plans for the search for a new superintendent. Dr. Johnsen, who was hired as a two-year interim superintendent for the Atlantic School District, will see her contract conclude at the end of this fiscal year. As we move forward in seeking a permanent superintendent, the Board is extremely pleased with Dr. Johnsen's performance and strongly encourages her to apply for the position. The Board will also engage a search firm to assist in the selection process.

The board reviewed the new attendance policy. Iowa's Senate File 2435, signed into law on May 9, 2024, requires public school districts to adopt policies to address chronic absenteeism and truancy. The law defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more of classes in a grading period. Districts must adopt an attendance policy and, as necessary, collaborate with county attorneys, conduct school engagement meetings, and work with county truancy officers.

The Professional Learning Community (PLC) process in education is a collaborative, systematic process that aims to improve student achievement. PLCs are made up of teachers and administrators who work together to build a learning community. The process involves regular, collaborative meetings to discuss instruction, assessments, and data. The goal is to continuously improve teaching and learning, and to create systems that help students succeed.

The PLC process includes several elements, such as:

- Teachers are organized into relevant teams, such as by grade level or content area
- A curriculum is established
- Common assessments are created to collect evidence of student learning
- Data is collected and analyzed to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning
- Plans are created to address these strengths and weaknesses, such as interventions and enrichment systems
- Plans are implemented in the classroom
- Results are analyzed after implementation to see how effective the plans were

The PLC process is driven by four critical questions that help guide the daily actions of team members:

- What do we want students to know and be able to do?
- How will we know if students have learned it?
- How will we respond if some students don't learn it?
- How will we extend learning for students who are already proficient?

Class sizes and groupings: Board Policy 606.1 addresses class size, granting the board exclusive authority to decide the size of classes and determine the necessity of class grouping. The board may choose to review class sizes annually. The superintendent is responsible for recommending class sizes to the board, considering the district's financial status, the qualifications and number of licensed employees, and other factors the board finds relevant.

Determining whether a school district in Iowa should have a minimum threshold for offering an athletic program involves weighing several factors. Here are some key considerations:

1. **Student Interest and Participation:** A minimum threshold could ensure that there is sufficient student interest to justify the resources needed for the program. If only a few students are interested, it might be challenging to field a competitive team or justify the costs.
2. **Resource Allocation:** Athletic programs require significant resources, including funding for coaches, facilities, equipment, and transportation. A minimum threshold could help ensure that these resources are used efficiently and that the program can be sustained over time.
3. **Educational Value:** Athletics can provide important benefits, including physical fitness, teamwork, and school spirit. The district would need to balance these educational benefits against the practical considerations of maintaining a program with limited participation.

While having a minimum threshold could help manage resources effectively and ensure the viability of athletic programs, the decision should be made carefully, considering the unique needs and values of the district and its community.

#### Upcoming Dates

- School Board Regular Meeting, September 11, 2024, 5:30 pm, High School Media Center

#### Adjournment

Jordan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm. McLaren seconded and the motion carried unanimously

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Board President

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Board Secretary

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Date

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Date