

MINUTES OF BOARD WORKSHOP
Monday, October 12, 2009

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Topic: Math
- IV. Adjournment

The workshop meeting of the Board of Education of the West Des Moines Community School District was held on Monday, October 12, 2009, at the Learning Resource Center, 3550 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265.

- I. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by President Terry Tobin at 5:22 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** – The secretary noted the following Board members present: Terry Tobin, Tom Suckow, Jill Hansen (arrived at 5:33 p.m.), Milton Cole (arrived at 5:25), Elizabeth Brennan, Mark Lagomarcino Absent: Mark Lyons
- III. **Topic: Math** – Curriculum Director Dave Blum outlined the topics that would be covered at the workshop, focusing on the new elementary program Everyday Math. He said that elementary teachers took part professional development today to assist with implementing the new curriculum.

Blum said the Everyday Math program is based on concept development. He provided examples of concept-based math. He then reviewed the critical cornerstone tenets of Everyday Mathematics. Blum noted the sequencing of the program is based on research on how students learn math. The district is using the third version of the program. He explained home links and study links, prescriptive and purposeful assignments that promote interaction with a student and his/her family. The program is tightly organized, Blum said. In response to a question from Tobin, Blum explained the process leading to the adoption of Everyday Mathematics. In response to a question from Cole, Blum talked about successes other districts have had with mathematics achievement using this program.

Teachers Jeri Keenan (Grade 5, Jordan Creek) and Annie Orsini (Grade 2, Westridge) worked with participants in small groups. Keenan led each group through alternate algorithms in multiplication including partial products and lattice multiplication. Orsini demonstrated a second grade Everyday Math lesson including mental math, math message, home link, teaching the lesson, ongoing learning and practice and differentiation options.

Blum said that most units in the Everyday Math program have a family math letter that goes home. The letter explains the math vocabulary and concepts taught in that unit. He said that the program includes a lot of writing. Blum showed examples of the textbooks used in Everyday Math. In response to a question from Cole, Orsini and Daniels talked about how the new math program has been received by students, teachers and parents.

- IV. **Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Kay Rosene, Board Secretary