



Pen City Current

Tuesday, July 15, 2019 | 9 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 155

Slater's contract to expire in 2021

Board takes no action after three closed sessions

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After three closed sessions over the past five weeks, including an hour-long session Monday night, the Fort Madison school board has taken no action on Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater's contract.

Board President Dr. Tim Wondra said after the



SLATER

meeting their will be no action taken on the contract, but the contract was not extended beyond the expiration of the contract on June 30, 2021.

Wondra said the review was actually an annual scheduled review that got delayed due to personnel changes on the board. He said with the new board members coming on in the special election, the regular evaluation kind of got pushed back.

"It was my fault it got pushed back. We had it

See SLATER, page 9

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Board issues letter of support for Superintendent

The Fort Madison Community School District takes its responsibility to ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive an engaging, integrated, rigorous educational experience very seriously. We, as a Board of Directors and a Superintendent, frequently refer to the District's beliefs and vision statement to remind us of the route we must continue to pursue to meet the educational needs of all FMCS D students. These beliefs and this vision statement are read aloud at every Board meeting, and can be found on the District's website at <https://www.fmcsd.org/school-board/>.

One of the most critical parts of providing an outstanding educational experience for all students is having employees who are committed to the District's beliefs and vision statement. The District has a strong, diverse, dedicated group of employees. The District's teachers, coaches, associates, custodians, maintenance employees, secretaries, bus drivers, bus monitors, support staff, food service employees, administrators, and Superintendent are all working toward the District's shared goals and objectives.

As with any organization, there are times when individuals - including students, parents, employees, or community members - raise concerns regarding the District's employees. In these scenarios, people often have differing views and opinions regarding what occurred and what should happen next. Whatever the views held by these individuals, ultimately it is up to the employee's supervisor to appropriately investigate, discuss, and take any appropriate remedial action to address the concerns that are raised. This process allows all employees a fair opportunity to understand and respond to the concerns and ensures that concerns are being appropriately handled.

Based upon recent media coverage, it appears this is what has occurred recently at FMCS D - different people have different views of what has occurred and what should occur related to the Superintendent's conduct. Upon learning of possible concerns, the Board followed the process the District utilizes for all employees and looked into and addressed the concerns



WONDRA

Sports Complex fields get upgrades

Baseball fields, sand volleyball pit gets facelift

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Five years into its existence, the Baxter Sports Complex is in the midst of a facelift so to speak.

Specialists from North Liberty are in town removing the current infield mix from all three baseball fields in the complex and replacing them with a different surface material that will allow for quicker resumption of games after it rains.

The board made the decision in September last year to replace the surfaces despite the material having been in place for less than five years.

Baxter Sports Complex Director Jeff Woodside



Photo by Bev Seelman

This photo, courtesy of Bev Seelman of MBA Turf of North Liberty, shows field 3 at Baxter Sports Complex with its new Shakopee limestone surface. The gray areas inside the grass is an additional four feet of sod that will be added to shorten the infield. The surface can handle up to 1" of rain in one hour and will help reduce rainouts at the complex.

said the fields just weren't handling water well and that many events were being canceled all together because of the playing conditions, rather than being delayed.

"The material itself didn't drain, and the way

it was graded was more for construction than for a playing field," Woodside said. "We've probably had eight rain outs this year, but only a couple of those would have been rainouts regardless. The others we probably

would have been able to resume play with this new surface."

He said MBA Turf of North Liberty has already pulled over 120 tons of material from

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Local News/Health News

Riverfest to help out Honor Flight program

Submitted article

FORT MADISON – The fourth annual Riverfest Charity Breakfast will take place from 8 a.m. until noon Sunday, Aug. 4th under the big tent in Fort Madison’s Riverview Park. 100 percent of the proceeds raised on the day of the breakfast will be used to send tri-state area veterans on the Great River Honor Flight to Washington DC in order to visit the military memorials.

American Legion Post 82 in Fort Madison is staffing this year’s breakfast and will be doing the cooking and serving on the 4th. Dan Vice is the Secretary of the local post. “Each year raising funds for the Honor Flight is our number one Community Project. When Riverfest approached us about again being the beneficiary of this year’s breakfast we were delighted to stay involved. This event will help launch our annual campaign for the Honor Flight”.



Last year’s breakfast raised a little more than \$4,000.00, enough to send 10 vets on the trip.

The menu for this years breakfast will feature Sausage Patties, Scrambled Eggs, Hash Browns, Biscuits and

Gravy, Pancakes, Coffee, Orange Juice and Milk. The cost of the breakfast will be a free-will donation to The Great River Honor Flight. In addition Shuttle Service will be available from the Riverview Park parking lots to the breakfast site.

According to Vice, sponsors for the breakfast will cover the actual cost of the event.

“We would like to thank Fareway Food Stores, Heartland Harley Davidson, the American Legion and the Fort Madison Elks Lodge for getting involved. Because of their support 100 percent of the money raised at the breakfast will help send up to 15 Area Veterans on the Honor Flight. We are hoping for a big crowd and would like to invite everyone to stop in and support our Veterans.”

Riverfest is the largest 4 day Rock Festival in Iowa celebrating music and family fun on the Fort Madison Riverfront August 1st through August 5th.

FMCH welcomes another new physician to team

Dr. Debra Ravasia joins OB/Gyn department

Submitted article

FORT MADISON - The Women’s Center Clinic at Fort Madison Community Hospital is pleased to welcome Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Dr. Debra Ravasia. Dr. Ravasia is Board Certified in General Obstetrics and Gynecology, as well as, Urogynecology (Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery).

Dr. Ravasia trained in Canada, attending medical school at the University of Saskatchewan nearby the farm where she grew up. She completed her residency in Obstetrics/Gynecology at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary. Dr. Ravasia brings a wealth of experi-



RAVASIA

ence to her new role, having practiced five years in North Dakota and twelve years in Washington State. She most recently worked as a traveling Obstetrician/Gynecologist, around the USA, in Canada, and in Afghanistan (Doctors without Borders). After nearly three years as a traveling physician, she is looking forward to once again settling into a permanent practice in the Midwest, and becoming a part of the Fort Madison community.

“From a very young age, as a farm kid in Saskatchewan, I always knew I would be a doctor. While in medical school, I developed a passion for women’s health care in particular while doing a tropical medicine rotation in Cameroun West Africa – it gave me a new perspective on why women’s health care is so important, everywhere,” explained Dr. Ravasia. “I’ve

lived in the USA for 19 years and worked in a wide variety of settings over the years. I am drawn to the sense of community in smaller rural settings, and was charmed by Fort Madison when I came to visit.”

“I love women’s health care. “Caring for the caregivers” at all stages of life and in a variety of settings gives me great satisfaction. Peeling back the layers of various female problems and getting to the root of the problems, and helping resolve the various problems that affect us as females is what I love to do. My goal isn’t to be a good doctor. My goal is to be an excellent doctor,” she expressed.

Dr. Ravasia will join Dr. Yadira Garcia, Dr. Timothy Staudte, and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Alisa Kindig in the care of women of all ages.

When not doing medicine, Dr. Ravasia likes to ski, travel with her husband and four grown children, hike, read and work out. Her most recent hobby has been learning to fly.

Dr. Ravasia is accepting new patients. To make an appointment with Dr. Ravasia, call 319-376-2400.

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YMCA kicks off coach to 5K program event

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – The C25K program is a beginners training program that has helped thousands of new runners to get up off their couch and onto the pavement; running three miles in just two months! This is a coach led training program that will prepare new runners for the annual Rodeo Stampede 5k, comprised of group and individual workouts over an 8-week period. It is specifically designed to teach and motivate participants to follow a weekly training plan. In addition, the group will meet for support and encouragement throughout the program.

The first session will begin Thursday, July 18th at 6:00 p.m. at Lion’s Shelter House just north of Rodeo Arena following the initial group meeting. We also encourage participants to download the C25K App and will go over that more the first night.

Cost is \$25 per participant. All participants will receive free access to the Fort Madison Family YMCA facility during the 8-week program, plus free entry into the Rodeo Stampede 5k.

For more information or to volunteer as a leader contact Noah Dean or Ryan Wilson at 319-372-2403 or email noah.dean@fortmadison.org.

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Obituaries/Local News

City Council to vote on depot contract

Approval could set the stage for a September bid-letting by IDOT

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City officials will consider a \$100,000 engineering contract from Klingner & Associates on Tuesday that should clear the way for a bid letting on the new passenger rail platform at the Historic Santa Fe Depot.

The agreement is one of the final steps in securing a bid letting date for the construction of the platform, a project which has been in the works for close to two decades.

City Manager David Varley said the projected bid letting is expected for this fall on Sept. 17, with the city awarding a construction contract in October and work starting at some point that fall or in the spring.

The project is expected to be completed in August of 2020 with a final review, and audit of the project documentation to the Iowa Department of Transportation before December of next year.

The project has been full of delays, reconfigurations and emotion since it was first suggested under former Mayor John

Wright. The project picked up steam under Mayor Steve Ireland, who died before the project could see fruition.

Current Mayor Brad Randolph, who had told Ireland he would keep the project alive, almost gave in to the project being abandoned last winter when funding seemed to be about \$400,000 short. With the city finding itself in a revenue crisis, several city councilman suggested the city move on without the project.

Randolph and City Councilman Chris Greenwald then started making calls to state and federal lawmakers to try and come up with the additional funds and were successful in securing an additional \$400,000 from the Iowa Department of Transportation's Transportation Commission, saving the project.

All the while, the city had to help coordinate three different agreements to make the project a reality.

Included in the agreements is a platform sublease agreement with Amtrak. This agreement provides for the city constructing the platform and then giving ownership to

Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. Amtrak would then lease the platform from BNSF and then sublease it to the city to give the city responsibility for any maintenance and repair. Under the agreement the city would also be responsible for all utilities and insurance coverage.

Amtrak is contributing \$150,000 to the construction of the platform, and picking up \$21,000 in custodial fees annually for 10 years.

The second agreement is between the city and Amtrak where the city agrees to construct depot improvements, which have already been done, and construct a platform as well as installing Amtrak approved signage and a wheelchair enclosure.

The third agreement provides for the city leasing Amtrak 813 square feet of exclusive space in the station for operations including a "common area" to be used by passengers. It would be a 20-year lease with two 10-year extensions available. Rent on the space will be \$400 monthly from Amtrak.

The city will still be responsible for maintaining the platform.

OBITUARIES

MARY LOUISE GORHAM

Mary Louise Gorham, 87, of Keokuk, died Sunday, July 14, 2019 at the River Hill Village in Keokuk.

She was born August 14, 1931 the daughter of Leroy and Mary Jane Duer Fogle in Keokuk, Iowa. Mary was first united in marriage to Robert Stark. On November 28, 1964 she was united in marriage to Jack C. Gorham in Quincy, IL. He preceded her in death on October 29, 2012.



GORHAM

Mary graduated from Keokuk High School with the Class of 1949.

Mary was a member of First Christian Church in Keokuk.

She had been employed by Hoerner Boxes Corporate Office, Stafford Bookkeeping Service and later by Walter's Roofing Company, all in Keokuk.

She is survived by two nieces, Denise Caruso and Debbie Bimonte both of Florida and two nephews, Dennis Fogle of Florida and Kenny Fogle of Keokuk.

She was preceded in death by one daughter, Dana Lynn Stark, her parents and three brothers and sisters-in-law, Andrew Fogle and his wife Anna, William Fogle and his wife Margaret and Donald Fogle and his wife Delores.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m., Thursday, at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk with Pastor David Turner officiating.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to First Christian Church, Keokuk Animal Services or the Keokuk Humane Society.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

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Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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7/14 EVENING
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7/14 MID-DAY
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7/14 EVENING
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Open to the Public for Wednesday & Friday Dinners

From the Front/Weather

Volleyball courts get new landscaping and new sand

TURF - Continued from Page 1

field 3 and has put down the new lime material and reset that field. He said he wanted to do one field at a time so two would still be available to use in the meantime.

The company is pulling the heavier material in favor of Shakopee limestone, a highly absorbent material that can absorb up to 1" of rain in less than an hour. The material comes from Shakopee, Minn.

"This has taken longer than usual. Typically we can renovate one field in a couple of days by just putting on new materials. But we got rid of their lip and a got rid of a few things, and now we're working on irrigation," said MBA's Bev Seelman.

The company is heavily experienced and is one of the University of Iowa's go to companies when it comes to rehabbing and resurfacing fields.

We contracted with them last September knowing it wouldn't happen until this spring. It should have been completed in April, but the

rain pushed their schedule back as they were finishing up a couple other projects.

When I came in October of 2017, it was one of those things we knew needed to be done, but was an issue of how we were going to pay for it and finding the right person to do the work

He said the board did a couple of site visits, and also went to Linn-Mar High School and talked to groundskeepers about the different materials the board was considering.

"He said this, hands-down, is the best material for what we were wanting to do with it, so that's what we went with," Woodside said.

Planned work would have field 2, or the southwest field done next followed by field 1 in the southeast corner of the complex. Woodside said the total bill for the improvements will be in the six-figure range, but he said grants from the Southeast Iowa Regional Riverboat Commission,



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



Baxter Sports Complex Director Jeff Woodside checks out the landscaping at the complex's new sand volleyball courts. At right, Jim Seelman works on aligning the home plate on Field 3 after re-surfacing the field Friday afternoon.

helped offset a lot of the costs.

The complex also just finished up a \$35,000 upgrade to the sand vol-

leyball courts with new sand and landscaping. New rock landscaping and sod were put down just south of the patio

and 220 tons of new sand was brought in.

Woodside said the improvements have helped fill up the adult volleyball schedule.

"We've got volleyball three nights a week and it's pretty full out here," he said.

He said these projects will probably be the final projects done outside of

in-house maintenance this year.

The complex has an all night volleyball tournament scheduled for July 26 and an all-night softball tournament coming up in August. Woodside said summer leagues are in full swing and fall leagues will be forming at the beginning of September.

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WED 17 Jul
Overcast
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THU 18 Jul
Clear Skies
High - 88.6° F | Low - 77.6° F

FRI 19 Jul
Clear Skies
High - 88.3° F | Low - 80.5° F

SAT 20 Jul
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COOP'S SHOP
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Area news

State looking for Iowa Honor Jobs nominees

DES MOINES — Gov. Kim Reynolds is encouraging Iowans to make nominations for the sixth annual Iowa Job Honor Awards. The Iowa Job Honor Awards is accepting nominations for its sixth annual event set for October 10 in Des Moines.

The awards celebrate Iowans who overcome barriers to employment and the employers who hire them. Previous honorees have overcome disabilities, criminal convictions, immigration challenges and ageism in their struggle

for employment.

Two previous honorees, Steven Shewry and Michael Willoughby, were recognized by Governor Reynolds in her 2019 Condition of the State address. The two completed apprenticeship training while in prison, obtained employment immediately upon release, and are now recognized as outstanding workers by their Iowa employers.

Top individual honorees in the October 10 ceremony will receive

cash awards, and winners in both the individual and employer categories will receive engraved crystal awards. Videos will be produced for each top honoree.

The awards are presented as part of the Iowa SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) annual state conference.

Nominations are due July 31 and can be submitted at www.JobHonor.org. Previous honoree videos can also be viewed at the organization's website.

About the Iowa Job Honor Awards
The Iowa Job Honor Awards is a nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative advancing workforce opportunities for people with employment barriers. A subsidiary of America's Job Honor Awards, the awards celebrate Iowans who overcome employment barriers and the employers who hire them.

Launched in Iowa in 2014, America's Job Honor Awards is now a nationally-recognized movement operating in multiple states.

Loebsack-backed appropriations bill passed in House

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Congressman Dave Loebsack released the following statement on the House passage of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which included provisions he authored. Loebsack, a former member the House Armed Services Committee, helped incorporate several provisions in this year's legislation that will help create jobs here at home, increase defense research and strengthen the Rock Island Arsenal. The Senate will now consider its version of the bill and a joint House-Senate Conference Committee will convene to work out the differences between the two bills.

Loebsack worked to in-

clude a provision to extend Temporary Installation Reutilization Authority for leasing excess space at Army arsenals, depots, and plants through September 30, 2025. This will allow the Rock Island Arsenal to continue leveraging private investment through long-term facility use contracts, property management contracts, leases or other such agreements. It would also require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the information technology, logistics, and security requirements necessary to create an internal listing service of Army assets available for lease. Loebsack also authored language included in the overall bill to boost STEM jobs and address the STEM jobs gap

within the Department of Defense (DoD).

Additionally, Loebsack worked with the Armed Services Committee to include language in the bill report that will require the Secretary of Defense to report on the status of legislation included in last year's defense bill that directs DoD to work with private industry and academia to accelerate development of human factors modeling and simulation technologies to support soldier training and performance. This will help strengthen cooperation between the DoD and existing human factors modeling and simulation research projects, including the University of Iowa's Virtual Soldier Research program, fur-

ther enhancing academic research and development and the University.

"Ensuring the men and women in our military have the tools and resources to properly defend our nation remains a top priority of mine. As a parent of military children, I am proud to have worked to deliver the level of support our troops need and deserve," said Loebsack. "While this legislation does not include everything I would have hoped, the amendments I worked to incorporate into the bill will help ensure the Arsenal has the tools and resources

it needs to remain competitive. I am also pleased that we have taken steps to drive more workload to the Rock Island Arsenal, which helps both the Arsenal and Quad Cities create jobs and help their economy remain strong."

Additionally, Loebsack pushed to include many provisions important to our troops and their families, including:

- Provides for a 3.1 percent pay increase for the troops;
- Repeals the "widow's tax" which requires military surviving spouses to forfeit all or part of their

military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity if they become eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments when their spouse dies.

- Creates greater protections for military families by establishing a tenant's bill of rights for residents of privatized military housing, requiring DoD to identify and measure health and safety hazards in housing, and providing additional funding to improve oversight and management of military family housing.

- Prohibits an additional round of BRAC.

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Dr. Heyland is pictured with her husband, Chad, and their two children.

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Classifieds/Public Notices

the classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE ORDINANCE NO. D-54

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 7 SECTION 2 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT MADISON, IOWA BY AMENDING SUBSECTION (A) AS TO ALLOW FOR A CHANGE IN THE SEWERAGE RATE

Be It Enacted By The City Council Of The City Of Fort Madison, Iowa

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, does hereby amend Title 8, Chapter 7, Section 2, Subsection A of the Fort Madison City Code by deleting Subsection A in its entirety, and replacing it with a new Subsection A to read in full, as follows:

A. Unit Rates, Monitored and Nonmonitored Contributors: Minimum unit rates for service billed after July 1, 2019 will be assessed contributors to the Sewage Works, as follows:

	Present Rates	July 1, 2019	July 1, 2020
Nonmonitored customers – class 1 rates:			
Basic Service Charge (per bill)	\$21.00	\$23.25	\$25.50
Volume Charge (per 1,000 gallons)	\$5.55	\$5.75	\$5.90
Monitored Customers			
Basic Service Charge (per bill)	\$21.00	\$23.25	\$25.50
Volume Charge (per 1,000 gallons)	\$1.83	\$1.87	\$1.91
BOD (per pound)	\$0.80	\$0.80	\$0.80
SS (per pound)	\$0.84	\$0.84	\$0.84
NH ₃ N (over 30 mg/l)	\$2.52	\$2.52	\$2.52
Minimum Monthly Charge (per 1,000 gallons for nonmetered contributions)	\$5.55	\$5.55	\$5.55

Effective July 1 of each year, beginning in 2021, the customer base service charges and volume charges as set forth in Section 8-7-2 of this chapter shall be increased two percent (2.0%) from the prior year, except as amended by ordinance of the City Council. The city shall review said charges and rates every two (2) years to ensure that the system generates adequate revenues to pay the full costs of operation, maintenance and any debt service and to maintain adequate fund balances.

Past due bills will be subject to a 10% late fee.

The portion of this rate system applicable to monitored contributors where wastewater volume is continuously measured and wastewater strength is determined on the basis of regular sampling and analysis. Monitored contributors will be billed for a minimum volume of thirty thousand

(30,000) gallons per month. If the analysis for BOD produces unreliable or erroneous results, as determined by the Superintendent, due to inhibition or interference of the waste sample, the monitored contributor may be billed on the basis of Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) in lieu of BOD. The unit rate for COD will be thirty-eight cents (\$0.38) per pound.

Haulers of septic tank wastes and industrial or other wastes that are hauled to the Wastewater Treatment Plant for discharge and treatment are subject to all provisions of this Chapter. Contributors not falling within the rate system provided herein shall be subject to charges and requirements, as determined by the Superintendent.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or part of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are

hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. If any section, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in effect after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of July, 2019.

/s/Chris Greenwald, Mayor
or Pro Tem
City of Fort Madison,
Iowa

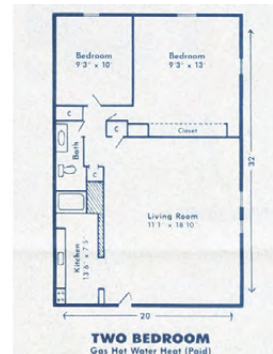
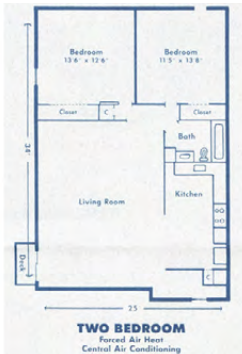
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From the Front

Buyout would have been heavy burden on district

SLATER - Continued from Page 1

planned to do it, but then it got expanded with all this and it went from one to possibly two sessions to these extended sessions," Wondra said.

He said no action on the contract was put on the agenda because no action was required.

"The only reason to have a contract on the agenda would be if we were either going to change it or increase pay and since we're not doing either of those, there wasn't anything to act on," he said.

He said to buy out Slater's contract would have been too heavy a burden on the district.

"Part of our job is to be financially responsible. For the taxpayers' money if you have someone that has a multi-year contract to get out of, they have no incentive without getting a whole chunk of money," Wondra said.

"To be financially responsible we can't buy out contracts. When you're looking at a \$180,000 contract, to buy that out and to pay somebody else at the same time, that's significant to the district."

The regular review was extended due to allegations that Slater had demanded additional playing time for her son at a meeting with Fort Madison Head Basketball Coach Ryan Wilson at her office.

Wilson went public with the allegations last month, two days after Slater's husband Scott confronted him at a basketball camp in Quincy. The confrontation was caught on tape and was posted locally on social media.

Slater also communicated with the board via email that she was concerned with shared programs, specifically the baseball program, hurting Fort Madison High School athletes who were losing playing time to Holy Trinity Catholic players. Slater scheduled a meeting with Wondra and Fort Madison Athletic Director Jeremy Swink to discuss the issue, but that meeting was canceled and never rescheduled.

Holy Trinity Catholic had five players on a squad of 30 for this summer's Bloodhound baseball team.

On June 16, the board received a letter that was also sent to area news outlets from a Slater personal email account indicating the superintendent would not be signing an extension to her contract. The emailed letter was sent from the initials S.S.

Great progress under Slater's leadership

LETTER - Continued from Page 1

directly with the Superintendent. The matter has been appropriately handled by the Board. Iowa law requires that the District keep any personnel information regarding a District employee confidential. Therefore, the District cannot make any statements or provide any information related to any employee personnel matter, including this matter involving the Superintendent.

The Board affirmatively states that it supports Dr. Slater and her leadership of the District's educational program and of all FMCS D students and employees. There has been great progress while Dr. Slater has served as Superintendent, and we look forward to continued progress that will bring more positive experiences for FMCS D students and employees.

We are all one community pursuing the same goal to provide an educational experience that ensures all students learn the skills necessary for success.

Tim Wondra Lois DiPrima, Dianne Hope Brian Steffensmeier, Jared Hotop BradMenke, Carol Ross - Fort Madison Community School District Board of Directors

Dr. Erin Slater - Fort Madison Community School District Superintendent

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