

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS UPDATE
July 15, 2010

The Superintendent shared parts two (of three) of the District's achievement results.

- +Kindergarten assessments demonstrate that a good preschool program works
- +The data showed that more minority students are taking AP classes
- +8th grade math achievement is up. Credit was given to the new curriculum that was implemented two years ago.

- Mixed results - at best - in elementary. My opinion was that the Board expected better results.

- There was an issue between the Board and the Superintendent on the language the Superintendent used in the monitoring report: it did not match what the Board has established as goals. That's something both parties need to address.

- The Board was positive in looking forward. This assessment data will be used in allocating dollars in the 2011/12 budget. The Board will insist on measurable action steps to correct deficiencies/lack of achievement. Their expectations are high for the District to make better progress/growth and higher achievement.

- While the material (I can pdf it or copy it for any interested people) was not exactly what the Board wanted, it does contain valuable data.

PPEL will be coming up for a vote September 14th. The Board-approved portion is .33/\$1000; the voter-approved portion is currently .64/\$1000.

There was a little discussion on the possibility of asking the voters to increase the voter-approved amount up to the \$1.34/\$1000 maximum. I believe that a majority of the Board does not want to take the risk of the referendum not passing, and will stay with the current amount.

The District did win a \$13 million grant (paid over three years) for its 4 Tier 1 Low Achieving buildings.