

# C.R. board won't rush cost cutting

President: No intent to merge departments

By Diane Heldt  
The Gazette

**CEDAR RAPIDS** — Cedar Rapids school board members said they want to study cost-saving and efficiency suggestions from a community task force report, but stressed last night that they don't want to rush into any changes based on the report.

The school board spent an hour during its work session asking questions of efficiency task force members about the 81-page report, which the board received on Feb. 28.

The document is a preliminary report that board members and school officials will spend much more time discussing and investigating, Board President Mary Meisterling said. Members have heard comments on the report in the past weeks, she

said, adding that district employees who are worried about their jobs should know it is not the district's intent to collapse departments.

A number of recommendations in the report promote more collaboration between the district and other school and government entities in areas such as purchasing, technology and transportation. Also included is a suggestion that the district explore the subject of

outsourcing some services.

Also at the meeting, the board approved the hires of three top administrators, all to begin July 1:

- Jay Marino was appointed associate superintendent of organizational effectiveness and accountability, at a salary of \$105,560. Marino is assistant superintendent for instruction and school improvement in the Rock Island, Ill., school district.

- Christine Rauscher was

appointed associate superintendent of learning, at a salary of \$105,560. She is assistant superintendent for instructional and special services in Palatine, Ill.

- Bruce Brotzman was appointed executive administrator for secondary education, at a salary of \$101,835. He is principal at Rock Bridge High School in Columbia, Mo.

The board also last night

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