



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2024; 1:00 p.m.
Professional Learning Lab

Committee members present were – Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Business Manager Stephanie Hunter, Communications Director Sarah Trustem, Stacy Kilwein (representing Partners in Parenting), Krissy Kilwein (representing Berg Elementary), Jessica Sherman (representing Heart River Elementary), Melissa Wells (representing Jefferson Elementary), Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary), Maree Bowlsby (representing the Early Childhood Program), and also present was Board President Michelle Orton.

Call to Order – Superintendent Dr. Lewton called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda Items – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Approval of the December 12, 2023, minutes - Krissy Kilwein moved to approve the December 12, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Laura Fetting seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. It was brought up that the November minutes had not been approved due to limited attendance at the December meeting and there was no January meeting. The November minutes were not approved at the February meeting due to the minutes not being available for review. November minutes can be reviewed and approved at the March meeting.

Business Topics

State of the District: Dr. Lewton presented the State of the District video presentation.

Board Goals: Board President Michelle Orton gave an overview of the Board’s Goals as presented in the State of the District presentation. The number one focus is student learning – Accountability, Transparency, and Community Engagement. The Board’s Goals are:

1. Reading
2. Math
3. Choice Ready

Melissa Wells asked for clarification on “Choice Ready”. Dr. Lewton responded that Choice Ready was a state identifier as an accountability measure for schools. A student’s goal is to qualify for two of the three criteria. The three criteria are: 1) college ready 2) career ready, and 3) military ready.

Melissa Wells asked a second question regarding the math scores and why they were at 28%. Dr. Lewton explained there is a process of standards and cut scores that determine percentages. In addition, math took a hit during Covid with no face-to-face education. Dr. Lewton went on to say that Dickinson Public is at the state average.

Melissa Wells brought up the topic of the possible rezoning of the elementary schools and class sizes. Dr. Lewton said that the Board will address the possible rezoning at its March meeting. There is no mandate on class sizes but keeping a class size, as an average, in the low to mid 20’s is optimal. The recommendations for rezoning would not occur this school year. They could be implemented fall of 2024.

Maree Bowsby asked a question regarding safety updates at Hagen. Dr. Lewton responded that at this time there were no immediate safety updates that were taking place at Hagen. Maree Bowsby responded she had cost-effective ideas promoting safety updates. Dr. Lewton asked that she email him to further discuss.

A topic was brought up regarding the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (ND DOT) proposed removal of the signal light on Third Avenue West (Highway 22) and Third Street West which is on the corner of Berg Elementary School. Dr. Lewton explained there would be an opportunity for public input at the Professional Learning Lab from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2024. Dr. Lewton also said there were nine criteria that the DOT allows federal money to be spent on in an intersection. That particular intersection does not meet any of those nine criteria.

Jessica Sherman made a motion that the District-Wide PAC would like to voice their concern about the proposed removal of the stoplight in question and asked that the city consider their concern regarding that removal. Maree Bowsby seconded the motion. All members were in favor with one abstaining to vote.

Due to time constraints, the February 12, 2024, School Board Meeting Agenda, the Voly Program, the Parent Advisory Program policy, the District-Wide PAC gift selections for DPS employees, and Rumors were agenda items not covered during the meeting.

Adjournment – Superintendent Lewton declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.