



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023; 12:00 p.m.

Professional Learning Lab

Committee members present were Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Krissy Kilwein (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Jessica Sherman (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), Mrs. Stephanie Rogers (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC), and Ms. Kailen VanDyke (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC).

Call to Order –Superintendent Dr. Lewton called the meeting to order at noon.

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

Approval of the October 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Kilwein moved to approve the October 11, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Sherman seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried.

Business Topics

November 13, 2023, School Board Meeting Agenda – Superintendent Lewton summarized some of the topics discussed at last night’s Board meeting. He noted the student enrollment was up 120 students compared to the same time last year. The elementary classroom sizes are 20 students on average.

Dr. Lewton noted November 13-17 was American Education Week. Teachers and staff are recognized during the week. He explained since the bond referendum passed, there are two groups working on the high school project. One group is working on the programming part by visiting schools in western and eastern North Dakota. They are finding out what is working and not working in the classroom setup, common spaces, securing entrances, etc. The other group is working on the finance and construction part by developing the Request for Qualifications for a Construction Manager at Risk. The Construction Manager at Risk will work closely with the architect.

There are plans for security upgrades next summer at the elementary schools. Dr. Lewton explained each year there is a security audit at the buildings to identify areas that need improvement. Some elementary schools will need more security upgrades and construction than other buildings.

Superintendent Lewton reported the District will be hiring RSP & Associates to review the elementary boundaries. Some classroom sizes are too large. He realizes this is not ideal for parents to have a shift in the boundaries. There are no plans for major changes.

The District is in the process of selling the Hagen field. This is the last of the three properties the District had planned to sell. The old bus barn on the south side of town, the Steffes Building, and the previous location of the Adult Learning Center have been sold and closed.

Dr. Lewton was pleased with the number of paraprofessionals that have signed up for the para-to-teacher program. Ten paraprofessionals are attending the program through Dickinson State University and two paraprofessionals are attending through the University of Mary.

At last night's Board meeting, the Board received updated information regarding the Board's Goal to increase student reading proficiency. Dr. Lewton noted the scores increased by one percent.

The CTE Director, Aaron Anderson, provided an update to the Board last night on the Southwest Area Career and Technical Education Academy (SWACTEA). Mr. Anderson reported over 500 students are taking classes at the SWACTEA. Committee members would like to have a tour of the recently remodeled building B. This could potentially be scheduled for the December 12 meeting. If the culinary class could provide a lunch with the tour and meeting, it would be a bonus.

Other/Concerns – Mrs. Melissa Wells had emailed the members of the committee that she would like to bring up the topic of the snow removal policy and the responsibilities of the school district and the City of Dickinson. Mrs. Wells was unable to attend today's meeting. The placement of the snow moved at the middle school was shared as a concern which led to a discussion regarding the congestion at the middle school at release time.

Mrs. Kilwein requested information on the purpose of the building-level PAC. Members shared the roles they have at their buildings, the number of volunteers attending the building-level meetings, the sharing of budget information for the building's PAC account, and communication with parents regarding events and fundraisers. Most buildings do not rely solely on the building-level PAC to coordinate events and fundraisers. There is assistance from the building principal, the Voly program, and sometimes staff. The fundraisers have a purpose. This helps the parents know what project the fundraising will go towards. Dr. Lewton explained there are policies on fundraising and Parent Advisory Committees. He will share the Parent Advisory Committees policy at the next meeting. As per policy, fundraising forms are prepared and then signed by the building principal and forwarded to the superintendent for approval. These requests need to be submitted in advance of the fundraiser. Committee members shared fundraising ideas.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.