



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, December 12, 2023; 12:00 p.m.

Professional Learning Lab

Committee members present were Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), Mrs. Stacy Kilwein (representing Partners in Parenting), and Mrs. Maree Bowsby via conference call (representing the Early Childhood Program).

Call to Order – Superintendent Dr. Lewton called the meeting to order at 12:05. He introduced Mrs. Maree Bowsby, joining via conference call, who will be representing the Early Childhood Program.

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

Approval of the November 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Due to limited attendance, this agenda topic was moved to the January meeting.

Business Topics

December 11, 2023, School Board Meeting Agenda – Superintendent Lewton summarized some of the topics discussed at last night's Board meeting. The District's enrollment has increased by 133 students in comparison to one year ago. There are currently 300 freshmen. Most of the elementary classrooms average 325 students. As the students graduate and the 325 elementary students roll forward, the enrollment could level off.

A Selection Committee is reviewing the applicants for the Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR) for the high school project and securing the entrances at the elementary schools. Dr. Lewton reported typically the CMaR is hired before the bond referendum. Based on input from the community at the last bond referendum, it was decided to wait until after the bond passed to hire a CMaR.

Dr. Lewton noted the school board approved the addition of seven certified employees. Included in these seven are an administrator for the Career and Technical Education Center and two special education teachers.

Parent Advisory Committee Board Policy – Due to limited attendance, this topic was tabled until the January meeting. Dr. Lewton inquired if there was a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) at the Early Childhood Program. Mrs. Bowsby responded there was not. She has spoken to an ECP teacher and the coordinator about having a PAC at ECP. She felt it would be beneficial so there could be an opportunity for more parent involvement. Superintendent Lewton will meet with Ms. Cheryl Anderson, Mrs. Julie Jahner, and Mrs. Sarah Trustem regarding more parent involvement.

VOLY Program – Due to limited attendance, this topic was tabled until the January meeting. VOLY is a volunteer management system. Some building PACs are utilizing this volunteer program. It can be beneficial when there is a need for extra assistance for an event. Director of Communications Sarah Trustem has received training on VOLY and will share information with the committee members at the January meeting.

Other/Rumors – Mrs. Bowsby noted the other school buildings have full-time administrators. The Early Childhood Program (ECP) Coordinator Julie Jahner is not a full-time administrator at the ECP. Mrs. Bowsby felt the need was there at the ECP for a full-time administrator. Superintendent Lewton responded there has been a discussion at the Central Office Cabinet regarding that topic. There are approximately 125 students enrolled in the Early Childhood Program. There are approximately 250 students in the smaller elementary buildings. Mrs. Bowsby added there is a summer ECP program. She felt it would be beneficial for Mrs. Jahner to be in attendance at IEP meetings.

Mrs. Kilwein inquired regarding the District's open enrollment policy. Superintendent Lewton responded the state has a form required to be completed if a family lives in a different school district and wishes to attend Dickinson Public. The form needs to be submitted to the incoming school district by March 1 of the year the parent wishes their child to start in the fall. Dr. Lewton noted there are scenarios where open enrollment applications are denied, typically when space is an issue. One example is the Southwest Community High School (SWCHS). There is a high demand for students to attend this alternative school and there are limited instructors and space available. There is a continuous waiting list for the SWCHS.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.