



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2021; 12:00 p.m.

Members present via the Zoom Meeting: Dr. Shon Hocker (Superintendent), Mr. Keith Harris (Assistant Superintendent), Mrs. Stacy Kilwein (representing Partners in Parenting), Mrs. Jennifer Braun (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Barb Shockey (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC), Mrs. Crystal Jahner (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Krissy Kilwein (representing Berg Elementary PAC).

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

Approval of the November 10, 2020, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Jennifer Braun moved to approve the November 10, 2020, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Stacy Kilwein seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

January 11, 2021, School Board Meeting Agenda – Dr. Hocker summarized topics from the January 11, 2021, Board meeting agenda. He explained the Board approved face-to-face instruction returning to full-time on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, for elementary and middle school students, and returning to full-time on Thursday, January 21, 2021, for the high school students. There was support from the local health official in making this transition. Students and employees will still be required to wear face masks unless six feet of social distancing can be achieved. The District will continue to support the full-time online learning option through the end of this school year.

Mrs. Braun inquired if the students would continue to keep their technology. Superintendent Hocker responded the devices are student issued. There will be updated information if the students will need to take their devices home each day and bring them to school the next day. Mrs. Stacy Kilwein shared her appreciation for the District notifying the employees right away last night that the District was planning to go to full-time face-to-face instruction.

Dr. Hocker said the Board also approved the calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. This calendar is posted on the District website. It matches the calendar from the current school year with school starting before Labor Day and ending before Memorial Day.

A survey was conducted on the calendar and parents preferred to have the early releases on Fridays instead of Wednesdays. Those teachers with activities at the end of the week will have a more difficult time participating in the professional development on the Friday early release dates.

Rumors – Mrs. Shockey had a parent contact her concerned that the funding had run out for the online learning and there would be no more teachers for the online instruction. Superintendent Hocker responded this was not accurate. He said three administrators have been hired to be online principals. The online principal at the elementary level is Prairie Rose Elementary Principal Nicole Weiler. The middle school online principal is DMS Assistant Principal Cassie Francis. The high

school online principal is DHS Dean of Students Randy Cranston. Dr. Hocker said he meets with these principals regularly.

Superintendent Hocker explained the District needs to prepare to offer this type of online instruction as a long-term addition to Dickinson Public Schools. It is anticipated the North Dakota legislature will be making a change in this session. In anticipation of this passing, the District is preparing its principals and teachers for this addition to Dickinson Public.

Dr. Hocker noted there are over 450 home schooled students in southwestern North Dakota. The online instruction will provide an opportunity for a bridge where home school parents might benefit from some of the online teacher instruction.

Other – Mrs. Shockey shared some ways the Prairie Rose Elementary PAC was meeting and the difficulties of trying to organize fund raising. This led to a discussion regarding teacher and staff appreciation. Dr. Hocker said the District greatly appreciates the teachers and staff and also greatly appreciates what the parents have done to face the challenges. The parents and students have learned how to adapt and change which reflects what the staff and teachers are having to do. They have all done incredible things. In the spring, the District-wide PAC typically selects a gift for the District employees to be distributed during the early May Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.