



**District-Wide PAC Meeting
Minutes**

**Monday, October 11, 2021; 12:00 p.m.
Professional Learning Lab**

Members present were Dr. Marcus Lewton (Interim Superintendent), Mrs. Stacy Kilwein (representing Partners in Parenting), Mrs. Krissy Kilwein (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Jennifer Braun (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Barbara Shockey (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC), Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), and Mr. Keith Harris (Assistant Superintendent).

Call to Order – Interim Superintendent Lewton called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Introduction of Committee Members – Committee members introduced themselves and the area they represented.

Purpose of this Committee – Dr. Lewton explained this committee was a way of communication from the District back to the parent representatives. It is an opportunity for the superintendent to share updated information and committee members to make inquiries.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – Mrs. Stacy Kilwein requested the topic of “Mini Pantry Food Houses” be added to the agenda.

Approval of the April 13, 2021, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Krissy Kilwein moved to approve the April 13, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Barb Shockey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

October 7, 2021, School Board Meeting Agenda – Dr. Lewton noted the one new employee hired was a kindergarten teacher for Jefferson Elementary. Last year, the District had 288 kindergarten students. It anticipated an increase this school year but not a substantial increase to 380-400 kindergarten students. Many kindergarten students enrolled during the summer months.

Mrs. Stacy Kilwein asked what the District’s recommended numbers in the kindergarten classroom were. Dr. Lewton responded the recommendation was around 20 in a classroom. Dr. Lewton explained the District was down 280 students from the 2019-2020 school year to the 2020-2021 school year.

The District’s food service commodities provider, Cash-Wa, has informed the District that it will cease operations on November 1, 2021. The District was able to secure another distributor, Sysco Foods.

The District will be operating at a deficit budget this year. It operated on a deficit budget last year as well. Dr. Lewton explained the District’s goal was to build a balanced budget in the 2022-2023 school year. Approximately 86% of the District’s cost was for employees.

The soccer and softball complex being built north of the DSU Biesiot Activities Center has received about 90% funding commitment.

Senior Walk-through at Elementary Schools – Mrs. Shockey would like the District to consider implementing a senior walk-through of the elementary schools towards the end of the school year. She has seen this successful in another state. Typically, a small amount of time is set aside in the seniors' day when they are wearing their cap and gowns, such as commencement practice, where the senior may spend about 15 minutes in the elementary school where they previously attended. It is a time for the seniors to reflect on their elementary days and for the younger children to see the goals of graduation in their future. Interim Superintendent Lewton will share this idea with the Cabinet members and report back to the District-wide PAC.

Future Meeting Dates – The meeting dates for the District-wide PAC will typically be the Tuesday after the Monday night's Board meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at noon at the Professional Learning Lab.

Other – Mrs. Krissy Kilwein asked for clarification regarding an interim superintendent; there are several meanings to the term "interim". Dr. Lewton explained when Dr. Hocker accepted a new opportunity at the end of the last school year, the Board felt it wished to wait to do a nationwide search for a superintendent. He added when the position was offered to him, there could be three outcomes. One outcome was to do a nationwide search for the position sometime next year. Dr. Lewton could also apply for the position. Another option would be if the position did not work out, he could go back to DMS if he wished. The third option would be if the Board chose to remove the "interim" and he would become the superintendent.

Mrs. Krissy Kilwein inquired how the District was doing on finding substitute teachers. Dr. Lewton responded nationwide there continues to be a substitute teacher shortage. Many individuals do not want to be in the schools right now. The District is doing everything possible to keep the school's doors open. At times, Central Office administrators have stepped in and substituted in the classroom or on the playground, wherever there was a need.

Mini Pantry Food Houses – Mrs. Stacy Kilwein referenced the mini food pantries scattered throughout the community. She inquired if this group or possibly a school would be interested in adopting one of the mini houses. Mrs. Kilwein has a letter that could be sent to Twila and scanned and emailed to the District-wide PAC. This topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.