



**District-Wide PAC Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022; 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. Jessica Sherman (representing Heart River Elementary PAC).

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

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

Approval of the February 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Stacy Kilwein moved to approve the February 22, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. Mrs. Laura Fetting seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

March 14, 2022, School Board Meeting Agenda – Dr. Lewton reviewed highlights from last night’s board meeting. He noted the kindergarten pre-registration held in February had a low turnout. The District will look at some marketing tools to increase participation in the pre-registration process. One of the elementary principals is considering holding “Kindergarten Night” at that school and bringing some excitement into the process.

At last night’s Board Meeting, the audit of the District’s financials was shared. There were some findings in the audit regarding the liabilities. There were funds set aside for liabilities, such as for the teacher’s retirement account, that were adjusted during the audit. This changed the final deficit for June 30, 2021, from an estimated deficit of \$3.9 million to a deficit of \$1.3 million.

The District continues to look at ways to reduce the deficit. One of those ways is through attrition. As employees are resigning, the position is reviewed with stakeholders and carefully considered before the position is filled. Dr. Lewton used an example of the recent notice by the Director of Student Services to retire. This position will not be filled. This will require individuals to take on additional responsibilities currently under the Director of Student Services’ portfolio.

Dr. Lewton reported the Board made a motion for Dickinson High School to have late starts on Wednesdays starting fall 2022. The beginning time for Wednesdays at DHS is still being considered. It could be 9:20 or 9:30 a.m. as a starting time for the students. DHS employees will continue to start at their regular time. The students will have their homeroom during the first period instead of the beginning of the day. Students will have opportunities for intervention during Wednesday mornings. The teachers will utilize the Wednesday morning additional time for collaboration and Professional Learning Communities.

Dr. Lewton explained that fall of 2020, some of the high school teachers grieved against the administration and then the school board for having to teach students online and face-to-face. The two parties agreed to disagree, and the Board came to an agreement of paying the teacher grievants \$75,000.

Other - Mrs. Sherman referenced an article she saw that school districts would return to charging for student lunches. Superintendent Lewton explained currently the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Program has a waiver for all student school lunches. The waiver has been part of the funding during the pandemic. This waiver will expire June 2022. Dr. Lewton said he still needs to confirm this information as it just came out. Families are still encouraged to complete applications for free meals or for reduced meals.

District-wide PAC Gift Selection for DPS Employees – There were a couple of ideas the committee members suggested as a gift for DPS employees during the upcoming Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. By consensus, a gift was selected with hopes it could be done within the budget and purchased locally.

Adjournment –The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.