



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2022; 12:00 p.m.

Professional Learning Lab

Committee members present were Superintendent Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Laura Fetting (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), Mrs. Krissy Kilwein and Mrs. Nicole Wald (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Jessica Sherman (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Barbara Shockey (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Crystal Jahner (representing Roosevelt 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 March 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Shockey moved to approve the March 15, 2022, meeting minutes. Mrs. Wald seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Lewton thanked the committee members for their advice on a gift and their work on distributing the gifts to the employees in the District during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week.

Superintendent Lewton presented a community State of the District on April 28. The video from the presentation is posted on the District's website.

A survey was posted on the District's website for the parents to complete regarding their input on the virtual learning which the District implemented on the 1.5 storm days in April. Many parents were in favor of the virtual days versus making up the days at the end of the school year. Some great suggestions were received from the survey.

Business Topics

May 9, 2022, School Board Meeting Agenda – Dr. Lewton encouraged the committee members to review the agenda on the website on the BoardDocs link and review all the recognitions that are listed every month on the Consent Agenda. There are many exciting academic achievements and other accomplishments in the District.

Dr. Lewton highlighted some topics from last night's School Board Meeting. He noted the USDA waiver granting free school meals due to the pandemic will expire at the end of this school year. Parents will again be paying for student lunches. The Board approved an increase of \$.60 for elementary lunches. Dr. Lewton encouraged families to complete a free and reduced lunch application.

Superintendent Lewton noted the Board attended a workshop/retreat a few weeks ago. During the training, the Board identified three goals that they would like to target. Those goals are to increase the proficiency of third-grade reading, eighth-grade mathematics, and increase the percentage of students that are Choice Ready. The push for these goals is coming from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Dr. Lewton explained last night the Board received an update from the Southwest Community High School principal, the Adult Learning Center coordinator, and Stacy Kilwein, coordinator for the West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center.

Classroom Sizes at the Elementary Schools – Mrs. Wald inquired regarding the elementary classroom sizes. At Berg Elementary, the fourth-grade class is currently at 30 students. She had concerns with one or more unruly children in the classroom. She wanted to know if there was a set number for the classroom size. Superintendent Lewton responded splitting a class of 30 into two classrooms of 15 students was potentially not sustainable at this time. Mrs. Kilwein inquired what would be the breaking point. Dr. Lewton responded the District currently is not breaking even. It is operating at a \$1.6 million deficit. He noted the administration was watching the enrollment numbers and was hiring two additional elementary teachers next year.

Mrs. Wald inquired regarding the COVID funding and how it was utilized. Dr. Lewton explained part of this funding was to backfill the budget. He said he has addressed these topics in his State of the District presentation. The presentation reports the District was down 280 students in 2020-2021. The District had posted and hired personnel to serve 100 more students.

Senior Walk – The Senior Walk-through at the elementary schools was introduced as an idea by the District-wide PAC. This year's Senior Walk-through will be held during graduation week. Seniors will be greeting students at the elementary school in their caps and gowns. It should be an exciting event.

Rumors – Mrs. Sherman said that a teacher had reached out to her and told her that the District was trying to reduce the amount of time for the teacher's lunch by 15 minutes and asking the teachers to cover recess. Dr. Lewton responded that the state is providing 1% of new money to the District for raises. Out of that 1%, \$88 per student went to the state for a state program update. Dr. Lewton explained due to the small amount from the state, the teachers could receive a percentage on the base but not receive additional funds for what they consider steps and education. Last year, the District provided the teachers with a 1% pay increase on the base plus an additional 2% for steps and education. It equaled almost 3%. The District essentially spent more than they had brought in. This year, for the educators to receive their additional steps and education of approximately 2%, the money would have to be saved somewhere else. The teachers reviewed many ideas. One idea to save money was for the educators to have some duties at lunch or after school. This would essentially reduce the amount of time for the paraprofessionals. No paraprofessionals would be let go. Through attrition, individuals that retired or resigned, those positions would be reviewed before hiring a replacement paraprofessional. The District wishes to do what it can to protect the classroom as much as possible.

Other – Committee members shared some ideas for recruiting members to their building's to serve on PAC.

Adjournment – At 1:00 p.m., Superintendent Lewton adjourned the meeting.