



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021; 12:00 p.m.

Professional Learning Lab

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

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

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

Emergency Communication - Dr. Lewton explained at the last meeting there was discussion regarding having a prepared generic message to send out when an emergency takes place at a building. Administration will be more cognizant of the communications and, if appropriate, will have a message prepared to send out. This will be on a case-by-case basis.

Approval of the November 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes – Mrs. Krissy Kilwein moved to approve the amended November 9, 2021, meeting minutes. Mrs. Barbara Shockey seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

December 13, 2021, School Board Meeting Agenda – Superintendent Lewton reviewed the Board agenda from last night's Board meeting. He noted the enrollment was up 141 students in comparison to the enrollment in December 2020. A long-range facility plan is being led by Assistant Superintendent Harris. This committee will make recommendations for the District in the next five years regarding the facilities and properties owned by the District.

Dr. Lewton has been going to the buildings this week presenting information on the State of the District. Part of the presentation is sharing information on the District's financial picture, facilities perspective, achievements, and celebrations.

The COVID numbers continue to decrease. Last week Friday, there were three reported students out and one reported staff member out due to COVID. This is down considerably compared to October 15 when there were 95 students out and 17 staff out.

The Early Childhood Center will have a federal mandate effective January 31, 2022, requiring all ECC adults and volunteers to be COVID vaccinated. Additionally, children three and older will be required to wear masks. This is not a school board mandate; this is a federal mandate. Mrs. Jennifer Braun added this was part of the federal performance standards that must be followed at the Early Childhood Center.

Dr. Lewton reported a committee interviewed four qualified firms yesterday for securing architectural services at the North Campus. This was done through a Request for Qualifications process based on a scoring rubric. The firms selected were GT Architecture out of Dickinson and YHR Partnering out of Moorhead, MN.

Dr. Lewton shared a draft 2022-2023 school calendar that will be presented to the school board at its January meeting. The draft was created by the Calendar Committee. It is essentially the 2020-2021 calendar rolled forward with a few edits to the early release days. Dr. Lewton inquired if parents would prefer to have eight early release days with school releasing at 1:00 or would they prefer having four full days where the teachers have professional development. Pros and cons were shared with the biggest challenge for the parents was having RASP coverage for the school age children. This is also the challenge for teachers that have children in school. Mrs. Krissy Kilwein could see the benefits for teachers having a full day instead of a segment of a day. The teacher was not having to switch from teaching to training. She suggested maybe surveying the staff and getting their input. Dr. Lewton will consider this in the fall of 2022 when the calendar for the 2023-2024 year is reviewed.

Mrs. Barbara Shockey said she heard from a couple of different places, including a staff member, inquiring if DPS would consider looking at Trinity's school calendar. A parent has an exchange student at Trinity that exchanges at Dickinson High. It is challenging because the schedules are different. Dr. Lewton explained Dickinson Public follows the Century Code and therefore is required to have no school on some days, such as November 11 in observance of Veterans Day. Mrs. Shockey said that Trinity took a different day off and celebrated Veterans Day. She also noted Trinity takes more days off for sports. Mrs. Shockey explained Trinity began its school year 10 days ahead of Dickinson Public and ends ahead of Dickinson Public with Trinity's graduation also 10 days earlier than Dickinson Public's. Dr. Lewton said Trinity's calendar used to be close to the same as Dickinson Public's but that has changed. Mrs. Shockey felt the Calendar Committee should look at Trinity's calendar when drafting the Dickinson Public's calendar for the future school years.

State of the District - Superintendent Lewton said he has been providing State of the District presentations to the buildings this week. Included in the presentation is information regarding the District financial shortfall. He inquired if the parents felt it would be beneficial to provide the presentation to the community. He added the presentation not only covers the District finances but also the facilities, ages of buildings, achievements in the District, academic scores, and celebrations. Mrs. Stacy Kilwein had heard the presentation this morning and felt it was transparent, factual on each of the areas, interesting, and engaging. She felt it would be good information for parents. Mrs. Shockey inquired if it could be video recorded and available on FaceBook and the website. She also felt information regarding the status of the high school should be included. Dr. Lewton will try and present to the District-wide PAC at the next meeting for them to critique.

Rumors – None were noted.

Other – Mrs. Krissy Kilwein asked how the shared Dickinson State University students were working out for the school district. Mr. Harris responded they were working out very well. Some schools have adopted a DSU student. The student will arrive at the building and be assigned a substituting position. It is a great experience for the DSU students.

Mrs. Laura Fetting commended Lincoln Elementary for finding opportunities for parents to volunteer in the buildings again, such as the manners luncheon.

Adjournment – Dr. Lewton wished everyone a Merry Christmas. The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.