



District-Wide PAC Meeting
Central Administration Offices, Board Room
Tuesday, January 15, 2019; 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members present: Dr. Shon Hocker (Superintendent), Mrs. Stacy Kilwein (representing Partners in Parenting), Mrs. Nicole Wald (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Alicia Saienga (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Ms. Nikki Wolla (representing Lincoln Elementary PAC), Mrs. Jessica Cron (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC), Mrs. Julie Heidecker (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Rachel Melvin (representing Dickinson Middle School PAC).

Call to Order – Superintendent Hocker called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

Approval of the December 11, 2018, Meeting Minutes – The December 11 meeting minutes were distributed to the committee. Mrs. Kilwein moved to approve the meeting minutes, as presented. Mrs. Melvin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics -

January 14 School Board Meeting Agenda – Superintendent Hocker explained he had shared with the school board last night that the North Dakota Department of Transportation is proposing a walking path to cross the main streets near Menards. This would greatly benefit pedestrians walking in that area and students going to and from the Dickinson Middle School. Currently the pedestrians share the road with vehicles and trucks. The walking path would provide a much safer alternative.

At last night’s Board meeting, Dickinson High School Principal Hoherz updated the Board on the high school expansion project. The committees that have been discussing the project will have meetings this week Thursday to narrow down a plan. The most recent discussion has included the option of keeping the gymnasium.

Within the Governor’s budget is a competitive grant for two CTE Centers. One is proposed for the eastern part of the state and one for the western part of the state. Dickinson Public Schools will be actively pursuing the award for the CTE Center for the western part of the state. Dr. Hocker explained how the CTE Center would benefit the students, employers, adult education, and the community.

Superintendent Hocker described the bond referendum for the new high school and possibly to include another elementary school. Williston Public Schools and Watford City Public Schools recently had a community bond referendum. Watford City’s bond passed; however, Williston Public School’s did not pass and was short by approximately 30+ votes. If there was a bond referendum that went to a community vote and did not pass, Dr. Hocker shared some alternatives the District might utilize to accommodate the students and how the District would proceed with the high school facilities heating, cooling, and roof repair challenges.

At last night's school board meeting, the Board approved a school calendar for 2019-2020. A copy of the approved calendar was distributed to committee members.

Discipline in the Schools – This topic was tabled at the December meeting until Mrs. Melvin may be in attendance. Mrs. Melvin explained she would like to know how the District handles detentions and suspensions at each level. She was concerned about the overall consistency of discipline within the District. Dr. Hocker responded there is an ongoing challenge with discipline. The consequences at the elementary level are different from the high school and the consequences are also different for the different types of offenses. The District also utilizes Sunrise Youth Bureau in lieu of out-of-school suspension.

There could be instances where two students receive consequences for the same action. The consequences for a student cannot be shared with another parent due to protecting the student's privacy.

Rumors – Superintendent Hocker invited committee members to share any rumors or concerns.

Mrs. Cron asked what the policy was regarding cell phones in the schools. Dr. Hocker responded at the high school, some classes allow the phones in the classroom for educational purposes. Other classrooms at the high school might request the student keep the cell phone in silent mode during instructional time. The discussion led to technology utilized in the classroom and not to utilize the technology too much in replacement of teacher instruction.

Mrs. Cron inquired regarding the NWEA testing scores in comparison to the standards based report cards. Committee members shared their interpretation of the scores at different quarters during the school year. Dr. Hocker reported the District is reviewing the standards based report card system and felt it will be changed to give parents a better understanding where a student is at currently and sharing periodic snapshots with parents.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.