



Tuesday, January 14, 2020; 12:00 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Shon Hocker (Superintendent), Mrs. Tavia Kuntz (representing Jefferson Elementary PAC), Mrs. Alicia Saienga (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Krissy Kilwein (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Julie Heidecker (representing Roosevelt Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Lindsey Southiseng (representing Dickinson Middle School),

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

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda Items – Mrs. Southiseng moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Saienga seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the December 10, 2019, Meeting Minutes – The December 10 meeting minutes were distributed to the committee. Mrs. Kuntz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Saienga seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

January 13 School Board Meeting Agenda – Superintendent Hocker reported highlights from last night’s board meeting. He stated last school year open enrollment was closed to kindergarteners and first graders. This fall, these two grades will remain closed to open enrollment and also closing open enrollment for second graders.

At the December Board meeting, the administration was requested to solicit input from parents, faculty, and community members regarding the mascot. It would help identify if the presentation by the Little People of America would rise to the level of community concern. Dr. Hocker reported, out of the 756 middle school students surveyed, approximately 1/3 suggested changing the mascot. Out of the 767 high school students surveyed, approximately 1/3 did not like the mascot. He added the staff survey is the only full proof and valid survey since staff members had to use a Google email account. Approximately 287 staff responded with approximately half of the staff wanting to change the mascot. These were mostly certified staff responding to the survey as they have Google email accounts.

There were 4,644 community survey responses. Approximately 1/3 of those responses wanted to change the Midget mascot. Dr. Hocker said this was a big concern to him since he was working diligently to build community support and a good relationship with the community. If 1/3 of the community does not support the mascot then how can they support the District? Superintendent Hocker told the Board he would like to visit with more of the students that are opposed to changing the mascot and find out why. There could be a Board workshop in the future where the mascot could be a topic for discussion. The Board contemplated a public forum but realized it would have to be done carefully as individuals are very passionate and this was a contentious topic.

In December, a committee met for three days to review and develop a new strategic plan. At last night’s Board meeting, the new strategic plan placemat and roadmap for the District was introduced. The placemat is similar to what posters with the strategic plan would look like. The roadmap is

more detailed with those accountable for the goals to be accomplished, the resources necessary, money or time required, and a timeline.

Superintendent Hocker explained a report was shared with the Board last night for the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council. This advisory committee met several times to discuss the next steps for the District to meet the needs of overcrowding. The committee did a lot of work and came up with 8-10 different options. One option was to go back to the community for a bond referendum with a second option was to renovate the current high school. Building a new high school could be \$85-\$89 million. Renovating the current high school would cost approximately \$70 million and would not address the overcrowding at the high school. An extended schedule at the high school could be an option or adding portable buildings along with the renovation to address the overcrowding. Dr. Hocker stated either way, remodel or build new, the District would need to go to the community for a referendum. To address the overcrowding at the elementary schools, the District could change to half-day kindergarten.

If the District would move forward with the bond referendum, it will need to find the right date to take it to a community for a vote. Some options are the primary election in June, the general election in November, or a special election set on a date designated by the Board. Committee members shared some options with one option as having early voting/absentee voting at the schools during registration week in August.

Dr. Hocker reported the District has allocated \$60,000 for maintenance on the high school boiler. An additional \$120,000 is dedicated to patching the roof at the high school so that it does not leak when it rains. These repairs are scheduled for this summer.

There was a brief discussion regarding requesting the legislature to commit funds for the construction of new schools. Dr. Hocker stated the reality is the legislature is not going to assist Districts with funds for new construction.

Superintendent Hocker explained the Board approved the implementation of a Success Academy for high school students. There are approximately 1% of the student population at the high school that causes about 40% of the discipline issues. The Success Academy would be for students that are on the verge of being expelled. Students would learn how to manage in a classroom and be successful in a learning environment. There would be a small number of students that would be provided this opportunity. The students would have to be convincing that they have bought into the program.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.