



District-Wide PAC Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2019; 12:00 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Shon Hocker (Superintendent), Mr. Keith Harris (Assistant Superintendent), Mrs. Stacy Kilwein (Partners in Parenting), Mrs. Tavia Kuntz (representing Jefferson Elementary PAC), Mrs. Alicia Saienga (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), Mrs. Lindsey Southiseng (representing Dickinson Middle School PAC), Mrs. Lenée Bookhardt (representing Dickinson High School PAC), Mrs. Ashley Koch (representing Prairie Rose Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Nicole Wald (representing Berg Elementary PAC).

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

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

Approval of the October 8, 2019, Meeting Minutes – The October 8 meeting minutes were distributed to the committee. Mrs. Kuntz moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mrs. Bookhardt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Topics

Presentation from Dickinson Public Schools Foundation – Mrs. Marissa Armstrong, Director of Marketing for the DPS Foundation, presented information to the committee. The DPS Foundation supports the teachers and staff with various programs such as the annual teacher grant opportunities, a mini-grant program, national competitions, and scholarships. Fundraising is done through payroll deductions, 503C, and the annual Mystery Dinner Theater. Funds provided to Dickinson Public Schools impact students at every level.

November 12 School Board Meeting Agenda – Superintendent Hocker summarized some of the topics from last night's school board meeting. Under his superintendent's report, he shared there had been two successful community meetings. These meetings were for the superintendent to receive information on moving forward with the continual growth challenges and conditions at some of the buildings. Dr. Hocker shared his appreciation for the individuals that took time out of their busy schedules to attend the meetings. A survey was sent to the committees as a follow-up.

Dr. Hocker and Mr. Harris explained different avenues the District is taking to share information to influence legislators regarding the growth challenges. Information was presented to the legislators requesting the State cover some of the costs for constructing new buildings to accommodate the growing enrollment.

Dr. Hocker stated Dickinson High School (DHS) Principal Hoherz shared the recent ACT results at last night's meeting. There was a decline in the DHS student results. This is a state trend. The DHS freshmen and sophomores will begin taking the pre-ACT instead of waiting until their junior year.

Principals at Jefferson and Lincoln Elementary, along with Partners in Parenting Coordinator Stacy Kilwein, reported at last night's meeting exciting things happening at those buildings.

There was a discussion regarding the new communications coordinator position. Of Mrs. Trustem's salary, 40% is covered by a grant. She is doing a great job with social media and improving communication. She has been diligent about making sure there are more media and press coverages of positive events in the schools. Other tasks assigned to Mrs. Trustem is a volunteer supervision system, writing grants, and the high school academies program.

Update on New Bus Routing This School Year - At last night's Board meeting, the Board approved the purchase of two additional route buses. Dr. Hocker reported in 2008, there were eight routes. As of today, there are 32 routes plus the two buses approved last night which will make a total of 34 routes. These two additional buses cost \$180,000. Added to this are costs associated with bus drivers, fuel, and maintenance. The District has invested over \$360,000 in new buses this school year. There is an additional \$30,000 per year to run each bus. This is approximately a \$500,000 investment.

Dr. Hocker and Mr. Harris said that Harlow's Bus Service does a good job of transporting the students. They have met the challenges when the number of students almost doubled from July 29 to the first day of school. Dr. Hocker explained Bismarck Public has a deadline of July 15 for signing up for busing. Busing registrations after this deadline could be waiting at least 30 days after the start of school.

Mr. Harris noted the new bus routing this school year has students on the bus for a shorter amount of time. This helps with discipline as there have been less write ups and bullying has decreased. Committee members shared their appreciation for the new bus routing this school year.

Strategic Plan Update – The District will be updating its strategic plan. Superintendent Hocker would like some parent representatives to volunteer to be on the committee for the review process. This will be a three-day commitment on December 17, 18th and 19th. Dr. Hocker asked that the District-wide PAC representatives consider this opportunity and also share this information with their building PAC members. The District has contracted a company, APQC, to lead the team through the review and update process. The final strategic plan will need to be reviewed and approved by the school board.

Dr. Hocker explained the High Reliable Schools (HRS) will be included in the strategic review process. The review may include a timeline for completing steps towards the HRS certification.

There was a discussion regarding the time the strategic plan meetings will be held and if daycare could be provided. Research will be done on a potential daycare and will be emailed to the committee.

Dickinson High School – Mrs. Kuntz inquired regarding the cost of the construction of the new high school. She asked if there could be a breakdown of how much is going into academics and how much into athletics. Mrs. Kuntz explained the current location for gymnastics is very tight with very little spectator room. Dr. Hocker responded the new design would keep the main gymnasium and the auxiliary gymnasium. Dr. Hocker added the design would include extended space and additional modifications to the old gymnasium wing to include an overhead walking path.

Superintendent Hocker explained JE Dunn had volunteered their time and service to design a \$118 million remodel of the high school to fit a 60+ year old structure. The redesign would keep 40% of the old building. Available on the Dickinson Public Schools website are videos with renderings of

the design for the new high school. Additional videos depict the overcrowding in the hallways and classrooms. These videos were originally shared during the public forums this spring.

After the May referendum failed, Dr. Hocker said he met with many different organizations and coffee groups to receive input. He heard from these groups that the elementary school should not be tacked onto the high school referendum. He then focused on the high school and a September referendum of \$89 million went to the community and failed as well. Dr. Hocker said he is taking the advice of the leadership and community committees as the administration moves forward.

Dr. Hocker and Mr. Harris explained portable units would cost approximately \$20 million. This cost would include the purchase, foundation, utilities, and disposal of the portable units. These units are not the safest alternative to address student overcrowding.

The administration has talked about split schedules at the high school to address overcrowding. There will be some upper-level, elective science classes offered next summer. This creates other challenges as the summer months are usually the designated times for the maintenance and cleaning of the buildings.

Other – Dr. Hocker reported at last night’s school board meeting he announced that representatives from the Little People of America will be presenting at the December 9 Board meeting. He anticipates the focus will be on the District’s mascot.

Adjournment – Dr. Hocker declared the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.