



Dickinson
Public Schools
Empowering All Learners to Succeed

District-Wide PAC Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, December 11, 2018; 12:00 p.m.

Members present: Dr. Shon Hocker (Superintendent), Mrs. Nicole Wald (representing Berg Elementary PAC), Mrs. Alicia Saienga (representing Heart River Elementary PAC), and Mrs. Julie Heidecker (representing Roosevelt Elementary 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 November 20, 2018, Meeting Minutes - The November 20, 2018, meeting minutes were distributed to the committee members.

Business Topics

December 10 School Board Meeting – Superintendent Hocker explained a large part of the agenda was reviewing Board policies. At the beginning of the Board meeting there was a presentation by a representative from BoardDocs. Dr. Hocker said BoardDocs is a paperless format for managing school board meeting documents. He anticipates this format will be implemented for other committees in the District, possibly even for the District-wide PAC. It is very user friendly and has the capability for the user to search a topic.

The school board also received updated information from the Roughrider Area Career and Technology Center (RACTC) director, Mr. Kevin Nelson. RACTC provides vocational programs. The most popular in the District is health careers.

At the meeting last night, the Board approved hiring RSP & Associates for consulting services in enrollment projections and to propose a location for the next elementary school. Dr. Hocker explained the District administration wants to have the least amount of disruption to the attendance areas.

Follow Up from October Meeting Regarding Traffic Congestion at DMS – Superintendent Hocker said that he and Assistant Superintendent Harris have gone over to the middle school and viewed the traffic flow. They felt one way of reducing the traffic congestion is to encourage more parents to have their middle school student ride the bus.

Dr. Hocker explained the administration is reviewing the busing service in the District. There was discussion regarding how many students ride the bus. Superintendent Hocker shared that a change has been made to one of the buses in regards to the length of time the students are waiting to get on the bus and the length of time they are riding the bus. This change has the students going home sooner and then the bus going back and picking up additional students at another location and dropping those students off. It has cut down on the amount of time the students are waiting to get on the bus and also the amount of time the student is riding the bus.

Mrs. Wald inquired if there was a new procedure where students have assigned seats on the bus. Dr. Hocker explained there was a meeting with Harlow's administration and at their recommendation, students will be placed in assigned seats. This is in an effort to know which students are on the bus and have been picked up in case of an emergency and also in the instances where there is a substitute driver. The substitute driver can keep better track of the students and know if a student has not gotten on or off the bus.

Discipline in the Schools – This topic was tabled until the January meeting hoping that Mrs. Melvin will be able to attend that meeting and provide some details.

2019-2020 School Calendar – A draft copy of the 2019-2020 Dickinson Public Schools calendar was distributed to the committee members. Dr. Hocker noted the calendar was a draft and has not been approved by the school board. He is asking different groups to provide input on the calendar. Superintendent Hocker explained he is being sensitive to the tradition of building the school calendar. One tradition is to end the school year prior to Memorial Day.

Superintendent Hocker informed the committee that there is potential for new legislation to convert the required amount of "days" to required amount of "hours" for student instructional time.

Mrs. Heidecker inquired why the early release days are placed on Wednesdays. Dr. Hocker responded Wednesdays are considered family time and therefore there are no extracurricular activities scheduled on Wednesdays. Having the training for teachers on Wednesdays allows those teachers that might normally have coaching obligations out of town the opportunity to participate in the early release training.

Mrs. Saienga said she had heard the schools were contemplating establishing registration at earlier dates than tradition. Dr. Hocker said he had not heard that but would do some research and report back to the committee.

AdvancED Engagement Review – Superintendent Hocker reported the AdvancED review team's final report has not been received. This agenda item will be tabled until the January meeting.

Rumors – There were no items for discussion on this topic.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.