

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2009

- 1) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** - The Board approved the consent agenda, including the the resignations of Elaine Dennis, grade three teacher, Lincoln; Michele Werchau, learning disabilities teacher, Lincoln; the hires of Sarah Chapman, grade two teacher, Roosevelt; Amy Kuehl, grade one teacher, Lincoln; Marni Neubauer, kindergarten teacher, Heart River; Sheri Showalter, grade four teacher, Heart River; Courtney Williams, grade three teacher, Jefferson; the RESP Report; the student/staff recognitions; and the tuition waiver agreement for Leland Krueger, Dickinson to South Heart.

- 2) **Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Stremick reported on the following:
 - a. Snow day-Governor Hoeven waived one of our snow days. Our last day of school is Friday, May 29 and Graduation is scheduled on Sunday, May 31 at 3 p.m.
 - b. DSU students-He has been meeting with Dr. Conner from DSU regarding having DSU education students spend more time in the schools. DSU is increasing the field experience requirement by 30 hours. It has the potential to benefit our students with one on one tutoring, etc. but it will also increase our workload.
 - c. School accreditation report-He recently received notification that all of the Dickinson Public Schools are accredited. They no longer have accredited with commendation.
 - d. Legislative highlights-He reviewed some of the changes that were made by the legislature in HB 1400 and SB 2199.
House Bill 1400
 - Added one additional student contact day in 2010-2011 and an additional student contact day in 2011-2012.
 - Added one student performance strategist for every 400 students in 2010-11 for grades K-3 for tutors or coaches.
 - Added summer school for grades 5-8 in reading, math, science and social studies beginning the summer of 2010-2011.
 - One counselor for every 300 students in grades 7-12. A career advisor can be used to meet 1/3 of the requirement in 2010-2011.
 - Professional development plans will need to be adopted and reviewed by DPI in the future to make sure districts have a plan and that they are following their plan.
 - Mentoring program for first year teachers.
 - Increased graduation requirements in the state to 22 credits (4 English, 3 math, 3 science, 1 physical education, 3 focused electives (foreign language, fine art or career and technology education) and 5 electives)
 - An annual formative assessment for grades 2-10 will be required.
 - A career interest inventory assessment in grades 7 or 8 and grades 9 or 10 will be required.
 - All grade 11 students and GED students will be required to take the ACT test or WorkKeys test. The test will be taken during the school day and the school district will pay for it.
 - Scholarships for students meeting requirements for Academic and Career and Technical Education in the amount of \$750 per semester, up to \$6,000 starting in 2010-2011. Students

graduating in 2009-2010 are eligible for scholarships if they score a 24 or higher on their ACT test.

Senate Bill 2199

- Provides up to 75 mills of tax relief for school districts to buy down their mill levies.

- 3) **Adult Learning Center Update** – The Adult Learning Center Report is posted under Supporting Documents. Margaret Olheiser was present at the meeting to answer questions. They had 185 students last year. Former employees of American Express have starting to come in recently. A large number of their clients are over age 50. The GED graduation is scheduled on Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Dickinson High School. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 4) **Partners in Parenting Update** – The Partners in Parenting Report is posted under Supporting Documents. Stacy Kilwein and Del Quigley were present at the meeting to answer questions. They have experienced a lot of success with their Gearing Up for Kindergarten program and are currently tracking the data on this program. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **RASP (Roughrider After School Program) Update** –The RASP Report is posted under Supporting Documents. Trina Kudrna, Del Quigley and Candace King were present at the meeting to answer questions. The 21st Century grant now requires schools to offer a full summer program. The state is using our summer program as a model school program. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 6) **Facility Planning Follow up** – The Board has been discussing short range and long range facility planning at previous Board meetings. At the April Board meeting the Board discussed possible facility planning options and directed Superintendent Stremick and Vince Reep to look at the pros and cons and an approximate cost for the suggested options. The facility planning report is posted under Supporting Documents. Discussion followed. The Board eliminated the super school, North Elementary school and grade five at Berg options. They will continue to study the additions at Jefferson and/or Lincoln, sister schools and a possible hybrid combination of the two options. We may have the potential to use stimulus dollars for an addition. The administration will do some research on what the stimulus dollars can be used for and look at possible financing, etc. They will bring additional information to a future Board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 7) **Approve 2009-2010 Student Handbooks** – Copies of the proposed 2009-2010 Student Handbooks and a summary of the recommended changes for the elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School and Southwest Community High School are posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. Board members discussed the cell phone policies in the elementary, Hagen and DHS student handbooks. The Board approved the 2009-2010 elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School and Southwest Community High School student handbooks, with the exception of the cell phone policy. The administration will look at the cell phone policy in the other Class A schools in North Dakota and bring the information to the next school board meeting.
- 8) **Extracurricular Coop Agreement with Bismarck Public Schools in Soccer-** We received a request to approve an extracurricular coop agreement with Bismarck Public Schools in boys' soccer beginning the fall of 2009. The administrative recommendation was to approve the application. The

Board approved the extracurricular cooperative agreement with Bismarck Public Schools in boys' soccer beginning the fall of 2009.

- 9) **Policy DBGA Professional Leave-First Reading** - Policy DBGA Professional Leave was presented for first reading. A copy of the policy with the recommended changes is posted under Supporting Documents. The new language is underlined and the language that is to be deleted has a ~~strikeout~~. The administrative recommendation was to approve the revisions for first reading approval. Action was requested. The Board approved the revisions in policy DBGA Professional Leave for first reading approval, as presented.
- 10) **REA Joint Powers Agreement** -Due to changes in state law, RESP is replacing their current Joint Powers Agreement. The new agreement is posted under Supporting Documents. The new agreement keeps the wording about a per district fee and joining does not make any other financial obligations of the district. The administrative recommendation was to approve the REA joint powers agreement and to budget the equivalent of \$100 per teacher which will be equally split between student and administrative services. Action was requested. The Board approved the RESP Joint Powers Agreement and to budget the equivalent of \$100 per teacher which will be equally split between student and administrative services.
- 11) **Annual Meeting Day & Time** - Board members scheduled the annual school board meeting Monday, July 13, 2009, at 5 p.m.

12) **Other**

Announcements

Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m. Staff Retirement Recognition Program at DHS

Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. Adult Learning Center graduation

Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m. Southwest Community High School graduation

Sunday, May 31, 3 p.m. Dickinson High School graduation