

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Wednesday, April 15, 2009

- 1) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** - The Board approved the consent agenda, including the early resignation notifications for Joyce Rivinius, administrative assistant, Jefferson; Jean Steiner, activities coordinator administrative assistant, DHS; Ruthmary Unruh, paraprofessional, Jefferson; and Kayla Westrum, paraprofessional, Heart River; and the student/staff recognitions. There were no tuition waiver agreements.
- 2) **Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Stremick reported on the following:
 - a. Snow days-The make up day for Monday, March 30 is Friday, May 29. It was originally scheduled as a teacher work day without students. We had five total snow days this year. He is waiting to hear if the Governor will waive one of our snow days.
 - b. Staffing-They are not planning to fill the physical education position at Dickinson High. They may make some adjustments in schedules and possibly share some time with Hagen Junior High. They are trying to deal with staff reductions through normal attrition.
 - c. School improvement-We signed a contract with Viewpoint for a data warehouse collection. Training will be provided in mid August. A District-wide PAC committee will be formed and will be made up of building PAC presidents. The District-wide PAC committee will meet the first half of the month and the building PAC committees will meet the second half of the month. The data warehouse and District-wide PAC committee were recommendations from the school improvement site visit.
 - d. Update on the legislature-House Bill 1400, the school funding bill, is headed to conference committee. There doesn't appear to be any real big differences. Pre-K, professional development and at-risk are a few areas that need to be worked out. We are projecting approximately \$500,000 less in funding in year one and a gain of \$700,000 during year two. Senate Bill 2199, the tax relief bill, is also headed to conference committee. The House added 100 million to income tax relief which complicated the property tax issue.
- 3) **DHS Girls' Fast-pitch Softball Agreement**- The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Dickinson Public Schools and Dickinson Diamonds Fast-pitch Softball Club for DHS girls' fast-pitch softball for the 2008-2009 school year. The Memorandum of Understanding is similar to the DHS baseball and hockey agreement. A copy of the agreement is posted under Supporting Documents.
- 4) **State Assessment Report**- The State Assessment Report for the Dickinson Public School District is posted under Supporting Documents. We do not have the AYP determination at this time. The assessment report contains the percentage of students in the District achieving proficiency. Henry Mack and Melanie Kathrein reviewed the assessment report. They reviewed the Fall of 2008 results and 2005-2008 historical assessment results. The report contains raw data and each grade is based on the previous year's standards. They reported that we have seen some impressive gains in math and language arts. Most of our grade levels scored higher than the state average. Lincoln's grade three scored at 100% in math. The final AYP report is expected to come out in about one week. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 5) **Facility Planning Follow up/Staffing/Class Sizes**-The Board has been discussing short range and long range facility planning at previous Board meetings. Vince Reep reported at the March Board meeting on enrollment data regarding attendance areas and neighborhood schools. He reported that many of our students do not attend their neighborhood school. They will take this data into consideration when developing a facility plan for the school district.
- We are anticipating over 220 kindergarten students next year. This will require at least 11 sections which will technically fill all available classrooms in the four K-5 schools. If we have eight grade 5 classrooms next year and take in 10 sections of kindergarten, we will not have room to accommodate these extra two sections. Discussion followed. Board members discussed possible facility planning options. They are not interested in portable classrooms. Some of the options include: a super school (K-12), new elementary school on the north property, moving grade five to Berg, classroom additions at two elementary schools (possibly Jefferson and Lincoln) and sister schools (K-2, 3-5). In city transportation, demographics, preK students, building regulations and economics will be part of the discussion. The administration will prepare a report for the May Board meeting with the different options, strengths, weaknesses, projected cost estimates, etc. The enrollment report is posted under Supporting Documents.
- 6) **Revision of Policy HCE Gifts, Bequests and Grants and Policy KAIB Advertising in the Schools-Second Reading**-The Board approved policy HCE Gifts, Bequests and Grants and policy KAIB Advertising in the Schools for second reading approval and final adoption, as presented.
- 7) **Report on National School Board Association Convention**-Mitzi Swenson's report on the National School Board Convention is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. She reviewed highlights from the convention.
- 8) **Other**
The budget committee will meet when the legislature finishes their session.