

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, August 12, 2008

- 1) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report**-The Board approved the consent agenda; the hire of Carrie Ziegler, .5 FTE math teacher, Southwest Community High School; the student/staff recognitions; the tuition waiver agreements for Kaylee Johnson, Dickinson to South Heart and Aaron Johnson-Enget, Dickinson to South Heart; and to dissolve the open enrollment applications for Jacob Robb with South Heart, Charity Fetch with Belfield and Cody Johnson with South Heart. There were no new resignations.
- 2) **Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Stremick reported on the following:
 - a. **Bus Driver**-They still need a special education bus driver. He has run ads in the paper and on the radio but they have not had any inquiries.
 - b. **RESP**-A committee is working on updating the bylaws and bringing the joint powers agreement into alignment with state law. Information will be brought back at a future Board meeting.
 - c. **Commission on Education Improvement**-The commission meeting which was held last Wednesday in Dickinson went well. The commission will be finalizing its recommendation in October or November. The major topics of discussion are on strategies to increase student achievement.
 - d. **Buildings**-They are still looking for a building for Southwest Community High School and the Adult Learning Center. They have not found anything suitable yet.
 - e. **Board Workshop**- The Board workshops will follow the September and October Board meetings. Several topics have been submitted.
- 3) **Trollwood Performing Arts School**-Dean Rummel and Mitzi Swenson reported on the Trollwood Performing Arts School in Fargo. A group representing the school district, park district, DSU and the city recently toured the performing arts school. It is education driven. They offer several summer school courses for credit and performing opportunities. Superintendent Stremick will meet with the different entities to discuss possible future steps. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 4) **Southwest Transportation Study**-The Southwest Transportation Study report is posted under Supporting Documents. David Ripplinger from the Small Urban & Rural Transit Center Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute was available to answer questions on the report. They are preparing planning documents for increased coordination and efficiency of transportation in southwest North Dakota. He is currently meeting with community groups. This item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **Consolidated Grant Application Approval for 2008-2009**-The public was invited to make comments regarding the Consolidated Grant Application. A synopsis of the Consolidated Grant application is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. The Board approved the Consolidated grant application for Federal grants which includes Title I, Title IIa, Title IIc, Title IV and Title V.

- 6) **Girls' Softball**-The Dickinson Diamonds Fast Pitch Softball Club made a request to add girls' softball as a Dickinson High School sport beginning the spring of 2009. The NDHSAA recently sanctioned girls' softball as a high school sport in North Dakota. Thirteen schools in the state have sanctioned the sport and will be competing this spring thus far. A proposed budget was included with their request. A handout is posted under Supporting Documents. The Board tabled this agenda item until the September Board meeting.
- 7) **Conflict of Interest-Mitzi Swenson**-Mitzi Swenson had no changes to her Conflict of Interests. The Board moved to allow Mitzi Swenson to participate and vote on the identified potential conflicts in accordance with NDCC 15.1-07-17.
- 8) **2008-2009 Personnel Update**-Vince Reep gave an update on the 2008-2009 personnel changes. They are still looking for a special ed. bus driver, a special ed. paraprofessional for the bus and an ED instructor for DHS. A summary of the 2008-09 personnel changes is posted under Supporting Documents. This item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 9) **Budget and Tax Levy**- The Board approved the general fund expenditures of \$22,502,704, the capital projects fund expenditures of \$1,011,853, the debt services fund expenditures of \$235,535 and the food services fund expenditures of \$891,394 for the 2008-2009 school term. The Certificate of Levy is due in the County auditor's office August 15. It can be amended until October 10 and the rest of the budget can be changed at any time by Board action. A copy of the school district's Certificate of Levy for the year 2009 is posted under Supporting Documents. The administrative recommendation was to levy for 185 mills in the general fund, 10 mills for the building fund and 2.53 mills for the remodeling bonding levy. They are anticipating an estimated mill levy reduction of 5.61 mills. The Board approved the Certificate of Levy for \$9,417,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.
- 10) **Fuel Bids**-We advertised for bids for fuel (diesel and gasoline) for the transportation department for this school year. The bids were due on August 5. Bids were received from G.A. Sadowsky & Son, Inc. The Board approved the low bid by G.A. Sadowsky & Son, Inc. for #1 and #2 diesel fuel for \$.0275/gallon below the posted cash price and the bid for unleaded gasoline for \$.0577/gallon below the posted cash price.
- 11) **Department of Public Instruction Certificate of Compliance**-The Board approved the Certificate of Compliance for the 2008-2009 school year.
- 12) **Strategic Plan**-The Dickinson Public Schools Strategic Plan is posted under Supporting Documents. Major goals include: improving student achievement, providing opportunities and support for professional development and enhancing and maintaining business, education and community relationships. Action plans for improving student achievement (math and reading) and professional development were distributed and reviewed.
- 13) **Student Transfer & Withdrawal Report**-Vince Reep presented student transfer and withdrawal information for students K-12 as requested by the Board. We had 90 students transfer into the district last year and 124 students transferred out of the district. A copy of his report is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 14) **Board Policy HEB Expense Reimbursement-First Reading**-Policy HEB Expense Reimbursement was presented for first reading approval. The suggested change was “the approval of travel requests by employees shall be vested in the Superintendent or designee.” A copy of the Board policy is posted under Supporting Documents. The Board moved to revise Policy HEB Expense Reimbursement for first reading approval, as presented.
- 15) **Open Enrollment**-The Board approved the request for Austin, Katie, Alex and Kami Wert and Chance Hellickson to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools under the open enrollment policy. They moved so the waiver applies.
- 16) **Other**

Board members toured the new ITV lab and science pods at Dickinson High School following the Board meeting.