

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, January 15, 2008

- 1) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report**-The Board approved the consent agenda; the resignation of Brad Raab, special education specialist, Hagen; the student/staff recognitions; and the tuition waiver agreements for Shantel Polensky, Dickinson to South Heart and Teresa Huck, New England to Dickinson. Congratulations to everyone that was recognized on the student/staff recognitions!

- 2) **Superintendent's Report**-Superintendent Stremick reported on the following topics:
 - a. **CTE grant**-He was informed today that there will be a recommendation to award one of the two Career & Technology Center grants to the Roughrider Career & Technology Center in southwestern North Dakota at the January 22 CTE State Board meeting. Our grant scored the highest among the five submitted grant applications. We will need a Board member to serve on the Roughrider Career & Technology Center committee. Leslie Ross volunteered to serve on the committee.
 - b. **SPICE**-The SPICE ITV consortium is in the process of dissolving. Many of the schools are looking at joining the Great Western ITV Consortium. Superintendent Stremick is hopeful that the CTE Center will meet our school district's distance education needs.
 - c. **Adult Learning Center building appraisal**-The school board had requested that the superintendent have the Adult Learning Center appraised. The appraised value is \$100,000 as is and the Steffes Building is approximately \$15,000. The appraisal includes a list of improvements totaling \$40,000 without addressing ADA requirements (roofing & plumbing). The rent for Southwest Community High School at T-Rex Mall is \$15,000 per year. We would need double the space. Superintendent Stremick suggested that we look for a different site and/or explore the option of charging rent and using that revenue to offset improvements to the existing building or the increase in the purchase price/rent.
 - d. **Ceiling tiles**-New acoustical ceiling tiles were installed during the Christmas break in eight DHS classrooms. They were placed in the adjoining rooms which currently have egg-crate ceiling tiles and walls that stop before the tiles. The teachers have reported a tremendous improvement in sound control and lighting. They may look at installing installation between the classrooms, if needed.
 - e. **Lunch**-Superintendent Stremick and Mitzi Swenson, Board member, ate lunch at Hagen Junior High before Christmas. Swenson tried out the new salad bar. He invited Board members to eat lunch at any building with him during the school year. He eats lunch in the schools almost every day.

- 3) **Full-day, Every Day Kindergarten Report**-Cindy Welch, kindergarten teacher at Lincoln, and Jen Jung, kindergarten teacher at Jefferson, gave an update on the transition to full-day, every day kindergarten in the school district. They reported that teachers are excited about the educational opportunities. They have noticed that the students are definitely academically higher than with half day kindergarten. Kindergarten teachers would still like the Jump Start program for identified kindergarten students to prepare them for kindergarten. There are only

two students in the District that attend kindergarten a half a day instead of the full day. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 4) **Gifted and Talented Committee Report**-Sherry Libis, Kristi Todd Stillings and Johanna Njos (elementary Gifted & Talented teachers) reported on the Gifted and Talented committee. Their report included: the District's philosophy for educating gifted and talented students, goals, level of service model and identification process. They looked at consistency among buildings. The changes will be implemented next fall. A copy of their report is posted under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **Title I/Special Education Report**-Dorothy Martinson, Director of Student Services, Special Education and Title I, gave an update on the Title I and Special Education committee and their recommendations. The committees looked at the number of students at risk of not meeting proficiency on the state assessment that were not receiving special education services in K-5 and how we could staff appropriately. They looked at the recommended case loads from the State and providing services in the least restrictive environment. The committee also looked at the number of students being served in the elementary schools and perceptions. Their recommendation was to reduce Title I staffing by 1 FTE and to add 1 FTE special education staffing to provide better services. Class size reduction teachers will be reassigned to different buildings. The changes will help add supplementary instruction to help at risk students become proficient. A copy of their reports is posted under Supporting Documents. No action was requested. This agenda item was informational only.
- 6) **IDEA VI-B Grant**- Dorothy Martinson-The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction requires that IDEA will be met and the application for funds has been approved by the Board. Mrs. Martinson was available to answer questions. The budget summary total was \$668,913. A copy of the Budget Summary is posted under Supporting Documents. Action was requested. The Board approved the application for IDEA Title VI B funds, as presented.
- 7) **Acceptance of Bids**
 - a. **Science Cabinets**-The school district advertised for bids for cabinets, countertops and two fume hoods for the science rooms at Dickinson High School. A bid was submitted by TMI Storage Systems Corporation for \$199,199 installed. TMI will donate and install the wall cabinets in the science rooms with solid doors in lieu of glass insert doors. The finished base, electrical and plumbing hookups are not included in the bid. No other bids were submitted. The Board accepted the bid submitted by TMI Storage Systems Corporation for \$199,199 for cabinets, countertops and two fume hoods for the Dickinson High School science rooms, as presented. The new cabinets will be installed this summer.
 - b. **Contracted Busing**-The school district advertised for contracted busing for rural busing for the school district because it has been hard to find bus drivers. Harlow's Bus Service Inc. submitted the only bid. They submitted three different scenarios. The scenarios are posted under Supporting Documents. Superintendent Stremick and Vince Reep were available to answer questions. The administrative recommendation was to approve scenario 3. Harlow's Bus Service would lease our buses in Scenario 3. They would take over management of rural busing and personnel. The school district would keep the special education busing and activities. We would purchase maintenance services from Harlow's for the special education bus and activities buses. Discussion followed. Board members expressed concerns regarding background checks for bus drivers, whether our

bus drivers would be hired by Harlow's if they apply, their safety record, etc. They will request that Harlow's meet with the transportation personnel. Action was requested. The Board accepted the bid submitted by Harlow's Bus Service, Inc. for scenario 3 for rural busing contract services from 2008-2011 with the provisions that they offer employment to our existing drivers and that their bus drivers meet the North Dakota Century Code background checks.

- 8) **Destruction of Old School Records**-Vince Reep – NDCC 21-06-05 and 21-06-06 describe the procedure for retention and destruction of school district documents. We must save all records for five years and retain the following items for permanent records: governing Board proceedings, receipts and expenditure journals and payroll records. The Board moved to destroy the following records at the Dickinson city landfill: 2001-2002 fiscal year accounts payable, adjusting journal entries, bank statements, balance sheets/general ledger, Instructional Media Center records, end of month accounts reports, job interview documentation, staff absence records, substitute teacher forms, purchase orders, renovation and technology grant and timesheets; 2000-2001 fiscal year timesheets, teacher contract data sheets (copies), employee leave forms and Southwest Tech Project; architect specs for Lincoln, Jefferson, etc. from 1950-1982, architect specs pre 1950 for buildings and additions, CTBS test scores from 1991-2000, inventory 2000-2002, leave reports 1998-2000 and pay sheets 1993-2002. All other records from fiscal year 2002-2003 to present will be retained.
- 9) **2008-2009 School Calendar**-Two calendar drafts were prepared by the calendar committee. Draft A and Draft B are posted under Supporting Documents. The drafts were posted on the school district web site using Survey Monkey so that constituents could give their input. The results of the survey are: Draft A: 151 votes (32.5%) and Draft B: 314 votes (67.5%). The survey results are posted under Supporting Documents. The administrative recommendation was to approve the 2008-2009 school calendar Draft B. Dickinson High School and Hagen Junior High administrators requested that the May 4 day be exchanged with March 6 since many students attend the WDA Basketball Tournament and miss school on March 6. DHS usually has 150-200 students attend the tournament plus staff members. Hagen has 45-75 students gone. Discussion followed. Board members agreed with the suggested changes. Action was requested. The Board approved the 2008-2009 school calendar with a start date of August 21, 2008, the last day of school scheduled May 28, 2009, Graduation on Sunday, May 31, 2009, as revised and with the March 6 and May 4 changes. The approved 2008-2009 school calendar is attached.
- 10) **Open Enrollment Applications**- Sarah Wright applied for open enrollment for Kristy Repine to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from the Richardton Taylor School District. Frances Wheeler applied for open enrollment for Mitchell Wheeler to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from the Killdeer School District. They recently moved so the waiver applies. The Board approved the request for Kristy Repine and Mitchell Wheeler to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District under the open enrollment policy.
- 11) **Board Policy Revisions-First Reading**-Board policy DABBA Drug and Alcohol Testing for Employees needs to be revised because of changes in the law. The regulation will be updated and an exhibit will be added, as recommended by the North Dakota School Board Association. Board policy ABB School District Organization Plan needs to be revised since we added full-day, every day kindergarten. Board policy DADA Gifts & Solicitations should be revised to allow the Dickinson Public Schools Foundation to distribute information in the schools about Foundation fundraisers. Copies of the revised policies are posted under Supporting Documents.

The new language is underlined and the language that will be deleted has a ~~strike-out~~. The administrative recommendation was to approve the policy revisions for first reading approval. Action was requested. The Board moved to revise Policy DABBA Drug and Alcohol Testing or Employees, Policy DADA Gifts & Solicitations and Policy ABB School District Organization Plan for first reading approval, as presented.

- 12) **FBF-R Graduation Requirements Administrative Regulation-**This agenda item was removed from the agenda by the school board.

- 13) **Audit Proposal-**2006-2007 was the last year of the bid proposal that was submitted three years ago by Linda Steve to perform the school district audit. James Wosepka, performed the 2006-2007 audit when Linda Steve sold her practice. The charge was \$8,200 for the 2006-2007 audit. Mr. Wosepka has submitted a proposal of \$10,000 to do the 2007-2008 audit. Input was requested. Reep requested Wosepka submit a three year proposal. He submitted a proposal of \$9,400 for year one, \$10,000 for year two and \$10,500 for year 3. We will also request a proposal from the State Auditor for the State of North Dakota. Reep will call CPA firms in Dickinson to see if they do government audits and if they are interested in submitting a proposal. The audit proposal will be discussed at the February Board meeting.

- 14) **Other**
President Rummel stated that the North Dakota legislature made some changes in the election laws and procedures. He requested that Kris Fehr and Leslie Ross check with Karen Heidt on the changes for filing for school board election, etc.
Superintendent Stremick requested that Mitzi Swenson and Leslie Ross meet with him following the meeting to schedule a budget committee meeting.