

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, July 13, 2009

- 1) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** - The Board approved the consent agenda, including the hire of Christa Tescher, preschool teacher, ECC; Shawna Allard, special education strategist, Lincoln; Leann Mehrer, special education strategist, Hagen; and Heather Spaulding, special education strategist, Roosevelt; the RESP report; the student/staff recognitions; and the tuition waiver agreement for Karissa Krueger, Hebron to Dickinson (09-10).
- 2) **Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **Update on the Badlands Activities Center**-We may not be able to play our first home football game which is scheduled on Saturday, August 29 at the new Badlands Activities Center field if the field isn't ready. Mr. Dean is working on a contingency plan. They are working on temporary seating for the new field also.
 - b. **PLC Conference**-School district administrators recently attended a PLC Conference. They will be meeting on August 10 to plan how they will use the information.
 - c. **Summer School**-They did not have summer school last Thursday and on Monday at Heart River Elementary because of the storm damage on the south side, traffic and impending weather. The only damage to Heart River was a fence and a pine tree. The bus barn shelters had minimal damage.
- 3) **Facility Planning Follow up** - The Board has been considering classroom and multipurpose room additions at Jefferson Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. The estimated cost is \$1.5 million for the Lincoln addition and \$1.6 million for the Jefferson addition. The administration feels that we could do the Jefferson and Lincoln additions without borrowing or bonding money. They plan to request \$150,000 in stimulus dollars. They would use a portion of the stimulus money, building fund and/or general fund to finance the projects. They have until September 30, 2010, to spend the stimulus money so there is a window of opportunity. Mr. Reep gave an update on the facility planning with a proposed timeline. A timeline is posted under Supporting Documents. The timeline includes public input meetings in September to inform the public of the plans and the financing opportunities, etc. and to receive input. The administrative recommendation was to have the Board authorize the administration to hire an architect for the Lincoln and Jefferson addition projects to do some preliminary designs which will be used for the public input meetings. The Board authorized the administration to hire an architect for the Lincoln and Jefferson addition projects. They have not made a commitment to the projects yet.
- 4) **Summer Building and Grounds Project Update** - Vince Reep reported on the status of the building and grounds projects being done this summer. A handout is posted under Supporting Documents. Summer projects included: a new heating system and boiler at Lincoln, cabinets to replace the old heaters, new lockers at Hagen, a new wood floor in the Berg gym and new bleachers, updates in the Lincoln office area, renovating the DHS art room, replacing the roof in the DHS 400 pod, flooring replacements and updates in several buildings, resurfacing the DHS tennis court, new doors and hallway curtains at DHS, sidewalk repair, a scissor lift for DHS, window blinds, etc. Mr.

Reep reported that the projects should be completed before school starts. As of June 30, 2009, the Capital Projects 03 fund balance was \$1,007,377.

- 5) **Election of Officers** - Dean Rummel was elected the president and Mitzi Swenson was elected the vice president of the Dickinson Public School District for 2009-2010.
- 6) **Budget**
 - a. **2008-2009 Budget Statistics**

Mr. Reep, business manager, presented 2008-2009 final revenue and expenditures information. The data from his report is listed under the Combined Balance Sheet under Financial Reports. Mr. Reep reported that we increased the interim fund by \$1.287 million which will be used for salaries and benefits during the next biennium. They were able to pay down debt on the GE performance contracting also.
 - b. **2009-2010 Budget Information**

Mr. Reep, business manager, reviewed preliminary 2009-2010 budget information. The budget committee will be meeting in the near future. He is projecting \$27.1 million in expenditures and \$26.8 million in revenues. He noted that the numbers are inflated because of the stimulus dollars. They plan on deficit spending approximately \$285,000 for salaries and benefits. It was noted that the tornado damage may impact our taxable valuation but the state foundation aid funding will go up if our assessed value drops.
- 7) **Annual Financial Report** - A copy of the annual financial report is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. Mr. Reep, business manager, reviewed portions of the report. The report is a summary of 2008-2009 expenditures and revenue in DPI format. The Board approved the Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009, as presented.
- 8) **Board Workshop** - The Board scheduled their Board workshops on Monday, August 10 following the regular Board meeting and on Monday, October 5 following the Board meeting. The August Board workshop agenda items include: enrollment and facilities. Board members were asked to forward agenda items to Superintendent Sullivan. No decisions will be made during the workshop but topics discussed could become future Board meeting agenda items.
- 9) **Meeting Day and Time** - The Board moved to schedule the regular meetings of the Dickinson Public School District on the second Monday of each month beginning at 5 p.m. The October Board meeting will be held on October 5.
- 10) **School Board Authorized Representative** - The Board named Superintendent Douglas W. Sullivan the authorized representative of the Dickinson Public School District for the Department of Public Instruction and the legislature, all federal programs, including but not limited to: all school lunch, special education and vocational programs, the Energy Impact Office, Title I, Title IIa, Title IIc, Title IV, Title V, Head Start, E-rate and Job Service programs.
- 11) **Designate Official Newspaper** - North Dakota Century Code requires that the school district designate an official newspaper. The Board moved to designate the Dickinson Press as the official newspaper of the Dickinson Public School District.
- 12) **Bank Depository Designation** - State law requires us to designate all depositories at our annual meeting. The Board moved that American Bank Center be designated as the official depository for

the school district checking account and other investments and that Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of the West and Dacotah Bank be designated as depositories for investments for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

- 13) Committee Assignments** - The Board moved to designate Mitzi Swenson and Dean Rummel as Board representatives on the collaborative bargaining team, Dean Rummel and Kris Fehr as Board representatives on administrative negotiations, Dean Rummel as the RESP school board representative, Mitzi Swenson as the RESP alternate Board representative and Leslie Ross as the school board representative on the Roughrider Area Career & Technology Center for 2009-2010. Other committee assignments are listed under Supporting Documents.
- 14) Conflict of Interest** - Board members declared changes and updates to their Statement of Interest forms. The Board moved to allow Dean Rummel, Kris Fehr, Leslie Ross and Morty Krieg to participate and vote on the identified potential conflicts in accordance with NDCC 15.1-07-17. Mitzi Swenson will declare her potential conflicts of interest at the August Board meeting.
- 15) Board Policies**
- a. Policy FBF Graduation Requirements - Policy FBF Graduation Requirements was presented for second reading because of changes in the law. A copy of the revised policy is posted under Supporting Documents. The Board approved the revisions in policy FBF Graduation Requirements for second reading approval and final adoption, as presented.
 - b. Policy FAAA Open Enrollment-First Reading - Policy FAAA (formerly ABCBB/FBDB Open Enrollment) was presented for first reading approval because of changes in the law. A copy of the revised policy with the changes is posted under Supporting Documents. The Board moved to approve the revisions in policy FAAA Open Enrollment for first reading approval, as presented.
- 16) Other**
Kevin Nelson, RACTC Director, will give an update at the August Board meeting.
Ms. Fehr encouraged the school district to provide assistance to school district staff members and student's families that were impacted by the recent tornado.