

# The Morning After



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## Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, September 15, 2009

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- 1) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** - The Board approved the consent agenda including the hire of Jolene Wilhelmi, preschool teacher at the Early Childhood Center; Nicole Hanson, kindergarten teacher at Lincoln Elementary; Trina Kudrna, first grade teacher at Roosevelt Elementary; the student/staff recognition; and to dissolve the open enrollment application for Jayce Belakjon with South Heart (09-10).
  
- 2) **Superintendent's Report** - Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
  - a. The National School Board Association Convention will be held April 10-12, 2010 in Chicago. Early registration with a discount is before the end of this year.
  - b. Towards the end of October, there will be a district-wide Ergonomic Assessment in cooperation with the Work Force Safety and Insurance.
  - c. The North Dakota School Board Association Annual Convention will be held at the Ramkota in Bismarck on October 30 and 31st. There are supporting documents available on the school board web site. There are some Board members interested in attending this convention.
  - d. The School Law Seminar for School Board Members and Administrators will be held on October 29.
  - e. The Southwest District Health Unit (SWDHU) has scheduled a seasonal flu shot Point of Dispensing (POD) clinic at the Heart River Elementary School on September 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>. There are two locations in Dickinson designated as POD sights. They are Heart River Elementary and Dickinson High School. These POD sights are used in the event of a National Emergency. This will give the SWDHU and Heart River Elementary an opportunity to practice in the event of an emergency. Information regarding the H1N1 flu vaccine would be made available by the SWDHU in the near future.
  - f. The September 1 enrollment report is posted on the school board website as a supporting document. The numbers are very encouraging.
  - g. There will be a School Improvement Leadership Team meeting held on Wednesday, September 16 at 8:00 a.m. at Berg Elementary. Representatives from this team will report back to the School Board with their progress.
  
- 3) **Supplemental One-Time Grant Funds – Lincoln & Jefferson Additions** – Ms. Jan Prchal of Hulsing & Associates Architects and Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep presented information about the possible Lincoln and Jefferson Elementary classroom additions. The appropriate use of the Supplemental One-Time Grant monies (\$2,257,818) was discussed. Since there is some State set restrictions on the size of new construction, alternative plans and options were discussed. Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the Supplemental One-Time Grant and Stabilization Funds are not the same. There are approximately \$2.2 million dollars available to the DPS as a supplemental, one-time grant. Ms. Prchal provided information regarding three options for Jefferson Elementary and two options for Lincoln Elementary. The criteria for the grant requires the size of any additions must be under 25% of the existing square footage. Funding for projects with excess footage would need to be provided from other funding sources. Mr. Reep explained some of the grant monies

could be used to do renovation and repair, and/or add equipment and technology. This could total up to \$1.2 million very quickly. That would leave approximately \$1 million for building projects.

Estimates provided by the architect do not include the architectural fees of 6.5% or surveying. The Jefferson Elementary estimates do include relocating the transformer, where required. Supporting documents are provided on the school board website. Following is a brief description of each option.

Jefferson Elementary Option 1: 9,991 square foot expansion. This expansion has a cost estimate of \$1,452,936. It would provide four additional classrooms and a multipurpose room towards the North end of the current school.

Jefferson Elementary Option 2: 12,460 square foot expansion. This expansion has a cost estimate of \$1,728,700. It would provide six additional classrooms and a multipurpose room towards the north end of the current building.

Jefferson Elementary Option 3: 9,962 square foot expansion. This expansion has a cost estimate of \$1,431,652. It would provide four additional classrooms and a multipurpose room towards the south end of the current school. Due to some landscaping concerns and the distance from one end of the building towards the new proposed expansion, some Board members felt this was not a good choice.

Lincoln Elementary Option 1: 8,608 square foot expansion. This expansion has a cost estimate of \$1,194,643. It would provide three additional classrooms and a multipurpose room towards the west end of the current building.

Lincoln Elementary Option 2: 11,963 square foot expansion. This expansion has a cost estimate of \$1,618,171. It would provide six additional classrooms and a multipurpose room towards the west end of the current building.

Additional information was provided to remodel the kitchen at Lincoln Elementary with a cost estimate of \$150,000. Ms. Prchal stressed that there are other possibilities available. She estimated a cost of \$145 per square foot for the expansions. Another option projected would be building a new school.

Mr. Reep provided information regarding enrollment based on data collected from birth rates. He also took into account retaining our kindergarten students and rolling them forward each year. Mr. Reep felt that Lincoln Elementary is the school in the most "dire straits". If the enrollment levels out, Mr. Reep projected we would need 18 classrooms at Jefferson Elementary and 20 classrooms at Lincoln Elementary by 2013. Currently, there are 14 classrooms at Jefferson and 15 classrooms at Lincoln.

Ms. Prchal felt now would be a good time to build. She felt April would be the first opportunity for contractors to start work. Mr. Reep and Dr. Sullivan will review the options and provide the Board with information regarding where the monies will come from, what the enrollment projections are, and compare this information with the options available and also against building a new school.

This agenda item was informational only. No formal action was requested. There was discussion regarding providing a public open forum in late September or early October.

- 4) **Application Approval of ARRA Education Stabilization Funding** –The Board approved the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Education Stabilization Funds application for approximately \$434,000.
- 5) **Roughrider Area Career and Technology Center (RACTC) Update** – Mr. Kevin Nelson, RACTC Director, gave an update on the Roughrider Area Career and Technology Center. His report is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board website. Mr. Nelson explained the history of the RACTC. His documentation explained the different courses offered at various school locations. Health Careers has the largest interest among the students. Board members asked various questions regarding the courses offered and what could be done to enhance the program further. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 6) **Student Transfer & Withdrawal Report** – Assistant Superintendent Reep presented information regarding student transfer and withdrawal for students K-12. A copy of his report is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. Mr. Reep explained there were 315 new students to DPS from last September and of that, 193 students exited the school district. This was a net of 122 students. The inward and outward migration cumulative from 2004 to present indicates a net change of +156 students. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 7) **NDSBA Constitutional Amendment** - President Rummel addressed the Board regarding the NDSBA Constitution containing a clause that removes directors from the State School Board. A copy of the document from NDSBA is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. President Rummel said this will be an item discussed at the NDSBA convention. This agenda item is informational only. No action is requested.
- 8) **Open Enrollment Applications** – The Board approved the open enrollment applications for Zachary, Neal, and Kristen Smith; Dallas Payne; and Dustin Keller to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools.
- 9) **Board Policies** - President Rummel addressed the Board regarding the NDSBA required revisions to the DPS Board policies. Assignments to Board members were made distributing the list of 80 policies for review. A copy of a spreadsheet document summarizing the policies and required revisions is posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. President Rummel explained some policies have cosmetic revisions. Many policies have revisions due to changes in the law. There may be some policies that require a committee to review.
- 10) **Other** – There were no other items.