

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, February 14, 2011

- 1) **Call to Order** – President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** - The Board approved the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the RESP report; the RACTC report; the student/staff recognitions; the personnel reports which included the hiring of Lia Bradley, DHS .166 French instructor; and Lidia Muckle, Lincoln .5 Title I instructor; and also included the resignations and/or early retirements of Cheryl Grossman, second grade teacher at Heart River; Marcy Helfrich, speech pathologist at Jefferson; Paulette Huber, music teacher at Heart River; Elaine Lindemann, special services instructor at DHS; Janice Ostdahl, special services instructor at DHS; Karen Thompson, special services instructor at DHS; and Louissette Zeller, district-wide art teacher. There were no tuition waiver agreements.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **PLC Conference** – Next week Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, 24 teachers and administrators will be traveling to Minot to attend the ND Professional Learning Community Summit hosted by Minot Public Schools. This is part of Dickinson Public Schools continuing effort of the Professional Learning Communities. Funding for this conference is through stimulus monies.
 - b. **Opportunity Period** – Dickinson High School implemented an opportunity period beginning with this semester in January. Principal Dockter from the high school and his staff are gathering information and they are making any necessary adjustments during this initial implementation phase. At the June school Board meeting, Mr. Dockter will provide a report to the Board members. If there are any specific areas that the Board members wish Mr. Dockter to address, these questions may be forwarded to Superintendent Sullivan who will then forward them to Mr. Dockter for inclusion in the June report.
 - c. **NDASA Report** – A report regarding the recent conference that Dr. Sullivan attended is posted on the school board website under Supporting Documents.
 - d. **District-wide Book Studies** – The District has 349 faculty and administrators participating in book studies this school year. Some of these numbers are duplicated as many individuals are participating in more than one book study. Some individuals are participating in as many as six book studies. Most books studies are held at the end of the day with topics that may include improving reading and writing.
 - e. **District-wide Professional Development** – Mr. Mike Mattos, a national recognized speaker from Learning Tree, will be presenting on Professional Learning Communities to the Dickinson Public Schools staff on August 22 and 23rd, 2011. School Board members are invited and encouraged to attend his presentations being held at the high school.
- 4) **Regional After School Program (RASP) Report** – An updated report from the Regional After School Program (RASP) is available as a supporting document on the website. The new RASP Project Coordinator, Mitchell Gross, was introduced by Assistant Superintendent Reep. Mr. Reep

explained this program is in its third year of a five-year cycle. This summer the program will move back to Lincoln Elementary. Transportation for summer activities through RASP will continue to be discussed.

- 5) **Lincoln Elementary and Jefferson Elementary Additions Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep will give a brief update to the Board on the progress of the additions at Lincoln Elementary and Jefferson Elementary Schools. Reports from the construction meetings are posted on the website under Supporting Documents. At Jefferson Elementary the casework has been completed. Carpeting in the classrooms should begin next week. It is anticipated the classrooms and multipurpose room will be completed the middle of March. The kitchen work will be completed by June 30. At Lincoln Elementary, the gymnasium is ready to be used. The lockers are up and TMI is scheduled to begin this week. Mr. Reep noted there was a water leak at Lincoln which will be repaired by the roofing subcontractor. Mr. Reep has been visiting with the architect and contractor.
- 6) **Superintendent Evaluation** – The superintendent evaluation must be completed prior to March 15. The second evaluation is different from the December 15 evaluation. Board members will rate the superintendent on the areas identified without prior comment by the superintendent. The three areas to be evaluated were identified as: recruitment/retention of staff (licensed and non-licensed), relationship with students and parents, and financial management skills. President Fehr asked Board members to complete the evaluation form and return it to her before March 1. She will compile the information and present it to the Board at the March 14 meeting.
- 7) **Roughrider Education Services Program (RESP) Report Update** - As per a request by Board members at the January 2011 school board meeting, Superintendent Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Reep, and Director of Instruction Kathrein prepared reports regarding RESP. These reports are posted as Supporting Documents on the school board website. There was lengthy discussion regarding the collaboration between DPS and RESP. There will be a follow up meeting with the DPS and the RESP administrators regarding its future relationship.
- 8) **Extracurricular Committee Meeting Update** – The Board approved an increase to the base salary of the Dickinson High School head cross country coaching position from 11.9% to 13% effective for the 2011-2012 school year. The Board also approved adding a Ford AAA advisor to the extracurricular schedule in the amount of 3.8% effective for the 2010-2011 school year.
- 9) **Cooperative Agreement with Dickinson Baseball Club** – Athletics Director Mark Rerick addressed the Board and explained the minor revisions to the baseball agreement. Included in the revisions it was noted that there will be a freshman baseball team. The Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding (with revisions) between the Dickinson Public Schools and Dickinson Baseball Club for the DHS baseball for the 2010-2011 school year.
- 10) **Bid for Two Buses** – The Board accepted the bid submitted by Harlow’s Bus Sales, Inc. for the purchase of a 2012 International route bus and a 2010 Chevy 14 passenger bus for a combined total of \$127,731.
- 11) **Administrative Bargaining Recognition of Representative Organization** – Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.1-16-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, the Board recognized the Dickinson Administrative Council as the exclusive representative of the appropriate negotiation unit for the purpose of negotiations.

- 12) **Early Resignation Incentive Applications** – The Board approved the Early Resignation Incentive Applications from Cheryl Grossman, second grade teacher at Heart River with 43 years of service with the district; Paulette Huber, music teacher at Heart River with 35 years of service with the District; and Louissette Zeller, district-wide art instructor with 11 years of service with the district, all with effective dates of May 27, 2011. Assistant Superintendent Reep and President Fehr wished to thank Mrs. Grossman, Mrs. Huber, and Mrs. Zeller for their services to Dickinson Public Schools. Their hard work for the district and especially the students is greatly appreciated. Combined, these teachers represent 89 years of service. The administration will evaluate the vacancies these positions may or may not create and will post any openings at a later date.
- 13) **Early Retirement Incentive Applications** – The Board approved the Early Retirement Incentive Applications from Mary Helfrich, speech pathologist at Jefferson with 28 years of service with the district; Elaine Lindemann, special services instructor at DHS with 32 years of service with the district; Janice Ost Dahl, special services instructor at DHS with 23 years of service with the district; and Karen Thompson, special services instructor at DHS with 20 years of service with the district; all with effective dates of May 27, 2011. The Board also accepted their resignations. The Board is phasing out the Early Retirement Incentive Policy. After March 1, 2011, only one more year remains. The three special services instructors wished to retire as a group. Assistant Superintendent Reep, Ms. Ross and Board President Fehr thanked all those retiring for their combined 103 years of service to the District. These staff have done a lot of work and benefited our district. It will be hard to replace these retirees in their positions. The administration will evaluate the vacancies these positions may or may not create and will post any openings at a later date. The deadline for the Early Retirement Incentive is March 1; therefore, additional applications could be received for review at the March Board meeting.
- 14) **Board Policy Revisions and Deletions – Second Reading and Final Adoption** – Board members approved for final adoption the revisions of approximately seven policies and deletion of approximately four Board policies. Copies of these policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 15) **Other** – There were no other topics for discussion.
- 16) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.