

# The Morning After



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## Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, April 5, 2011

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- 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 Christa Hofland, strategist at Jefferson Elementary, Justene Metcalfe, speech language pathologist at Hagen Junior High, Shantel Roll, music teacher at Heart River Elementary, Serena Thompson, strategist at Dickinson High School, Alisha Webster, strategist at Dickinson High School, and Courtney Williams, district-wide .5 instructional reading coach. There were no tuition waiver agreements.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
  - a. **Collaborative Bargaining Team Meetings** – Collaborative Bargaining meetings have been progressing very well. There has been positive discussion with a tentative agreement on two topics.
  - b. **Legislative Update** – In the legislature, things have been relatively quiet for the schools. Last week, the House Education Committee discussed a plan that would pay teachers a bonus based on student achievements. The requirement for districts to have a bullying policy is almost finalized. This will require the North Dakota School Boards Association to draft a model policy which would then be reviewed at our district level.
  - c. **Upcoming Graduations** – The Adult Learning Center graduation is on May 12 at 7:30 p.m. Southwest Community High School's graduation is on May 25 at 7:00 p.m. The Dickinson High School graduation will be held on May 29 at 3:00 p.m.
- 4) **Sixth Grade Departmentalization Reorganization** – Dr. Sullivan briefly explained over the past few months, the staff at Berg Elementary has been discussing ways to improve the delivery of teaching in the classrooms using flexible groups and to provide additional time for collaboration. Mrs. Tamara Praus, Mrs. Sandra Schobinger, and Mrs. Carla Schaeffer addressed the Board and provided information proposing teachers at Berg concentrate on three core curriculum courses instead of four core courses. This would be more in alignment with the professional learning communities' philosophy. Teachers would have additional time to identify individual students that may need assistance. An overview drafted by Principal Praus is available on the school board website under Supporting Documents.
- 5) **Seventh Grade Mathematics Curriculum** – Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Andrea Dorval, and Mrs. Jeri Braunagel addressed the Board explaining the upcoming changes in the math courses. North Dakota will soon be adopting the math common course standards. This will require an increase in rigor in most grade levels and for some levels there will be a change in expectations on how students gain their knowledge about mathematics. Mrs. Kathrein provided a handout that gave examples of a traditional mathematics program and also the connected mathematics program. Her handout also included information from the DPI website indicating the mathematics content. The mathematics representatives proposed all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students be required to take Connected Math

and then as 8<sup>th</sup> graders, be given the option of Algebra I or Connected Math. Mrs. Kathrein has prepared an outline of the proposal which is available on the school board website under Supporting Documents.

- 6) **Lincoln Elementary and Jefferson Elementary Additions Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep gave a brief update to the Board on the progress of the additions at Lincoln Elementary and Jefferson Elementary Schools. Due to inclement weather, the walk throughs at both schools had not been done and are scheduled for Tuesday. Mr. Reep said after the City gives the approval regarding the lift station and sewer lines, the addition at Lincoln Elementary will be ready to occupy. Principal Quigley intends to put four sections of kindergarten and four sections of first grade in Lincoln's new addition. Principal Meduna intends to place third graders in the new addition at Jefferson. All classrooms in the schools will be utilized.
- 7) **Roughrider Education Services Program (RESP) Update** - At the February Board meeting, there was a recommendation to coordinate a meeting with the RESP Director Amy Axtman, DPS Administrator Dr. Sullivan, and the Board presidents from DPS and RESP. Due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting did not occur until March. The two groups agreed to meet again at the RESP Executive Committee meeting on April 27.
- 8) **Board Policy BEC–School Board Evaluation** – At the April 2010 School Board meeting, Board members tabled the continuing discussion of Board Policy BEC-School Board Evaluation and supplementary exhibit BEC. A copy of the evaluation and exhibit for School Board Evaluations is available on the school board website under Supporting Documents. Ms. Ross commented the proposed evaluation may be too broad. She will be attending a presentation regarding the board evaluation topic at the upcoming National School Boards Association Conference and will provide feedback to Board members at a future Board meeting.
- 9) **Board Policy Revision and Deletion–Second Reading and Final Approval** – Board members approved for second reading and final adoption the revision to policy KAAB-Volunteers in Schools, and approved for second reading and final adoption the deletion of policy DBGD-Inservice. Copies of these policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 10) **DHS Fast-pitch Softball Agreement** – Board members approved a Memorandum of Understanding between Dickinson Public Schools and Dickinson Diamonds Fast-pitch Softball Club for DHS girls' fast-pitch softball for the 2010-2011 school year.
- 11) **Other** – Superintendent Sullivan welcomed Mr. Sean Soehren, Dickinson Press reporter, to the Board meeting. There were no other topics for discussion.
- 12) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.