

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2012

- 1) **Call to Order** – President Kris Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** – The Board approved the agenda including the revised consent agenda consisting of the financial reports; the student/staff recognitions; and the personnel reports which included the hires of Amber Adams, grade one instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Carly Arterburn, grade five instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Jana Avery, grade six instructor at Berg Elementary, Michelle Bechtold, grade four instructor at Heart River Elementary, Dixie Dennis, mathematics instructor at Hagen Junior High, Kelcey Evers, kindergarten instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Jessica Grove, counselor at Hagen Junior High, Amy Hughes, grade three instructor at Heart River Elementary, Troy Kuntz, grade four instructor at Lincoln Elementary, Alicia Long, grade one instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Marcus Lewton, principal at Hagen Junior High, Susan Miller, grade six instructor at Berg Elementary, Kendra Pasco, grade five instructor at Heart River Elementary, Rebecca Pitkin, principal at Jefferson Elementary, Kate Rothschilder, grade five instructor at Roosevelt Elementary, Chelsey Scherr, kindergarten instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Kristin Seaks, district-wide social worker, Jillene Susag, district-wide psychologist, and Nicole Weiler, kindergarten instructor at Roosevelt Elementary; the resignations of Fernanda Heppner, Spanish instructor at Dickinson High School, Andrew Jangula, elementary music and band instructor at Berg Elementary, Marni Neubauer, grade four instructor at Heart River Elementary, Johanna Njos, district-wide gifted and talented instructor, and Deborah Thompson, language arts instructor at Southwest Community High School; the resignation of Delbert Quigley, elementary principal at Lincoln Elementary; the tuition waiver agreements for Kennedee Martin, Melanie DiMeo and Emilee DiMeo from Dickinson to Richardton-Taylor and the tuition waiver agreement for Randy A. Paulson from Dickinson to South Heart; the RACTC report and the RESP report.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **School Improvement Building Co-chairs and Principals Leadership Team Meeting** – The next meeting for the team will be on Tuesday, April 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the CAO.
 - b. **April 20–No School** – Friday, April 20 will be a professional development day. DPS teachers will be attending the North Dakota Reading Conference that will be held in Dickinson at the Ramada Inn.
 - c. **Upcoming Graduations** – Board members were invited to attend the upcoming graduations. The Adult Learning Center graduation will be held on May 10 at 7:30 p.m. The Southwest Community High School graduation will be held on May 23 at 7:00 p.m. The Dickinson High School graduation will be held on May 27 at 1:00 p.m.
 - d. **Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week** – Teachers and staff will be recognized during the week of May 7-11.
 - e. **DPS Teacher/Staff Recognition and Retirement Program** – The DPS Recognition and Retirement program will be held on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the DHS auditorium

- f. DHS Student Council Representatives – Board President Fehr recognized and welcomed to the meeting the DHS Student Council representatives.
- 4) School Board Vacancy – On April 4, 2012, Dr. Rebecca Pitkin submitted her resignation from the Dickinson Public School Board. Dr. Pitkin will be pursuing a new position as principal of Jefferson Elementary. Board members discussed the policy and regulation regarding the procedure for filling the vacancy. The vacancy will be advertised soon. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.
- 5) Measure 2 – At a previous Board meeting, Board members requested information regarding Measure 2. The North Dakota Property Tax Amendment, more commonly known as Measure 2 will appear on the June 12, 2012, primary election ballot. Measure 2 requires legislature to change the funding for local government through the state legislature and eliminate property taxes. Portions of the ND Constitution and the ND Century Code have been posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Board members heard information from Mr. Leon Mallberg, public participant, who addressed the Board regarding this topic. Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep provided some financial information regarding the funding for the DPS budget. Board members requested further information be provided at a future Board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 6) Personnel Report Update – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board providing information regarding the certified resignations received and the certified new hires. There have been 29 certified resignations or retirements. Out of the 29 positions, 21 positions have been filled. Fourteen of the filled positions were individuals that reside in Dickinson. Mr. Reep noted with the housing challenges the District is very fortunate to fill the positions. Two or three candidates that were offered positions were unable to accept them due to the affordability to move and live in the community. Mr. Reep and Board President Fehr thanked Ms. Cyndee Egeness for her remarkable work and extra effort in the large quantity of applicants and securing qualified candidates for positions. A spreadsheet listing the vacancies and filled positions is available on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 7) Major Summer Building Projects – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board providing information regarding proposed projects to be completed this summer. A summary prepared by Mr. Reep is available on the website under Supporting Documents. The intention is to complete the items with high or medium priority on the list. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 8) New Elementary School Update – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board providing information regarding the progress towards construction of the new elementary school. Construction bid opening will be on Tuesday, April 24 at 4:00 p.m. There have been ten general contractors that have picked up sets of plans for the new school. There have been seven mechanical contractors and one electrical contractor that have requested a set of plans. There was discussion regarding the reputation of the contractors. There is a questionnaire that must be completed by the contractors submitting bids. After the bid opening, Superintendent Reep proposes researching the bidders and providing information to the Board members at a meeting where the bids will be awarded. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 9) **Schedule Special School Board Meeting** – The Board approved scheduling a Special School Board Meeting on Thursday, April 26 at 12:00 noon.
- 10) **Naming the New Elementary School** – Approximately 130 proposed names were submitted for the new elementary school. The District-wide PAC reviewed the names and provided four recommended names to the Board. The Board approved naming the district’s sixth elementary school as **Prairie Rose Elementary**.
- 11) **Request Approval of Energy Development Impact Office (EDIO) Grant Application** – The Board approved the grant application to the Energy Development Impact Office in the amount of \$4,485,000, as presented. A copy of the grant application is available on the website under Supporting Documents. The \$4,485,000 amount represents 39% of the estimated cost of constructing Prairie Rose Elementary School.
- 12) **Bid for Bus** – The Board accepted the bid from Harlow’s Bus Sales for a 2012 (stock) International IC AC 28 passenger bus for \$85,202, as presented. Funds received from the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$48,000 will be used to purchase the bus.
- 13) **Breakfast and Lunch Meal Prices** – The Board approved charging a fee of \$1.85 for lunch for students grades K-6, a fee of \$2.15 for lunch for grades 7-8, a fee of \$2.90 for lunch for grades 9-12, and a fee of \$3.40 for lunch for adults, effective the fall of 2012.
- 14) **Early Resignation Notifications** – The deadline for classified staff to submit their Early Resignation Notification was April 1. The Board approved the early resignation notifications received from Alvin Chalupnik, custodian at Roosevelt Elementary (40 years of service) effective June 30, 2012; Sherryl Lefor, library paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary (11 years of service) effective May 23, 2012; and Kathy Jesch, general paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary (22 years of service) effective May 23, 2012. President Fehr recognized and thanked these staff for their many years of service. Their combined years of experience represent 73 years of service. Their commitment to the District is greatly appreciated.
- 15) **Board Policy Revisions – First Reading** – The Board approved for first reading the revisions to policy ACAC–First Aid/Accidents, policy ACEB–Hazing, policy BDA–Procedure for Adopting Board Policy, policy DBAB–Emergency Hiring of Classified Personnel, and policy KACB–Patron Complaints About Personnel. Policy BCAA–Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation was tabled until further revisions are made. Copies of the policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 16) **Other** – Mr. Hanson reported the vacancy notice for the RACTC Director’s position is being advertised. Board President Fehr thanked Mr. Quigley for his many years of service to the District. He has been a valuable leader and will be hard to replace. Board President Fehr congratulated the District’s music instructors, particularly the band directors, for the tremendously well-done performance at the recent All-City Band Concert.
- 17) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.