

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, May 15, 2012

- 1) **Call to Order** – Board President Kris Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** – The Board approved the revised agenda including the revised consent agenda consisting of the financial reports; the student/staff recognitions; and the personnel reports which included the hires of Laurae Dykema, elementary music specialist at Berg and Jefferson, Clarence Hauck, welding instructor at DHS, Jay Hepperle, lead teacher and social studies instructor at SWCHS, Dora Jung, Spanish instructor at Hagen and DHS, Johanna Njos, .6 FTE district-wide gifted and talented instructor, Sean Sterkel, physical education instructor at Roosevelt, Mary Kay Versen, coordinator/basic computer skills instructor/chief GED examiner at the Adult Learning Center, Amy Wyant, kindergarten instructor at Lincoln Elementary and Jamie Wyant, mathematics instructor at Hagen Junior High; the resignations of Courtney Goldberg, mathematics instructor at Hagen Junior High, and Mark Rerick, district activities director; the student/staff recognitions; the RACTC report; and the RESP Report. There were no tuition waiver agreements.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant** – The Superintendent noted that Assistant Superintendent Reep applied for and received two grants for the district for fruits and vegetables at Heart River Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary Schools.
 - b. **Budget Committee Meeting Update** – The Budget Committee met last week and discussed a variety of items. The Budget Committee approved the hiring of another kindergarten teacher (13th teacher). This kindergarten classroom will be located at Lincoln Elementary. Next year's fifth grade class at Lincoln will be moved to Berg Elementary for one school year. Mr. Quigley has a meeting with the Lincoln 4th grade parents tomorrow. The Budget Committee approved a .25 gifted and talented position. The pre-school is seeing an increase of students with disabilities. The district has preschool in cooperation with Head Start. Due to the increasing elementary enrollment the district will need to increase its literacy coaches. The budget is currently in the black of \$50,000. Providing some of the above services is contingent upon the Measure 2 results. If Measure 2 should pass, many of these services would be put on hold.
 - c. **Marathon Oil** – Marathon Oil representatives recently visited the elementary schools and distributed ice cream treats to students to recognize the student's involvement in Earth Day.
 - d. **Upcoming Graduations** – Southwest Community High School's graduation is on Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. Dickinson High School's graduation is on Sunday, May 27 at 1:00 p.m.
 - e. **Title I Monitoring Report** – Dr. Sullivan noted the Title I Monitoring Report has been received from DPI. There were no compliance issues. This is a phenomenal accomplishment. Dr. Sullivan congratulated Mrs. Martinson and her faculty and thanked Mrs. Ginger Handcock for the extra amount of work load that was placed on her for the past years in preparation for the monitoring. President Fehr also thanked Mrs. Martinson and her faculty and also Mrs. Handcock for their hard work.

- 4) **Measure 2** – At the April 16 School Board meeting, Board members requested additional information regarding Measure 2. The Board invited to this meeting Mr. Doug Johnson from the North Dakota Council of Educational leaders, Mr. Jon Martinson from the North Dakota School Boards Association and Mr. Greg Burns from the North Dakota Education Association. Mr. Burns is the executive director for the Keep It Local. He noted the primary objective with Measure 2 is the North Dakota constitutional amendment. This measure would take away the control in the local units. If the measure would pass, it would use a formula that would treat all entities equally. Commissioner Fong has indicated if Measure 2 were to pass, sales tax amounts could possibly triple. Mr. Burns also expressed concern with the unanswered questions, such as what is considered a legally imposed opposition. Mr. Martinson explained the school districts would be forced to approach the legislature for funding. Mr. Johnson explained his experience with the foundation aid formula that is currently used in the school districts would be changed and would be an overwhelming task for the legislature. If the measure were to pass, legislature would possibly have to have several special sessions. Due to the complexity, the Keep It Local coalition estimates it could require each entity to present and answer questions before the legislature. Due to all the entities, this could require approximately 66 days of the legislature’s time. A question was asked if the three gentlemen had a suggestion for preparing an alternate budget for the district if Measure 2 should pass. Mr. Martinson said that a couple of business managers indicated an alternate budget would be chaotic. Mr. Burns replied that when there was a tremendous shortfall several years ago, there were faculty cuts, reduction-in-force, reduction of programs such as physical education and music to save money. Vice-president Ross asked if there were any other states that have implemented similar measures. The response was that no other states have passed anything like Measure 2. President Fehr inquired how existing obligations would be handled; the District has contracts and obligations that need to be met. There was discussion on how those would be met. Negotiated contracts with teachers were also discussed. Any increases in teacher salaries would need to be negotiated with a legislative body and approved and a funding formula would need to be devised. President Fehr and board members thanked the gentlemen for attending the meeting and providing information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **School Resource Officer Update** – This agenda item was tabled until the June school board meeting.
- 6) **Curriculum Changes** – Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Director of Instruction, addressed the Board presenting information regarding improvements to the language arts curriculum. Mrs. Kathrein has available on the board website under Supporting Documents a list of the changes implemented to the language arts program, some changes as early as the 2012-2013 school year. The language arts committee has been working diligently on the curriculum for the past three years. Mrs. Kathrein commended the elementary teachers and coaches that have assisted with the programs. She thanked the committee members for their dedication and commitment to the project. At the elementary level, students will be involved in a readers and writers workshop. Teachers have expressed the noted growth they have seen in the writing skills of the students that are using the workshop. The Leveled Libraries purchased in 2010 with stimulus funds have enhanced the small group reading abilities. Mrs. Kathrein explained the Phonics and Words Their Way programs will identify where students are in their spelling abilities. At the junior high level, students will select a novel based on reading and writing curriculum. Not every student will read the same novel. At the high school level, students will have an online assessment grading. Mrs. Kathrein also

discussed the intervention program which has had great success. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 7) **Elementary Schedules–Teacher Collaboration** – Mrs. Kathrein addressed the Board explaining proposed revisions to the elementary schedule to enhance the Professional Learning Communities project. High levels of learning require teacher collaboration time to assess the learning targets and procedures necessary if the targets are not met. Finding the time in the schedules was a challenge since some teachers are shared in more than one building. After several meetings, a schedule has been drafted that would allow the collaboration. This will require a different starting time and ending time for a couple of the elementary schools. Staggering the starting time may also assist with traffic congestion. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 8) **District Strategic Plan** – Superintendent Sullivan addressed the Board regarding the District’s Strategic Plan that was last revised in 2007. Dr. Sullivan has posted on the website under Supporting Documents some strategic plan vocabulary to help begin the process of discussion at the July Board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 9) **Report on National School Board Association Convention** – Board President Fehr, Board Vice-president Ross, Board Member Jason Hanson, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep and Superintendent Sullivan briefly summarized the seminars they attended at the recent National School Boards Association Convention. Copies of summary reports from the convention are available on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 10) **Board Vacancy** – Business Manager Vince Reep explained applications for the Board vacancy were due in the Central Office on or before May 7. Mr. Reep reported one application was received from Mr. Scott Staudinger. The Board will take action on the application at the June Board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested at this time.
- 11) **Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep posted on the website a summary of the bid analysis providing the final project budget. The first preconstruction meeting will be held this week Thursday. Mr. Reep discussed the transferring of some of the trees established on the lot. He plans to have an update on the construction project at future Board meetings with photos available on the website. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 12) **Amend 2011-2012 Capital Projects Fund Budget** – The Board approved the amended budget of the Capital Projects Fund for the 2011-2012 school year and increased the budget for revenue from \$831,600 to \$7,500,000 and the expenditures from \$987,237 to \$2,677,237.
- 13) **Amend 2011-2012 Debt Services Fund Budget** – The Board approved the amended budget of the Debt Services Fund for the 2011-2011 school year and increased the budgeted expenditures from \$215,595 to \$220,000.
- 14) **2012-2013 Student Handbooks** – Available on the board website are copies of the proposed student handbooks for the 2012-2013 school year along with a summary of the changes in each handbook. The Board approved the 2012-2013 elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School, and Southwest Community High School student handbooks, as presented.

- 15) **Authorized Representative for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program** – The Board approved the appointment of Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep as the authorized representative for the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant for the 2012-2013 school year.
- 16) **Annual Meeting Day and Time** – The Board scheduled the annual school board meeting for Monday, July 9, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.
- 17) **Open Enrollment Application** – The Board approved the request for Kaitlyn Phelps to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District under the open enrollment policy for the 2011-2012 school year.
- 18) **Board Policy Revisions–First Reading** – The Board approved for first reading the revisions to school board policy BCAA–Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation, policy FFA–Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use/Abuse, policy FFE–Extracurricular Participation Requirements, and policy FGA–Student Education Records. Copies of the policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 19) **Board Policy Revisions – Second Reading and Final Adoption** – The Board approved for second reading and final adoption 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. Copies of the policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 20) **Other** – Mr. Hanson reported an offer has been made to a candidate for the RACTC director position. Vice-president Ross commended the district personnel for the activities she attended last week. They were very moving ceremonies and thanked the teachers and staff for their years of service and wished the best for those retiring. President Fehr thanked Mr. Rerick for his service and wished him well. She noted he has brought a lot to the district.
- 21) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Following the Board meeting was a Community Open Forum. Topics discussed at the State Mandated Open Forum included: current enrollment, projected enrollments through 2014, enrollment trends, Hagen Junior High enrollment trend, and Measure 2.