

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, November 15, 2011

- 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 consent agenda consisting of the financial reports, the RACTC report, the personnel reports, and the student/staff recognitions. There were no certified hires or resignations.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **DPI Title I Allocation** – Dickinson Public Schools has been notified the Title I funding will decrease by approximately \$6,500 due to a decrease in budget.
 - b. **American Education Week** – American Education Week is being recognized November 13-19. There are various activities occurring throughout the District. Many elementary classrooms have guest readers. The individual school PACs are also sponsoring events during the week.
 - c. **Minot Public Schools** – Posted on the website under Supporting Documents is a certificate thanking DPS for their contributions to the Minot flood relief effort. Many teachers, staff and students assisted the Minot Public Schools either with donated items or monetary gifts.
 - d. **Bullying Committee** – The next Bullying Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 4:00 p.m.
 - e. **District-wide Technology Committee** – The next District-wide Technology meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m.
 - f. **DHS Student Council Representatives** – Superintendent Sullivan and President Fehr welcomed the DHS Student Council Representatives to the Board meeting.
- 4) **Southwest Community High School Report** – Principal Shawn Leiss addressed the Board providing an update on the enrollment and staff collaboration. Mr. Leiss has a summary report posted on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **North Dakota School Board Association Convention** – Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, President Kris Fehr, and Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep provided reports on presentations they attended at the convention and/or legal seminar. Copies of reports provided by Dr. Pitkin, President Fehr, and Mr. Reep are available on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 6) **Professional Learning Communities Update** – Principal Ron Dockter and Principal Perry Braunagel addressed the Board. Mr. Dockter reported since the implementation of the Opportunity Period at DHS, there have been improvements in student grades. Fewer students are failing classes and fewer students are falling behind in class work. Hagen Junior High has also seen the same improvements in student grades. A copy of Mr. Dockter and Mr. Braunagel's reports are available on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 7) **Cooperative Girls' Tennis Agreement** – The Board approved an extracurricular cooperative agreement with South Heart School District and Mott-Regent School District in girls' tennis for the 2011-2012 school year. Copies of the cooperative agreements are posted on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 8) **North Dakota Educational Technology Council (ND ETC) Grant Application** – Administrators in the District have been meeting to discuss the possibility of applying for a grant that would allow the District to pilot a technology program. After several discussions, the administrators suggested the Board apply for the grant and utilize the funds to purchase iPads to be used for students in the 8th grade at Hagen Junior High. Background information regarding the grant application is available on the website under Supporting Documents. After discussion, Board members requested the item be tabled until further research could be done and additional information gathered. Consensus of the Board was for the administrators to complete the application and bring it back to the Board members for review along with additional information regarding the program. A special Board meeting would be held to review the material, when available. Deadline for the application is December 2.
- 9) **School Facilities** – At a recent Board workshop, Board members requested additional information regarding the District facilities. At the workshop there was discussion regarding the economic activity in the region and the potential impact on student enrollment. Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board and explained the last time a school building was built in Dickinson was 30 years ago. There have been discussions regarding restructuring the K-5 schools. The District will be out of classroom space in the year 2014 if it sustains its current enrollment. Ms. Jan Prchal from Hulsing and Associates addressed the Board with a proposal for a new elementary school located in north Dickinson on land currently owned by DPS. The handout she provided was for a new school approximately the same size as Jefferson Elementary. Ms. Prchal explained information she has gathered indicates that 10th Avenue West will be a main thoroughfare. This will run adjacent to the proposed school. Her plan suggested a student drop off location and faculty parking that is not utilizing the main thoroughfare. The area owned by DPS is located near subdivisions that are to be developed residentially. The approximate cost for the new elementary school would be \$11,500,000.

Mr. Scott Wegner from Cook and Wegner addressed the Board explaining how the new school construction could be financed by utilizing \$5,000,000 from the sale of bonds, \$1,500,000 from an HVAC levy, and the remaining \$5,000,000 from the interim fund.

After discussion, the Board approved a resolution authorizing the issuance of \$5,000,000 General Obligation Building Fund Bonds, a resolution providing the sale of \$5,000,000 General Obligation Building Fund Bonds, a resolution authorizing the sale of \$1,500,000 Limited Tax Bonds, and approved a resolution providing participation in the School Bond Credit Enhancement Program.

- 10) **School Construction Request** – The Board authorized the administration to submit to the Department of Public Instruction the School Construction Approval Request form for the construction of a new elementary school in northern Dickinson.

- 11) **Request Approval of the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application**- The Board approved a grant application to the Dunn County Commissioners for the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$78,300 for the costs incurred by the District due to increased transportation activity.
- 12) **Request Approval of the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application** – The Board approved a grant application to the Stark County Commissioners for the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$111,570 for the purchase of a bus and additional transportation costs incurred by the District.
- 13) **Dickinson Park and Recreation Lease** – The Board approved a land lease agreement with the Dickinson Parks and Recreation for a term of five years beginning November 14, 2011.
- 14) **Board Policy Revisions, Additions and Deletions-First Reading**- The Board approved for first reading approximately 38 revisions to Board policies, the addition of four new Board policies, and the deletion of three Board policies.
- 15) **Board Regulation Revisions, Additions and Deletions-First Reading and Final Adoption** – The Board approved revisions to five Board regulations, an addition of a new Board regulation and the deletion of three Board regulations.
- 16) **Other** – President Fehr commended the students that competed in the Robotics competition recently held at DSU. DHS and Hagen Junior High School students will be advancing to the state competition.
- 17) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.