

# The Morning After



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## Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2011

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- 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 which included the early resignation of Mr. Rudy Privratsky, welding instructor at DHS, effective May 25, 2012; and the student/staff recognitions. There were no new certified hires.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
  - a. **2012-2013 School Calendar** - The Calendar Committee has met on two occasions. Draft calendars are being circulated by the committee members seeking input from other personnel in their building
  - b. **Early dismissal** – There is an early dismissal for students this week Wednesday, December 14 for professional development for the staff.
  - c. **Anti-bullying policy** – The committee has concluded its work on the policy. There were many clarification questions asked by the committee which were answered by the North Dakota School Boards Association. A revised policy will be proposed at the January meeting. The effective date for the revised policy would be July 1, 2012. President Fehr thanked the members on this committee for their time and hard work.
  - d. **Holiday break** – The Holiday break will begin on December 22 and school will resume on January 3.
- 4) **Sale of General Obligation Building Fund Bonds** – Mr. Myron Knutson, managing director from the Public Financial Management Group addressed the Board. Mr. Knutson presented information from the bond sale that was held on Monday. He also noted that the bonds were upgraded in their rating to an Aa3. There were four bids received for the \$5,000,000 general obligation building fund bonds, Series 2011A. The lowest bid came in at an average of 2.01%. This rate is considerably less than anticipated and will help DPS to lower the annual debt service. The second bond, \$1,500,000 limited tax bonds, had three bids with the lowest bid averaging at 2.187%. Mr. Reep reported there are 246 kindergarten students in the district. Of those kindergarten students, 39% of them have a parent whose employment is related to energy. This information will be important when the district applies for funds through the Energy Development Impact Office. Mr. Reep also noted he has had communication with the Dickinson Parks and Recreation. The Dickinson Parks and Recreation would like to do a cooperative project with the playground at the new elementary school located in north Dickinson by making it into a park/playground. Mr. Reep recommended the Board move forward and accept the two bond sale bids. The Board approved a resolution authorizing the issuance of \$5,000,000 General obligation building fund bonds, series 2011A. The Board also approved a resolution authorizing the issuance of \$1,500,000 limited tax bonds, series 2011B.
- 5) **Audit Report**- Mr. James Wosepka, the school district's auditor, addressed the Board members. A copy of his audit report was mailed to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review.

There were no major concerns. The Board approved the annual audit report for the year ending June 30, 2011.

- 6) **Professional Learning Communities Update** – Berg Principal Tammy Praus and Jefferson Principal Becky Meduna addressed the Board providing information regarding the improvements at the schools with the implementation of the Professional Learning Communities. Both principals noted that the additional time set aside for intervention and the collaboration amongst the teachers and staff has created a foundation for positive student learning. The principals explained the strategies used by the teachers with collaborative team meetings, pyramid to intervention, common scheduling at Berg, book study committees, education plans, behavior response, data analysis and becoming more unified. Mrs. Praus, Mrs. Meduna, and Miss Libis have reports posted on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 7) **Girls' Fast-Pitch Softball Cooperative Agreement**- The Board approved a cooperative agreement for girls' fast-pitch softball with New England Public School District for the 2011-2012 school year. A copy of the cooperative agreement is posted on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 8) **Superintendent Evaluation** – President Fehr explained there were four areas evaluated from the superintendent's job description. Areas evaluated either receive a satisfactory or an unsatisfactory. Superintendent Sullivan received all satisfactory responses in all areas evaluated. President Fehr met with Superintendent Sullivan and reviewed the evaluation summary prior to the Board meeting. President Fehr read a portion of the responses from each of the four areas. The Board member responses along with the summary will be placed in Dr. Sullivan's personnel file. A copy of the evaluation summary is posted on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 9) **Open Enrollment Applications** – The Board approved an open enrollment request for Robert Justin Pringle to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from Killdeer School District. The Board also approved a request for open enrollment for Cade and Chloe Kappahn to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from South Heart School District.
- 10) **Committee Representative** – The Board approved to designate for 2011-2012 Dr. Becky Pitkin as the primary Roughrider Education Services Program school Board representative and Mrs. Kris Fehr as the secondary Board representative.
- 11) **Early Resignation Incentive Application** – The Board approved an early resignation incentive application for Mr. Rudy Privratsky, welding instructor at Dickinson High School, with an effective date of May 25, 2012. Mr. Privratsky has served in the district for 16 years.
- 12) **Board Policy Deletion-First Reading Approval** - The Board approved for first reading the deletion of policy FCAB-Administering Medications to Students. A copy of the policy is available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- 13) **Board Policy Revisions, Additions and Deletions-Second Reading and Final Adoption** – The Board approved approximately 39 revisions to Board policies, four additions to Board policies, and three deletions of Board policies. Copies of the policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.

- 14) **Other** – President Fehr thanked the principals for inviting Board members to events at the schools. President Fehr recognized Superintendent Sullivan for his recent appointment to the ND Teacher and Principal Evaluation and Support Systems Committee.
- 15) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.