

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Wednesday, March 13, 2013

- 1) **Call to Order** – President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. President Fehr welcomed new School Board member Mrs. Tanya Rude. Mrs. Rude was installed after the February School Board Meeting.

Consent Agenda and Personnel Report - The Board approved the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports; the personnel reports which includes the resignations of the following certified staff: Gloria Ciavarella, grade two instructor at Jefferson Elementary (33 years of service); Lana Dutchak, grade two instructor at Lincoln Elementary (13 years of service); Linda Fridley, grade two instructor at Jefferson Elementary (38 years of service); Jessica Friestad, Counselor at Hagen Junior High (1 year of service); Darla Hoffmann, Language Arts instructor at Hagen Junior High (19 years of service); Richard Jambor, Vocational Agriculture instructor at Dickinson High School (25 years of service); Beverly Kinnischtzke, Diversified Occupations instructor at Dickinson High School and Southwest Community High School (18 years of service); Rhonda Kraenzel, kindergarten instructor at Heart River Elementary (22 years of service); Justene Metcalfe, Speech Language Pathologist at Hagen Junior High and Early Childhood Center (2 years of service); Debby Thompson, Language Arts instructor at Southwest Community High School (33 years of service); effective 05/24/2013, and Erwin VanVeldhuizen, Technology Education instructor at Hagen Junior High (37 years of service), effective 07/03/2013; the student/staff recognitions; a tuition waiver agreement request for a child of Melissa Olheiser from Belfield Public School District to Dickinson Public, tuition waiver request for a child of Shelly Fleck from South Heart School District to Dickinson; the RESP report; the RACTC report; and the following open enrollments were dissolved, a child of Truce Trujillo from Belfield to Dickinson, two children of Inga Davis from Richardton-Taylor to Dickinson, and two children of Bobbie Godes from Richardton-Taylor to Dickinson.

- 2) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
- ELL Services**- As of February 26, there are 58 identified students utilizing the ELL services. Over 90 students have been screened. On October 31 when the Budget Committee met and approved an additional ELL position, there were 45 ELL students in the District. The number of students has increased by 13. President Fehr inquired if the District may need additional staffing. Mrs. Martinson was asked to respond. She noted that the state recommends a case load of 20. DPS ELL student turnover rate is high. Mrs. Martinson recommended reassessing again this fall.
 - Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment** – Currently there are 206 students enrolled for kindergarten next fall. The projections are for 260 kindergarten students this fall. Assistant Superintendent Reep will reassess the projections on May 1.
 - Reorganization in School Assignment** – During the 2011-2012 school year, Lincoln students in the 5th grade were relocated to Berg. Beginning in the fall of 2012-2013, the Lincoln 5th grade students will remain at Lincoln. Because of the addition of the two positions in social studies at Hagen, there was a need for additional space. After conversations with Principal Marcus Lewton, the 8th grade history and the 8th grade

geography classes will be moved to Berg Elementary. Also, the morning Spanish class from Hagen will be moved to Berg Elementary.

- d. **Affordable Health Care Act** – Beginning January 2014, each member in the school district covered by its self-funded health care plan will be assessed \$5.25 per month to pay for health insurance for individuals who purchase their own coverage. This is an annual cost of \$19,467. It will be necessary to pass these fees onto the employees through higher premiums. There will be a notification to the employees on May 1 of these changes.
- e. **Student Placements at Prairie Rose Elementary** – Students have been identified and placed at Prairie Rose Elementary. Notifications have been sent to parents. There were approximately 12 families that requested their child or children not be transferred to Prairie Rose. Placement of these students will be reconsidered when the enrollment is reassessed after the first week of August. President Fehr asked for some reasons parents did not want their children to transfer. Dr. Sullivan responded the reasons were various.

- 3) **One-to-One Technology Pilot Program**- Superintendent Sullivan explained at the last School Board Meeting there was discussion regarding the One-to-One Technology Initiative in the social studies area at the high school. During the interim between the February and March Board Meetings there have been various questions from School Board members and a request for a follow up. Available on the website under Supporting Documents is information regarding the cost for the project. DHS Social Studies Instructor Brian Ham, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Technology Coordinator Mitchell Murphy, and DHS Principal Ron Dockter addressed the Board. Mr. Ham distributed a handout that contained responses from a student survey. There were 117 students that completed the survey. Mr. Ham explained at a recent professional development training teachers were encouraged to have 21st century skills for their students; skills the students will need when they enter the next phase of their lives. Mr. Ham and other members in the social studies department did extensive research on curriculum and activity maps. Almost all of them required technology. Students need to be learning collaboratively, communicating, have creative thinking, and have creativity skills. With the labs available to the students now, they may have access possibly once or twice a week. With a One-to-One Technology Initiative, there could be unlimited access to technology. The One-to-One has been discussed in the past. Mrs. Kathrein added that student engagement is a common concern among staff. Students at the high school level possibly have had technology since their early elementary years. The social studies department at the high school is willing to take on an initiative. This would be a pilot program. Dr. Sullivan noted this initiative would not be a change in the curriculum nor a modification to the courses. It would be a change in the delivery of the curriculum. President Fehr inquired regarding the correlation between student engagement and technology. Mrs. Kathrein explained that iPads at the elementary level have various uses. They may be supplemental to the instruction or an intervention. Sometimes the technology is used to define motor skills. President Fehr asked if there was a comparison in some way. Mr. Ham responded that he does not have a class that has access to iPads. His students depend on access to the labs. Some students do ask to utilize the electronic version of the text. The social studies department is monitoring the technology use. Technology seems to encourage the students to be more engaged. It fits their style. Mr. Ham provided an example of various ways technology could provide a lesson on the civil war. Ms. Ross asked if the pilot program was providing the technology for students to take the technology home with them. Mr. Ham responded that some schools do that. If you give every student the technology then more would be required. The District would need to provide for 28-30 students in a class and there are several classes taught. Mrs. Kathrein explained the transition of the paper textbook to the electronic version. Ms. Ross inquired if this program follows the drive towards utilizing the Office 365 platform. Mr. Murphy

responded the Microsoft Surface would allow the students to use 365 in school and retrieve the information from their home. The Surface in combination with Office 365 works cohesively with other technology such as the Android, iPhones and other multi platforms. Ms. Ross inquired why the Surface was recommended. Mr. Ham responded through research and discussion with the CAO technologists, this seemed to be the best product. There was discussion regarding the capacity of memory, if other school districts have done this as a pilot project, infrastructure needs, training and trainer, time frame, and assessment. Ms. Ross noted this project would be a spring board. The success or failure of the program will be the deciding factor for future technology goals for the district. The DHS Social Studies Department was committed to following through on the project. Ms. Ross and President Fehr thanked those that addressed the Board and appreciated all the research done, material presented and information provided. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 4) **Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep addressed the Board stating progress on the construction is on schedule. He reported the concrete will be poured soon for the parent drop off loop and other areas. President Fehr inquired regarding the trees on the lot. Mr. Reep responded that some of the trees will be transferred to the southwest corner of the lot. This will be done after landscaping and seeding. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **Conflict of Interest** – The new Board member, Mrs. Tanya Rude, has submitted her Statement of Interest form. It is posted on the School Board website. The Board allowed Mrs. Tanya Rude to participate and vote on the identified potential conflicts in accordance with NDCC 15.1-07-17.
- 6) **Committee Assignments** – There were vacancies for Board representation on the NCA Steering Committee, the Professional Development Committee and the Activity Director’s Advisory Committee. President Fehr volunteered to serve on the Activity Director’s Advisory Committee. The Board designated for 2012-2013 Mrs. Kris Fehr as the Board representative on the Activity Director’s Advisory Committee and designated Mrs. Tanya Rude as the Board representative on the NCA Steering Committee and the Professional Development Committee.
- 7) **Breakfast and Lunch Meal Prices** – The Board approved to change the fees charged for school breakfast and lunch meals to be in alignment with Section 205 of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The new fee rates beginning the 2013-2014 school year will be \$1.25 for student breakfast, \$1.40 for adult breakfast, \$1.95 for lunch for students grades K-6, \$2.25 for lunch for grades 7-8, \$3.00 for lunch for grades 9-12, and \$3.50 for lunch for adults. Assistant Superintendent Reep has posted under Supporting Documents a summary of the meal price changes.
- 8) **2013-2014 Licensed Employee Staffing** – Superintendent Sullivan explained the District has 3.5 vacancies for the Speech Language Pathologist positions. There are few students graduating in this field and then working in school districts. There are a large number of vacancies for this position within the state. These services are required by the District. Mrs. Rude asked how the District is going to address those student needs. Superintendent Sullivan responded this topic will be discussed by the Central Office Administrators within the next couple of weeks. Those services will be provided.

Assistant Superintendent Reep discussed the impact of the federal budget. The biggest impact of the sequestration will be seen in the Title I and Title IIb areas. Mr. Reep has budgeted for the employees funded by Title IIb if those funds happen to be cut. Mr. Reep also discussed

changing a ½ time Language Arts position into a full time Language Arts position and eliminate the Diversified Occupation licensed position. DHS Principal Dockter explained the student enrollment in the Diversified Occupation elective courses has gradually declined throughout the years. This is the second year the state has not funded the program. The needs of the students will still be met. They have transitioned to other areas such as banking, finance, accounting, and welding, as examples. This agenda item was informational only. No board action was requested.

- 9) **Superintendent's Evaluation** - President Fehr provided a summary regarding the three areas Superintendent Sullivan was evaluated. Superintendent Sullivan received satisfactory marks from all Board members in all three areas. A copy of the summary for the evaluations is available as a Supporting Document on the website. President Fehr read several comments from the three areas that were evaluated. The Board acknowledged that the Board members did evaluate Superintendent Sullivan, as required by North Dakota Century Code, and that the evaluations were satisfactory. Superintendent Sullivan thanked the School Board members, the administrators and staff for their contribution and leadership.
- 10) **Open Enrollment Applications** – The Board approved the following requests to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools under the open enrollment policy: a child of Steve Kass from New England to Dickinson, a child of Greta Privratsky from Belfield to Dickinson, two children of Shaunna Ladd from South Heart to Dickinson, a child of Lynn Bullinger from Killdeer to Dickinson, a child of Michelle Renner from Killdeer to Dickinson, a child of Brenda Kostelecky from South Heart to Dickinson, a child of Michelle Mayer from Hebron to Dickinson, a child of Sherry Andrus from South Heart to Dickinson, a child of Kim Balliet from South Heart to Dickinson, a child of Darren Twogood from New England to Dickinson, two children of Stephanie Crimmins from South Heart to Dickinson, a child of Shelly Fleck from South Heart to Dickinson, a child of Melissa Olheiser from Belfield to Dickinson, and two children of William Whitworth from Billings County to Dickinson. The Board further disapproved the requests for open enrollment for a child of Mariah Kistler from New England to Dickinson, the request for a child of Trina Schaaf from Elgin to Dickinson, the request for a child of Corey Reeder from Richardton-Taylor to Dickinson and the request for a child of Darcie Dennis from Belfield to Dickinson.
- 11) **Early Resignation Incentive Notifications** – The Board approved the Early Resignation Incentive Notifications from Gloria Ciavarella, grade two instructor at Jefferson Elementary; Lana Dutchak, grade two instructor at Lincoln Elementary; Linda Fridley, grade two instructor at Jefferson Elementary; Jessica Friestad, Counselor at Hagen Junior High; Darla Hoffmann, Language Arts instructor at Hagen Junior High; Richard Jambor, Vocational Agriculture instructor at Dickinson High School; Beverly Kinnischtzke, Diversified Occupations instructor at Dickinson High School and Southwest Community High School; Rhonda Kraenzel, kindergarten instructor at Heart River Elementary; Justene Metcalfe, Speech Language Pathologist at Hagen Junior High and Early Childhood Center; Debby Thompson, Language Arts instructor at Southwest Community High School; effective May 24, 2013; and the Early Resignation Incentive Notification from Erwin VanVeldhuizen, Technology Education instructor at Hagen Junior High, effective July 3, 2013. These eleven licensed staff have an average of 22 years of service and a combined 241 years of service. Assistant Superintendent Reep has verified their eligibility. The administration will evaluate the vacancies these positions may or may not create and will post any openings at a later date. Mr. Reep noted there is an accumulated 483 years of experience with the certified staff that are leaving the District this year. There are currently 24

licensed staff openings. President Fehr expressed her appreciation for all the employees for their years of service to the children of Dickinson Public Schools and regretted losing the staff members that were retiring or resigning.

- 12) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.