

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, April 9, 2013

- 1) **Call to Order** – President 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 personnel reports which includes the hiring of the following certified staff effective for the 2013-2014 school year: Karen Berg, grade four instructor at Heart River Elementary; Stacey Bullock, grade one instructor at Prairie Rose Elementary; Michelle Dacar, mathematics instructor at Hagen Junior High; Amanda DeMorrett, grade two instructor at Jefferson Elementary; Betsy Devero, Language Arts instructor at Hagen Junior High; Jennifer Hartman, grade three instructor at Heart River Elementary; Kayla Kilwein, elementary music instructor at Prairie Rose Elementary; Julie Maes, grade five instructor at Jefferson Elementary; Jamie Mullet, grade two instructor at Lincoln Elementary; Tia Newton, grade five instructor at Heart River Elementary; Joseph Stefalo, grade two instructor at Jefferson Elementary; Kalindi Wax, physical education instructor at Prairie Rose Elementary; and Mary Weflen, grade four instructor at Heart River Elementary; the student/staff recognitions; a tuition waiver agreement request for two children of Wendy Rebel from South Heart School District to Dickinson Public; the RACTC report; and the RESP report.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **Impact of Sequestration**- Dr. Sullivan reported the DPS Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) fund will receive an approximate 5.2% decrease (\$75,000) beginning July 1.
 - b. **Positive Behavioral Support Grant** – Dr. Sullivan recognized Mrs. Kathrein for submitting and receiving a grant in the amount of \$15,000 for training in our student behavioral program. This program has a strong anti-bullying component.
 - c. **Strategic Plan** – Available on the website under Supporting Documents is the revised District mission statement, vision statement, and belief statements proposed by the Building Co-chairs and Principal Leadership Team. This team has been working very hard this year on the statements and other components of the strategic plan. The statements will be brought before the School Board for recommendation for approval at a future Board meeting.
 - d. **Budget Committee Meeting Update** – Some topics discussed at last week's Budget Committee Meeting included discussions regarding the English Language Learners, the School Resource Officer program, and a recommendation to hire a Special Education Coordinator.
 - e. **Upcoming Events** – Superintendent Sullivan asked Board members to review the upcoming commencement dates listed under announcements on the background agenda. The Teacher/Staff Recognition and Retirement program is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.
 - f. **Writing Workshop** - Dr. Sullivan provided two books to the Board to view. The books included writing done by the kindergarten classes at Roosevelt Elementary and were created by kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Steiner and Miss Weiler. Director of Instruction Kathrein addressed the Board and explained this is the first full year of the Writing Workshop in the District. She noted the teachers are continually amazed at the progress students are making

in their writing abilities. Fargo Public Schools is interested in implementing the Writing Workshop. They are sending a team of ten educators to Dickinson this week Friday to review the program.

- 4) **Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep addressed the Board stating progress on the construction is on schedule. Available on the website are minutes from the March 20 construction meeting and also a progress timeline report. Mr. Reep discussed the upcoming installation of the TMI cabinetry work and the transplanting of pine trees. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **Prairie Rose Elementary Playground Equipment Bids** – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board explaining four vendors submitted bids for the playground at Prairie Rose Elementary. These bids were opened at the March 26 bid opening. The Board accepted the bid from BC6 Builders of \$124,188 for the Prairie Rose Elementary playground equipment. Available on the website are diagrams of the playground equipment for the K-1 playground and the grades 2-6 playground. The designing of the BC6 Builders playground equipment included the assistance from 26 children helping create the options. Board members discussed ADA accessibility to the equipment.
- 6) **Addition of Special Education Coordinator/Strategist Position** – Superintendent Sullivan reported at the recent Budget Committee Meeting the committee recommended the addition of a Special Education Coordinator/Strategist position. This position is 50% teaching READ 180 and some case management activities; and 50% Special Education Coordinator to include internal monitoring of the special education program, assist and train Tienet System (student data base system), provision of technical assistance on IDEA requirements, assist in data collection and monitoring of ND State Performance Plan. Available under Supporting Documents is a comparison chart of several other special education units in the state. The Board authorized the administration to add a new Special Education Coordinator/Strategist position, effective the 2013-2014 school year.
- 7) **Administrative Bargaining Recognition Petition** - Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.1-16-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, the Board recognized all certified administrators employed as administrators in the Dickinson District as an appropriate negotiation unit for the purpose of negotiations for the 2013-2015 contract. Available under Supporting Documents is the administrators Notice of Recognition.
- 8) **2013-2014 Classified Staff Salaries Proposal** – Superintendent Sullivan noted at a previous Budget Committee Meeting there was discussion regarding classified salaries. The District tries to remain competitive in a vigorous economic area, promote more retention, and recognize the importance of the classified staff. The administrative recommendation to the Budget Committee was an 8% salary increase for the classified staff. The Board approved the Classified Salary and Benefit package with an effective date of July 1, 2013, and to authorize an 8% salary increase for the 2013-2014 school year for those classified staff receiving a satisfactory performance evaluation.
- 9) **Open Enrollment Applications** – The Board approved the open enrollment request for two children of Cynthia Tedford, a request for a child of Jill Hall, a request for two children of Wendy Rebel, and a child of Chad Mathiason to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools under the open enrollment policy.

- 10) **Early Resignation Incentive Notification** – The Board approved the Early Resignation Incentive Notification from Randi Hochhalter, registrar/administrative assistant at Dickinson High School who has served in the District for 22 years. President Fehr expressed her appreciation for the work Mrs. Hochhalter has done in the district and recognized how she keeps things running at the high school and adapts to the challenges with student schedule changes.
- 11) **Board Policy Revision-First Reading** – The Board approved for first reading the revision to Board policy DKBC-Early Resignation Notification, with an effective date of July 1, 2013. The revision is to increase the daily benefit payout for unused sick leave from \$10 per day to \$20 per day. Available on the website under Supporting Documents is a copy of the proposed revisions to policy DKBC.
- 12) **Other** – Mr. Hanson noted at the Budget Committee Meeting that the Board consider be flexible if a situation would arise where an additional teacher may need to be hired due to an influx of students. This topic will be placed on a future Board agenda. Mrs. Rude inquired about the number of students that may be willing to use their own personal computer tablet in the school environment. Superintendent Sullivan has had a conversation with the administrators regarding online versions of textbooks. Currently when a textbook is purchased an online version is made available. If a textbook is not purchased, the online version is comparable in price to the textbook. Superintendent Sullivan is still researching this topic.
- 13) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.