

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, May 14, 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: Sharon Benson, counselor, Hagen Junior High; Gregg Bertelsen, .27 physical education instructor, Lincoln Elementary; Marlene Biondo, elementary art instructor, district-wide; Janette Foreman, Language Arts instructor, SWCHS/DHS; Audra Galster, Strategist, Berg Elementary; Shawna Knipp, Strategist, Heart River Elementary; Kathryn Mavity, grade four instructor at Jefferson Elementary; Madelyn Ohene-Ntow, grade one instructor, Roosevelt Elementary; Jamie Prellwitz, kindergarten instructor, Heart River Elementary; Chelsea Roshau, Strategist, Heart River Elementary; Megan Smith, preschool instructor, Early Childhood Center; Kelsey Vanyo, kindergarten instructor, Prairie Rose Elementary; LaDawn Weidner, Strategist, DHS; Whitney West, counselor, Roosevelt Elementary; Paula Williams, Spanish instructor, Hagen/DHS; and Cody Wolf, vocational agriculture instructor, DHS; the resignations of Cassie McLean, grade four instructor, Jefferson Elementary (2 years of service); and Angela Skaarvold, kindergarten instructor, Prairie Rose Elementary (3 years of service); the student/staff recognition; a tuition waiver agreement request for a child of Wade Kline and a tuition waiver request for two children of Scott Mack from South Heart School District to Dickinson Public; and the RACTC report. There was no RESP report received.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **Budget Committee Meeting Update** – At last week's Budget Committee Meeting the committee discussed a social worker position and an athletic trainer position. There were no decisions to approve any new positions. The committee heard information from Assistant Superintendent Reep regarding the funding formula and how it will impact the District next school year.
 - b. **English Language Learners** – During the 2012-2013 school year, the Board approved an additional English Language Learners position providing a total of two positions in the District. The District has 62 English Language Learners students at the present time. The District will be re-evaluating the needs for ELL assistance after summer enrollment is received.
 - c. **Recognize Early Childhood Center** – The Early Childhood Center/Head Start recently had a monitoring from the federal government. There were no findings in the monitoring report. Dr. Sullivan recognized and congratulated Dr. Sharon Hansen and her staff for the outstanding work they are doing and noted it is significant for there to be no findings considering the scrutiny in the monitoring. The review team that came and looked at the ECC and Head Start did site a strength. That strength is the ongoing relationship with the DPS.
 - d. **Educator of the Year**- Recently the Chamber Education Committee presented Mrs. Sandra Schobinger at Berg Elementary with the Educator of the Year award.

President Fehr congratulated Dr. Hansen and Mrs. Schobinger and acknowledged the great effort from both these individuals.

V. **Business Topics**

- a. **Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep has available on the website under Supporting Documents minutes from the April 3 and April 17 construction meetings. Mr. Reep noted that it was approximately one year ago that the Board accepted bids for the construction of Prairie Rose Elementary. A lot has happened since then. Progress is going well. The interior doors have been hung and the gymnasium has been painted. The only concern Mr. Reep noted was that the carpet is on back order at the factory. The contractor will be working on this. Even if things are pushed back due to the carpet the school will still open this fall. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- b. **Major Summer Building Projects** - Assistant Superintendent Reep has available on the website a summary list for projects. This list is a work in progress. Mr. Reep noted the only change was that he finally received a bid for a chip seal in the west DHS parking lot at a cost of \$36,000. Mrs. Rude inquired about the projected balance in the fund after the projects are completed. Mr. Reep responded those funds are a result of a tax levy and other sources and are allocated specifically for building projects. The funds cannot be transferred out of that account into another account. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- c. **Legislative Update** – The legislature recently adjourned the 63rd Legislative Assembly after eighty days. There were numerous bills in the legislature that were important to the Dickinson Public Schools. Assistant Superintendent Reep provided an update for the school board regarding the legislative session and the implications of various bills on the school district. Mr. Reep reported that House Bill 1319 was defeated. It was rewritten which decreased the revenue generated to DPS apparently by \$1 million. There is ongoing discussion how much levying authority the school district will have. Depending on interpretation, the District may receive more. The certificate of levy is filed in August. Mr. Reep noted there is a lot of uncertainty; however, the number of mills will decrease. House Bill 1013 reduces the tax levy. House Bill 1358 provides funding for impact; however, the funding provided to a District is from the County and therefore funds from the State level will be reduced. Senate Bill 2036 provides a property tax credit. This Bill requires some school districts to send notifications to property owners that received an increase in assessed values. House Bill 1261 is a rapid enrollment bill. There is a possibility the District may receive funds from this Bill but all the details have not been finalized. Senate Bill 2267 provides partial funding for increased security and safety with matching funds required. President Fehr inquired if there were limits on the school funding bill. Mr. Reep responded there are no limitations. Mr. Reep further explained that the requirement to spend 70% on teacher salaries has been dissolved. Salaries include classified staff, teacher salaries and administrative salaries. President Fehr inquired if the salary amounts the District is paying is shared with the legislators and Mr. Reep confirmed that information is shared. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- d. **2013-2014 Student Handbooks** – Copies of the 2013-2014 elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School, and Southwest Community High School Student Handbooks and summaries of the recommended changes for the handbooks are posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. Principals explained to the

Board members the major changes in the handbooks. DHS Principal Dockter shared with Board members data regarding the attendance policy change that went into effect with the 2012-2013 handbook. The data indicated a dramatic change in the absences and tardies and also a large increase in the number of perfect attendances. President Fehr asked Mr. Dockter what he attributed this positive information. Mr. Dockter responded the change was due to the attendance and final examination exemption. There was discussion regarding the exemption's affect on the number of ill children coming to school and Mr. Dockter explained he had not seen a change with more ill children coming to school. The Board approved the handbooks. President Fehr thanked the principals for all their hard work for getting the handbooks ready in time for the Board meeting.

- e. **Roughrider Area Career and Technical Center (RACTC) Update** – Available on the website is an RACTC cost analysis spreadsheet. Mr. Hanson is the Board representative on the RACTC Governing Board. Mr. Hanson explained that the District is saving money by remaining a member of the RACTC. The spreadsheet reflected the cost to the District if it would withdraw from membership. President Fehr inquired how many students were participating in the courses offered through RACTC. DHS Principal Dockter responded that the courses draw enough students to fill the classes. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- f. **Report on National School Board Association Convention** – Board Member Tanya Rude and Superintendent Sullivan gave highlights from the National School Board Convention they recently attended in San Diego. Available on the website are summary reports prepared by Mrs. Rude and Dr. Sullivan. Also available on the website is some information shared by Mrs. Rude from some of the sessions she attended. Mrs. Rude provided a video clip regarding Flipping in the Classroom. The video demonstrated students in a math class viewing material electronically at home in the evenings with more time spent in the classroom doing math problems and having the ability to ask questions as they worked through the problems. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- g. **Prairie Rose Elementary – Furniture, Equipment, and Fixtures Bids** – Available on the website is a copy of the all the items that were bid and the prices received. The Board accepted the furniture, equipment, and fixtures for Prairie Rose Elementary as recommended by the administration.
- h. **2013-2014 Classified Salary and Benefit Package Proposal** – The Board approved the Classified Salary and Benefit Package with an effective date of July 1, 2013. Available on the website is the Classified Salary and Benefit Package.
- i. **Annual Meeting Day and Time** – The Board scheduled the annual school board meeting for Monday, July 8, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.
- j. **Administrative Bargaining Recognition of Representative Organization** - Pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.1-16-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, the school board of Dickinson Public School District #1 recognized the Dickinson administrative council as the exclusive representative of the appropriate negotiation unit for the purpose of negotiations.

- k. **Open Enrollment Applications** – The Board approved the requests for two children of Scott Mack to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools under the open enrollment policy.
- l. **Board Policy Additions or Revisions–First Reading** - The Board accepted the first reading approval of the addition of board policies BGA-Board Communication with the Public, policy DKBD-Teacher Discharge for Cause; and also to revise school board policy BCAA-Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation, policy BCBA-Public Communication at Board Meetings, and policy DJA-Substitute Teachers. These policies are posted on the school board website under Supporting Documents using the first reading link.
- m. **Board Policy Revision–Second Reading and Final Adoption** – The Board approved for second reading and final adoption 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.
- n. **Other** – President Fehr reminded Board members to inform Mrs. Petersen of conflicts in their schedule for the purpose of scheduling in the near future a special board meeting to discuss teacher and administrative contracts.
- o. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.