

The Morning After



Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, September 11, 2012

- 1) **Call to Order** – President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
- 2) **Consent Agenda and Personnel Report** - The Board approved the revised agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the financial reports; the personnel reports; the RACTC report and the RESP report. There were no certified resignations, no tuition waiver agreements and no student/staff recognitions.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
 - a. **School Board Workshops** – Superintendent Sullivan reminded Board members there would be workshops following the October and November school board meetings. Board members are encouraged to forward topics and a list will be developed.
 - b. **Perception Surveys** – As part of the accreditation, Dickinson Public Schools will be administering a survey to students in grades 2-12, faculty, and as many parents as possible. The window for completing the survey will be October 29 through November 16.
 - c. **September 24** – This date has been set aside as a professional development day for faculty and administration. There will be no school on September 24.
 - d. **NDSBA School Law Seminar/New Member Seminar and Conference** – The North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) will hold a School Law Seminar/New Member Seminar on Thursday, October 25. The NDSBA will hold the annual school board association conference on Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27th.
 - e. **Enrollment** – Superintendent Sullivan noted that the enrollment numbers change on a daily basis. When comparing enrollment from fall of 2011, grades K-6 have seen an increase of 119 students. Hagen has seen an increase of 35 students and DHS has seen a loss of 12 students. As a district, there is an increase of 142 students compared to fall of 2011. Dr. Sullivan noted the second grade class at Heart River has 24 or 25 students and it is anticipated no more students will be added to these classrooms. The 5th grade classes at Jefferson (two sections) have 28 students.
- 4) **Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Reep provided updated information regarding the progress of the construction on the new school. Mr. Reep provided a handout that indicated the perimeter of the large, non-classroom section of the new school has precast walls put up. He indicated the contractor is on schedule. The steel roof joists should be hung in the near future. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 5) **ACT Test Results 2011** – Available on the website under Supporting Documents are the 2011 ACT test results for DHS and also the ACT test results for 16 school districts in North Dakota. DHS Principal Ron Dockter addressed the Board. He noted that DPS student ACT scores are in the middle comparing to other ND schools. There are several areas that DPS is higher than the state average and one area (reading) where DPS is lower than the state average. Last year was the first year that the writing portion of the ACT test was administered to the DPS students. Mr. Dockter explained students receiving an 18 on the writing portion of the ACT test and receiving

a 22 on the math portion may get a C at the college level. From the class of 2012, 23% received a score of 24 or above on the ACT. Almost 40% of last year's seniors qualified for the North Dakota Academic Scholarship. Students appear to be increasing in their mathematics scores. There are reading and writing committees that are initiating programs in the District as a continuous effort to increase scores in those areas. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

- 6) **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update 2011 – Program Improvement** – Under Supporting Documents on the school board website is posted the 2012-2013 Program Improvement Plan for the District and also the 2012-2013 Program Improvement Plan for each school in the District. Superintendent Sullivan explained the plans include the steps taking place at the individual buildings and the individual grade levels to achieve better Adequate Yearly Progress scores. Dr. Sullivan thanked Mrs. Martinson, Mrs. Kathrein, and the building administrators for the time devoted to preparing the reports for submission to DPI. Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Director of Instruction, addressed the Board explaining the district-wide improvements to the writing programs. She explained the district is attempting to find the specific areas that need improvement using a student-by-student and skill-by-skill evaluation. The timing of the state assessment data hinders this process. Future consequences to the schools and district for not meeting the AYP standards will depend if a waiver from Dr. Sanstead is approved. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.
- 7) **Department of Public Instruction Certificate of Compliance** – The Board approved the Department of Public Instruction Annual Compliance Report for the 2012-2013 school year. A copy of the report is available on the website under Supporting Documents. The report is a compilation of each school certifying that the teachers in the schools are highly qualified and the report also stipulates that DPS does background checks on certain individuals and follows a review process as outlined in Century Code.
- 8) **Open Enrollment Applications** – The Board approved the open enrollment requests for two children of Brian Hampton from Killdeer Public to Dickinson, a child of Truce Trujillo from Belfield to Dickinson, and a child of Lorrie Nantt from South Heart to Dickinson, as specified in the open enrollment requests.
- 9) **Request Approval of Energy Development Impact Office (EDIO) Grant Application** – The Board approved a grant application request to the North Dakota State Land Board in the amount of \$3,055,000. Project applications are to assist infrastructure impacts resulting from energy activity. A copy of the grant application is available on the website under Supporting Documents. The \$3,055,000 amount represents 47% of the \$5,000,000 funded by the Dickinson Public Schools interim fund for the construction of Prairie Rose Elementary School. Mr. Reep further explained there are approximately 47% of the kindergarten students that have one parent connected to the energy field.
- 10) **Other** – There were no other topics for discussion.
- 11) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.