

# The Morning After



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## Notes from last night's school board meeting Wednesday, November 14, 2012

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- 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 revised consent agenda consisting of the financial reports, the personnel reports, the student/staff recognition, the RACTC report, and the RESP report. There were no certified hires or resignations and no new requests for tuition waivers.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
  - a. **American Education Week** – During American Education Week, the district recognizes the contributions the teachers and staff have made to the education of the students. Various community members have volunteered to either read to students in the classroom or attend meetings thanking the teachers and staff for their dedication and work. Superintendent Sullivan thanked Marathon Oil for the numerous volunteers that are reading to students in the classroom this week.
  - b. **Meeting with Legislators**- Recently DPS administrators met with legislators to discuss foundation aid payments, property tax relief, infrastructure grants, and the common school trust fund. Superintendent Sullivan and Mr. Reep expressed upon the legislators the need to maximize the foundation aid payments by funding per pupil. Also, Mr. Reep emphasized the need to pay on this year's student enrollment instead of a one year lag and basing the aid payment on prior year's student enrollment.
  - c. **Perception Surveys** – The perception surveys prepared by AdvancED are available to the district parents, students and faculty through the end of the day on Friday, November 16. As of last week Friday, the district has received responses from 235 parents, 215 staff, 619 elementary K-5 students, 68 students at Berg, and 478 Hagen or DHS students.
  - d. **EIO Grant Application** – The district did not receive funding from the recent application grant submitted to the Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office. Available on the website is a spreadsheet listing the recipients of the grant.
  - e. **High School Attendance and Tardy Data** – During the 2012-2013 school year, DHS implemented a test exemption policy to improve attendance and lessen the number of tardies at DHS. DHS Assistant Principal, Calvin Dean, has provided information regarding the attendance and tardies at DHS since the beginning of the school year and comparison data to last year. This data is available online under Supporting Documents. The data reflects a decrease in absences and tardies. The first quarter of this current school year, there have been 1,718 tardiest and 3,933 total class period absences. The first quarter of the 2011-2012 school year there were 2,391 tardiest and 5,502 total class period absences. The first quarter last year, there were 56 students with perfect attendance. This year there are 117 perfect attendances for the first quarter.
  - f. **Budget Committee Meeting** – Posted on the website are the minutes from the October 31 DPS Budget Committee Meeting. The minutes reflect the approval by the committee to hire an additional ELL instructor. Also approved at the Budget Committee Meeting was a request for replacing the bus radios and additional contract days for the new Prairie Rose Elementary principal, Miss Sherry Libis.

g. Common Core Standards – Director of Instruction, Melanie Kathrein, addressed the Board explaining some of the recent improvements made in the K-5 curriculum. The Common Core standards was the driving force in most of the improvements. The Common Core standards are national standards that states elect to adopt. Most states, including North Dakota, have agreed to adopt the Common Core. To be in alignment with the Common Core, DPS has implemented improvements in English Language Arts, and mathematics. Mrs. Kathrein shared examples of changes in the reading and writing curriculum and using critical thinking. Due to requests from teachers in the district to review the grading system, the district has also implemented a standards based report card. Mrs. Kathrein distributed a brochure and a sample of the new K-5 report card for language arts. The new report card was used with the most recent parent/teacher conferences. The feedback from the parents was positive with appreciation for the additional information. Soon the state assessment tests based on the Common Core standards will be administered. These will be administered in the spring. The tests will also be conducted electronically instead of the current paper format which has been administered in the fall. Mrs. Kathrein noted this is the first full year of the writing workshop. The Benchmark Assessment is being given three times this year and an additional level of the Leveled Literacy Intervention was added. President Fehr thanked Mrs. Kathrein for the information.

- 4) **Roughrider Area Career and Technical Center (RACTC) Update** – Mr. Larry Sebastian, RACTC Director, addressed the board. He provided a summary report of the goals, mission and financials which is posted on the website. At the meeting he distributed additional material with details specific to DPS. This year, DPS is at 60% funding. DPS is in the fifth year of the cycle. Next year the funding will drop to 40% and remain at 40% thereafter. There are 51 DPS students participating in RACTC courses this semester. Next semester there are 48 students registered for RACTC courses. Mr. Sebastian explained most of the DPS students enrolled are in health career related courses. There was a discussion regarding conflicts with scheduling classes at DHS due to the block schedule. President Fehr thanked Mr. Sebastian for his reports and for providing the updated information.
- 5) **Southwest Community High School (SWCHS) Report** – SWCHS Principal, Jay Hepperle, addressed the board. Available on the website is a summary report provided by Mr. Hepperle. At the meeting he distributed information regarding the student population this school year. Mr. Hepperle noted that 75% of the students are referred to SWCHS from DHS. The remaining 25% are students arriving from outside the district who will be more successful at SWCHS. SWCHS is an accelerated program. Courses are taught in a shorter amount of time. Students enrolling at SWCHS typically have failed more than one class in the past. Requirements for credits at SWCHS are higher than the state standards. Maximum enrollment remains at 20 students. There currently are three students on a waiting list. President Fehr appreciated and thanked Mr. Hepperle for the updated information.
- 6) **Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Reep has provided on the website copies of the minutes from the October 17 construction meeting and also a construction timeline update. Mr. Reep explained the walls are up at the new school and the contractors are enclosing the windows with plastic in preparation for the temporary heating system so that work on the interior may continue during the winter months.
- 7) **School Board Workshop** – There was a school board workshop immediately after the board meeting.

- 8) **North Dakota School Boards Association Convention** – President Fehr, Superintendent Sullivan and Assistant Superintendent Reep briefly discussed the sessions they attended at the recent convention and law seminar.
- 9) **Addition of an English Language Learners Instructor** – The Board authorized the administration to add one more ELL instructor for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year.
- 10) **Collaborative Bargaining Recognition Petition from the Dickinson Education Association (DEA)** - Pursuant to provisions in the ND Century Code 15.1-16-10, the Board recognizes all licensed personnel employed, or to be employed, by the Board in positions requiring a license issued pursuant to Chapter 15.1-13 of the ND Century Code, except administrators and substitute teachers, as an appropriate negotiating unit for the purpose of the 2012-2013 negotiations.  
  
Pursuant to provisions of Section 15-1-16-11 of the ND Century Code, the Board recognizes the Dickinson Education Association as the exclusive representative of the appropriate negotiating unit for the purpose of the 2012-2013 negotiations.
- 11) **Request Approval of the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application** – The Board approved the grant application to the Dunn County Commissioners for the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$81,432 for the purchase of a bus and for additional transportation costs incurred by the District.
- 12) **Request Approval of the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application** – The Board approved the grant application to the Stark County Commissioners for the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$81,432 for the purchase of a bus and for additional transportation costs incurred by the District.
- 13) **Other** – There were no other topics for discussion.
- 14) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

#### **Announcements**

A Board workshop followed the meeting. Items on the agenda for the workshop included facilities and teacher recruitment.