

# The Morning After



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## Notes from last night's school board meeting Tuesday, December 11, 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, a student/staff recognition, a tuition waiver agreement for three children of Inga Davis from Richardton-Taylor to Dickinson, the RACTC report, and the RESP report. There were no certified hires or resignations.
- 3) **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:
  - a. **School Resource Officer** – Lt. Wallace has gone back to the department and therefore Officer VanDoorne will be coming back into the district as the school resource officer.
  - b. **Budget Committee Meeting** – There was a DPS Budget Committee Meeting held on December 6. Superintendent Sullivan summarized the two topics on the agenda. The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Tom Wyckoff from American Bank Center. Currently DPS is receiving 10 basis points on its excess funds. The proposal from ABC would offer 22 basis points. At the suggestion of the Budget Committee, the district will be investing \$5,000,000 into the IDC fund.
  - c. **AdvancED Survey** – For the survey to be successful it needed 20% parent participation. Approximately 10% was received. The principals did all they could to receive parent participation. AdvancED suggested opening the survey back up to try and obtain more parental feedback.
  - d. **Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant** – Superintendent Sullivan congratulated Assistant Superintendent Reep in submitting a grant request to Dunn County that was awarded \$81,423 to be used towards the purchase of a new school bus. There will be an advertisement in Tuesday's paper asking for bids for the bus.
  - e. **Strategic Plan** - The School Improvement Co-chairs and Principals Leadership Team members have met several times and have drafted belief statements and a vision statement. These statements are posted on the website. There have been some modifications to the core values and belief statements that were adopted several years ago. The vision statement is more universal and includes all "learners". Those learners include students, teachers, and staff. Superintendent Sullivan thanked the committee members for their hard work. They did a great job and were focused on accomplishing the goal of updating the strategic plan.
  - f. **Upcoming Meetings and Events** – There will be a Collaborative Bargaining Team Meeting tomorrow morning at 7:00. On December 12, there will be a district-wide early release of school so that faculty may participate in professional development. The Christmas break will begin on December 24 and school will resume on January 2.
- 4) **Audit Report** - Mr. James Wosepka, the school district's auditor, addressed the Board members. A copy of his audit report was mailed to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. There were no major concerns. Mr. Wosepka commended Mr. Reep and the staff on an outstanding job. President Fehr inquired if the revenues and expenditures were in alignment.

Mr. Wosepka responded the financial statements are good, the district is doing very well. The revenues and expenses are very much in line for the district. The Board approved the annual audit report for the year ending June 30, 2012.

- 5) **Prairie Rose Elementary** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep addressed the Board presenting updates regarding the construction at Prairie Rose Elementary. Available on the website are the minutes from the November 21 construction meeting and also a project timeline from Comstock Construction. Mr. Reep reported everything is going well on the construction. He said the contractors are working hard and are very conscientious. There have been no surprises or major change orders. The roof decking has been completed. The contractors will be switching the temporary heating from propane to natural gas until the project is completed.
- 6) **Tax Levy Information**- Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board and shared information regarding the tax levies and taxable valuation. Available on the website are two documents reflecting these two topics. Mr. Reep noted that Dickinson Public Schools will be decreasing the tax levy by 3.02 mills. All the political subdivisions show decreases in mills. If a property was valued at \$250,000 in the last tax statement and the value doesn't change, the taxes on the property could go down \$163. The mills of 310 are the lowest since 1981; however, the valuation from 2006 to the present has doubled. When the mill levy goes down the taxes normally go down, unless the values go up.
- 7) **Bids for Facility Equipment (utility and lawn)** – The district advertised for bids for a lawn tractor and utility tractor to be utilized at Prairie Rose Elementary. There were two bids received for the lawn tractor and three bids received for the utility tractor. Available on the website is a summary of the bids received. The Board accepted the low bid of \$28,543 from Dean's Repair Service for the 39-40 hp lawn tractor and the low bid of \$33,970.96 from Southwest Ag Repair for a 50 hp utility tractor.
- 8) **Superintendent's Evaluation** - President Fehr explained there were three areas evaluated from the superintendent's job description: Relationship with School Board, Educational Leadership, and Relationship with the Community. This evaluation is one of the two evaluations done this school year. Superintendent Sullivan received all satisfactory responses in all areas evaluated. President Fehr met with Superintendent Sullivan and reviewed the evaluation summary prior to the Board meeting. President Fehr read a portion of the responses from each of the three areas. The Board member responses along with the summary will be placed in Dr. Sullivan's personnel file. A copy of the evaluation summary is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Superintendent Sullivan thanked the board for the complimentary responses. He recognized the great assistance he receives from the Central Office, the building principals, the teachers, and the staff. Everyone across the district makes the district what it is. The Board approved the superintendent evaluation, as presented.
- 9) **2013-2014 School Calendar** – Superintendent Sullivan reported the Calendar Committee met on two occasions. Available on the school board website is the calendar that was presented for consideration by the board. Ms. Ross preferred that the students be given a week off for spring break. President Fehr suggested some consideration be taken for conferences being scheduled on election dates. Superintendent Sullivan responded the principals recognize this importance and take extra steps to make sure every person is afforded the opportunity to vote. The Board approved the 2013-2014 school calendar as presented with a starting date of August 21, 2013;

the last day of school scheduled for May 21, 2014; and graduation held on Sunday, May 25, 2014.

- 10) **Open Enrollment Applications** – The Board approved a request for the three children of Kandace King to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from the South Heart School District under the open enrollment policy.
- 11) **Other** – Dr. Krieg wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Mrs. Fehr attended the recent play at the high school and noted it was impressive. She also recognized the DHS acalympics students that placed first in the semifinals and second overall. They represented the school very well.
- 12) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.