

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

September 8, 2014; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on September 8, 2014, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice President Jason Hanson, Ms. Leslie Ross, Mrs. Tanya Rude and Mrs. Sarah Ricks. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Ms. Tamara Praus, Mr. Henry Mack, Mr. Jay Hepperle, Mr. Thomas Barr, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Ms. Sherry Libis, Mrs. Susan Cook, and Dr. Becky Pitkin. Others present were: Mrs. Leslie Wilkie, Ms. Lee Mehrer, Mrs. Twila Petersen and Ms. Nadya Faulx from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order - Board President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Participation – There were no requests for public participation.

Additional Agenda Items/Removal of Items from Consent Agenda – Mrs. Rude moved to add under Business Topics after ACT Tests as item “c” the topic of School Board Notice of Intent to Negotiate. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda – Ms. Ross moved to approve the revised agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the August 11 public hearing, the August 11 regular board meeting, the August 11 special board meeting; the bills for September 2014; the financial reports for September 2014; the pledged assets report for September 2014; the personnel reports; a tuition waiver request for two children of Jeff Devenport, two children of Lori Miller, a child of Dawn Paro, and two children of Kristen Crawford; and the RACTC report; as presented. There were no student/staff recognitions. Mrs. Ricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent’s Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following.

NDSBA School Law Seminar and New Member Seminar – The dates for the North Dakota School Board Association (NDSBA) School Law Seminar and New Member Seminar are Thursday, October 23. The NDSBA conference is scheduled for October 23 and 24th. Available on the website is additional information including the new layout for the conference.

School Board Workshop – There will be a Board workshop after the October and November School Board meetings. Board members are requested to forward potential workshop topics to Superintendent Sullivan or President Fehr.

Monday, September 29 – There will be no school on Monday, September 29. This date is set aside for professional development.

Enrollment – As of September 3, the estimated student enrollment in the district is 3,448 students. This is an increase of 273 students (8.6% increase) from last fall, and an increase of 580 students from fall 2012 (20% increase). This is a new record enrollment for DPS. The prior highest enrollment was September of 1985 when the enrollment was 3,360. Mrs. Rude inquired regarding the cutoff for the rapid growth grant. Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the district submits numbers to the state during the month of September.

Business Topics

Prairie Rose Elementary School Expansion Update – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep provided updated information regarding the progress towards the expansion at Prairie Rose Elementary. There was

Prairie Rose Elementary School Expansion Update (cont.)

a preconstruction meeting this week at Prairie Rose Elementary. Mr. Reep distributed a handout to Board members providing a tentative timeline. Final completion date is July 24, 2015. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

ACT Test Results 2013 - The 2013 ACT test results along with comparison data have been posted on the website under Supporting Documents for the Board members information. DHS Principal Ron Dockter addressed the Board and provided information. The data presents a five year trend ending with the graduating class from 2014 who took the ACT test in the spring of 2013. North Dakota is one of 12 states requiring juniors to take the ACT test. Mr. Dockter felt the results showed the DPS students are at a steady average. There are a number of students entering the district that have a gap in their education. There was discussion regarding the mathematics curriculum change that was implemented within the last five years. College readiness scores were also discussed. President Fehr requested data from students that are attending college and if they are in fact ready for college. Mr. Dockter explained some of the variables that could affect that data. Mrs. Rude noted three out of the four categories indicate the district average scores are lower than the state average. Mr. Dockter said that the science and English department teachers are working hard at breaking down the benchmarks to try and target what areas need more attention. He noted that the ACT test could have one or two questions from one content area. Some students care about how they score on the ACT test and some students rush through the test. Mr. Dockter felt the students were on the right track, with room for improvement. President Fehr thanked Mr. Dockter for the information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

School Board Notice of Intent to Negotiate –In 2013 the Dickinson Education Association (DEA) and School Board initiated bargaining over terms of the contract. At this juncture the negotiations initiated in 2013 have not concluded. At the August school Board meeting the School Board considered a Petition for Recognition from the Dickinson Education Association. Ultimately, for multiple reasons, it was decided the appropriate course of action was to reject the petition with a recommendation to the DEA to resubmit a new petition. Unfortunately, the school district has not received a revised Petition for Recognition as requested. The School Board needs to consider an appropriate action to help move this process forward. Consultation with School District legal counsel has identified a mechanism for the School Board to request to negotiate. Mrs. Rude moved that Pursuant to N.D.C.C. Ch. 15.1-16, as amended, the Dickinson Public School District Board of Education hereby requests to negotiate with all licensed teachers employed by the School District primarily as classroom teachers pursuant to the definition of teacher in the North Dakota Century Code 15.1-16-01 (5). Petitions seeking recognition as a representative organization should be filed with the Central Administration Office as soon as possible. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. Discussion: President Fehr recapped. Currently the teachers are being paid under what the judge ordered last year. Dr. Sullivan concurred. President Fehr inquired if either party had a signed contract and because there is no signed contract, both parties are back to the 2012-2013 term, other than the pay. Dr. Sullivan agreed. Ms. Ross added there is no tentative agreements. Mr. Reep noted the only change was the salary schedule. The emergency clause had a sunset clause built into it therefore it is still in effect. The sick leave became a Board policy which is then outside the contract. There were teachers that signed contracts for last year. They had 30 days to submit them. There is no agreement for 2013-2014 nor 2014-2015. Hopefully this will allow the Board and Education Association to move forward. Ms. Ross inquired if a revised petition would be submitted could negotiations begin immediately. Mr. Reep responded they could. President Fehr would like that to happen so both sides can move forward and then also move on to negotiating the next year right away. It is getting late. Mrs. Ricks

School Board Notice of Intent to Negotiate (cont.)

inquired if the final contract would be retroactive and Mr. Reep concurred it would. President Fehr inquired if the board members were ready to vote on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Department of Public Instruction School Construction Loan Application – Assistant Superintendent

Vince Reep addressed the Board regarding the application that is posted on the website. He explained how much money the State has allocated towards the construction loans. DPS did research the idea of a DPI construction loan when Prairie Rose was built; however, the interest rates were too high. Since that time the interest rates have dropped, some as low as 1%. Mr. Hanson asked how the construction loan would affect the bonding capacity. Any savings on the bonding will be passed onto the tax payers. Any amounts borrowed by the school district will have to be paid back. It could be over a 20 year period of time. Ms. Ross moved to approve the submittal of the DPI School Construction Loan Application to be utilized for the new middle school project. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Department of Public Instruction Certificate of Compliance – Dickinson Public Schools is required to

file a report annually with the Department of Public Instruction certifying that all teachers in the District have a valid teaching license and are highly qualified. The report also stipulates that DPS does background checks on certain individuals and follows a review process as outlined in Century Code. A copy of the 2014-2015 Annual Compliance Report is available under Supporting Documents. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the DPI Annual Compliance Report for the 2014-2015 school year, as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) VI-B Grant – Mrs. Dorothy

Martinson, Director of Student Services, addressed the Board explaining the amount of the VI-B grant award is \$799,543. This is approximately \$90,000 more than last year's. This amount changes every year. The District tries to keep the staff 100% funded. It is not a competitive grant. Ms. Ross moved to approve the application for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act VI-B funds. Mrs. Ricks seconded the motion. President Fehr thanked Mrs. Martinson for the information provide to the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Enrollment Applications – Michelle Mayer applied for open enrollment for her three children to

be admitted to Dickinson Public Schools from South Heart Public. Gina Carlson applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to Dickinson Public Schools from New England Public. R. Suzanne Phillips applied for open enrollment for her two children to be admitted to DPS from New England Public. All of these children have been attending DPS and recently moved outside the school district. The administrative recommendation was to approve the applications. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the open enrollment request for three children of Michelle Mayer, a child of Gina Carlson, and two children of Suzanne Phillips as specified in the open enrollment requests, to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools under the open enrollment policy. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

North Dakota School Board Association Convention

Delegates – President Kris Fehr, Mrs. Tanya Rude and Superintendent Douglas Sullivan will be attending the convention. Superintendent Sullivan will be attending the legal seminar on Thursday, October 23. Mrs. Sarah Ricks will be attending the new member seminar on Thursday, October 24. Copies of the proposed agendas for the convention and law seminar are posted under Supporting Documents. Action

North Dakota School Board Association Convention (cont.)

was requested to designate the delegates. President Fehr encouraged those Board members who could possibly attend the meeting be named as delegates. After the deadline, no additional names may be submitted. Ms. Ross moved that President Fehr, Mrs. Tanya Rude, Mrs. Sarah Ricks and Leslie Ross be named delegates from Dickinson Public Schools for the North Dakota School Board Association Convention. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions – A copy of the 2014 resolutions are posted under Supporting Documents on the School Board website. President Fehr serves on the governmental affairs committee and shared information.

Board Policy Addition–Second Reading and Final Adoption – Policy FFC-Bus Conduct was presented for consideration as a new policy and is posted on the website. Administrative recommendation was to add the policy. Action was requested. Mrs. Rude moved to accept the second reading and final adoption of the addition of policy FFC as presented. Mrs. Ricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions–Second Reading and Final Adoption - The following revised policies were presented for consideration and are posted on the website under policies second reading: policy ACBD-School Medication Program, policy BBC-Method of Filling a Board Vacancy, policy BEB-New Member Orientation, policy CAAB-Superintendent Evaluation Procedure, and policy FFK-Suspension and Expulsion. Administrative recommendation was to revise the policies. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to accept the second reading and final adoption of revised policies ACBD, BBC, BEB, CAAB, and FFK, as presented. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – President Fehr noted there is a School District FaceBook page providing information regarding the upcoming bond election. There is also a FaceBook page started by community members at Vote Yes for DPS.

Adjournment – At 6:05 p.m. Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary