

School Board Meeting Notes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

November 17, 2014; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on November 17, 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. Dorothy Martinson, Mr. Ron Dockter, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Ms. Tamara Praus, Mr. Jay Hepperle, Mr. Thomas Barr, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Ms. Sherry Libis, Mrs. Susan Cook, Dr. Becky Pitkin and Mr. Henry Mack. Others present were: Mr. James Wosepka, Ms. Leann Mehrer, Ms. Alisha Webster, 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 – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Consent Agenda - Mrs. Rude moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the October 13 regular board meeting, the October 13 board workshop and the November 6 special school board meeting; the bills for November 2014; the financial reports for November 2014; the pledged assets report for November 2014; the personnel reports; the student/staff recognitions; a tuition waiver agreement for a child of Tonya Woolery from Dickinson to South Heart, a waiver agreement for a child of Gary Hunke from Dickinson to Richardton-Taylor; and the RACTC report, as presented. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following topics.

- a. **American Education Week** – American Education Week is recognized during the week of November 17-21. Various community members and businesses are participating by recognizing the District's teachers and staff and also reading in the classroom.
- b. **Century 21 Grant** – Assistant Superintendent Reep submitted a grant application for the Regional After School Program. An award was granted to the District for over \$200,000.
- c. **Lockdown Procedure** – Superintendent Sullivan noted that the lockdown procedure has been implemented twice this school year. The lockdown procedure is being reviewed. Previous practice with a soft lockdown is students were allowed to move about within the building and parents were allowed to pick up students from school. This will be revised and after proper communication to the public, parents will no longer be allowed to pick up their children from school if the school is in a lockdown. No one will be allowed to enter the building and no one will be allowed to leave the building. Unfortunately if the student has an appointment that student will not be allowed to leave for the appointment. President Fehr noted the timeliness of this topic since it was in alignment with discussion at the recent North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) conference she attended. Board members shared their support for the change in lockdown procedures. Dr. Sullivan explained if there was a lockdown at a building a generic message may be used through the notification system.

Business Topics

Audit Report – Mr. James Wosepka, the school district’s auditor, addressed the board. Available on the website under Supporting Documents is an electronic copy of the audit report. Board members were provided with this report the first of the month. Mr. Wosepka explained the audit was completed about a month ago and noted he has provided an unmodified opinion. Mr. Wosepka clarified student funds held in trust. He also explained a process for analytical review comparing previous financials with current financials. His firm also collects data on a random sampling basis. During the review and sampling, nothing unusual was found. President Fehr thanked Mr. Wosepka for the information. Administrative recommendation was to accept the audit report. Action was requested. Mrs. Rude moved to approve the annual audit report for the year ending June 30, 2014. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Hanson, Ricks, Rude, Ross, Fehr; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

Southwest Community High School (SWCHS) Report – Principal Jay Hepperle from SWCHS prepared an annual report which is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Mr. Hepperle addressed the Board and distributed handouts. One handout provided information regarding enrollment, credits earned, percentage of absenteeism, and societal benefits of staying in school instead of dropping out of school. Principal Hepperle said this is the 13th year that SWCHS has been serving students. Last year the faculty devised a purpose focusing on student attendance, engagement, learning, building self-esteem, and helping students overcome their challenges. Some of challenges the students face along with going to school include students living on their own, paying rent, currently pregnant or having children. Enrollment has increased with a current waiting list of 16. Students are placed on a waiting list based on need and age. Board members asked various questions, such as transitioning into the regular high school, ages of students, and Mr. Hepperle’s goal for the future of SWCHS. Due to space constraints and the number of teachers, SWCHS is currently maxed out at 23 students. President Fehr thanked Mr. Hepperle for the updated information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

School Board Workshop - There was a workshop following the board meeting. Topics discussed at the workshop included information from Senator Wardner with an update regarding legislative bills, future planning for the Hagen Junior High property, a location for the new middle school, sites for future schools, and construction management. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) Convention – Those in attendance at the conference (Mrs. Fehr, Mrs. Rude, and Mrs. Ricks) have posted summary reports on the website under Supporting Documents. Mr. Reep posted under Supporting Documents some notes from the Law Seminar that he and Mrs. Rude attended. The legal seminar focused more on board member issues than previous law seminars. Mrs. Rude added she has a link posted under Supporting Documents that provides the handouts from the legal seminar. Mrs. Ricks attended the new member seminar and felt the seminar was very beneficial. It went over financials on how the State gets its funding and North Dakota policy. Mrs. Fehr said the highlight of the delegate assembly was the proposed TFFR amendment of which the DPS board members were opposed. This agenda topic was informational only. No action was requested.

Initial Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Building Fund Bonds

– Available on the website are the following documents: Resolution Providing for the Sale of General Obligation School Building Bonds, Notice of Bond Sale, and Resolution Providing the Participation in School Bond Credit Enhancement Program. Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board. He provided a handout explaining the proposed dates for general obligation bonds. The interest rates are speculative anywhere from 3.32% to 1%. If the State should help with the school construction loans the interest rate could be 1% or less. The Initial Resolution is for \$9,995,000 general obligation building fund bonds payable from the debt services fund. This commits approximately 3.8 mills out of the 28 mills to cover the debt service on \$9,995,000. Administrative recommendation was to approve the sale. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the initial resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$9,995,000 general obligation building fund bonds, series 2014. Mrs. Ricks seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Ross, Hanson, Rude, Ricks, Fehr; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

School Board Policy Addition, First Reading – The NDSBA recommended adding policy DEBA-Confidentiality and policy DLA-Recognition of Negotiating Units. A copy of the policies is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Policy DEBA covers the protection of student’s rights. It was noted that policy DLA states North Dakota Century Code and would help clear up any issues and provide uniformity and a clear definition for teachers and administrators. Administrative recommendation was to approve the two policies for first reading. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to complete a first reading of policy DEBA-Confidentiality and policy DLA-Recognition of Negotiating Units, as presented. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Rude, Ricks, Ross, Hanson, Fehr; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

School Board Policy Revisions, First Reading – The NDSBA has recommended revisions for the following policies: policy BBBB-School Board Committee, policy BCBA-Public Participation at Board Meetings, policy CAAB-Superintendent Evaluation Procedure, policy DBBA-Drug and Alcohol Testing for Employees, and policy DHA-Licensure. A copy of the revised policies are posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Administrative recommendation was to revise policies BBBB, BCBA, CAAB, DBBA, and DHA. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to complete a first reading of policy BBBB, policy BCBA, policy CAAB, policy DBBA, and policy DHA, with the changes noted in red or purple text and/or strikeout, as presented. Mrs. Ricks seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Hanson, Rude, Ross, Ricks, Fehr; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – There were no other topics for discussion.

Adjournment – At 6:00 p.m., Mrs. Rude moved to adjourn. Mrs. Ricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary