

Notes from School Board Meeting

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

May 9, 2016; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on May 9, 2016, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Sarah Ricks, Vice president Kris Fehr, Mrs. Tanya Rude, and Mr. Brent Seaks. Board member absent was Mrs. Leslie Ross. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Ms. Sherry Libis, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Mr. Jay Hepperle, Mrs. Kristy Goodall, Dr. Marcus Lewton, and Mrs. Melanie Kathrein. Others present: Ms. Jarris Bergherr, Mrs. Ellen Getz, Ms. Cindy Schuetzler, Mrs. Margaret Olheiser, Ms. Leann Mehrer, Ms. JoAnn Coates, Mrs. Sherry Loris, Mrs. Jill Nelson-Wetzstein, Ms. Jennifer Hughes, Ms. Amelia Dustin, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Mr. Andrew Haffner from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order - Board President Ricks 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 April 18 regular board meeting, the bills for May 2016; the financial reports for May 2016; the pledged assets report for May 2016; the personnel reports; the student/staff recognitions; and the RACTC report; as presented. Mr. Seaks seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following topics. No action was requested on these topics.

Text A Tip – The Text A Tip program was recently implemented. Anonymous text messages about issues going on in the school can be sent to the School Resource Officer. Available under Supporting Documents is a copy of the flyer posted at some of the schools.

Teacher Evaluation Instrument Committee Meeting – There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Letter from DPI – Available under Supporting Documents is a letter regarding the recent monitor of the special education department. Within the letter it is noted the District meets the requirements. Superintendent Sullivan congratulated the Director of Student Services, the Coordinator, and the teachers for their work done on the monitoring process.

Topping Off Ceremony – School Board members were invited to attend a ceremony at the Dickinson Middle School at 9:00 a.m. on May 12 where the last piece of steel will be placed on the structure.

DHS Educational Delivery Model – Superintendent Sullivan noted that President Ricks and he had met with Mr. Chris Gibbs, the Principal for the DLR Group, during the recent National School Boards Association Convention. The conversation was moving the discussion forward about the educational delivery at Dickinson High School. The DLR Group will be facilitating the June 2 School Improvement Camp and will provide a report and a summary of the June 2 camp sometime during the summer. A follow up to this will be a community open forum to bring forward the future of the DHS educational delivery.

Business Topics

Speech Language Pathologists Grievances – Board President Ricks explained speech language pathologists addressed the Board at the April board meeting regarding grievances they had submitted. Board members requested additional information which was received on Monday, May 2. The material submitted is being reviewed. President Ricks stated there would be no further discussion, at this time. The data and material is being diligently reviewed. No action was requested on this topic.

Teacher Contract Negotiations Update – President Ricks and Vice President Fehr are the Board negotiators. There have been nine teacher negotiations meetings. Vice President Fehr stated there is a tentative agreement on the contract with the DEA. Changes to the 2016-2017 agreement include three language items, \$650 on the base, and one additional graduated personal leave day with a sunset clause. If the graduated personal leave is not brought forward in four years it will be removed. Once the DEA ratifies the contract then the school board will need to have a special meeting to talk about the contract and take action. The total cost of the changes in the contract will be an additional approximately \$889,000. Mrs. Fehr commended President Ricks on her negotiating skills and she felt the board negotiators had heard and understood things from the DEA that they had not heard before. The concerns were presented in a way that could be understood. President Ricks agreed and added it was a fairly amicable process with good discussion. Mrs. Fehr referenced the newspaper article and said that she was quoted as saying it was difficult. She said that she did not mean the negotiations was difficult or hard to understand, she meant it was difficult due to the declining enrollment. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Schedule Special School Board Meeting – Administrative recommendation was to schedule a Special School Board meeting for Monday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. Board members were asked to check their schedules prior to the meeting. President Ricks explained it is anticipated the DEA will ratify the contract at its May 16 scheduled meeting. Mrs. Fehr moved to schedule a special school board meeting for Monday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office. President Ricks asked if there was a second on the motion. Due to no second on the motion the motion was not considered. Board members discussed their schedules. Mrs. Rude moved to schedule a special school board meeting for Monday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Office. Mrs. Fehr seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion: Mrs. Fehr inquired what had changed. Mrs. Rude responded that she was trying to do what was best for the teachers and the good of DPS. Mrs. Rude moved to amend her motion to schedule the special school board meeting for Monday, May 16 at 5:15 p.m. Mrs. Fehr seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Dickinson Middle School Construction Update - Assistant Superintendent Reep updated the Board members on the progress of the construction of Dickinson Middle School. He explained there was a construction meeting on Wednesday and a safety meeting on Thursday. The cement on zone A is nearly completed. The roofing materials are up also in zone A. There will be pictures posted under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Wellness End of the Year Summary –The district Wellness End of the Year Summary is posted under Supporting Documents. Superintendent Sullivan read some of the updated information provided in the report. President Ricks appreciated the opportunities provided to the students to be moving about during the day. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Memorandum of Understanding in Boys' and Girls' Swimming – The Dickinson Dolphins Swim Team requested an agreement with the Dickinson Public Schools for boys' and girls' swimming. Mr. Guy Fridley, district-wide activities director, has corresponded with Mrs. Susan Moberg, president of the Dolphin Swim Team and Mrs. Moberg has reviewed and signed the Memorandum of Understanding which is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. Dickinson Dolphin Swim Team would like to enter into a one-year agreement. Mr. Hepperle addressed the Board and noted this past year the swimming program went very well and said the clubs part did a great job and he would recommend extending the agreement. There were no changes to the agreement from last year other than the date. Mr. Seaks moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Dickinson Public Schools and Dickinson Dolphin Swim Team for boys' and girls' swimming for the 2016-2017 school year, as presented. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

2016-2017 Student Handbooks - A copy of the 2016-2017 student handbooks for the elementary schools, Berg Elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School, and Southwest Community High School have been posted under Supporting Documents on the school board web site. The administrative recommendation was to approve the student handbooks. Action was requested. Mrs. Fehr noted the bullying prevention policy identified protected classes which did not coincide with federal law. She added the bullying prevention policy did not have the same change in the protected classes as the district's anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy. Board members discussed the noted discrepancy. Mrs. Fehr said some handbooks go to print soon and therefore there could not be any delays. President Ricks referred to Superintendent Sullivan for guidance. Dr. Sullivan said the policies should be aligned and any revisions to a policy could not be done at this meeting. He added revisions to a policy require two readings unless an expedited process is deemed necessary. He read policy language regarding policy adoption. There was discussion on how soon the handbooks would need to go to print. Mrs. Rude suggested since there was probably going to be a special school board meeting on May 16 that this topic could be placed also on the agenda. Further discussion resulted in the Board members noting a change to the policy would need to be made and then action could be taken on the student handbooks. Mrs. Fehr suggested expediting the revision to the bullying prevention policy and deferred to Superintendent Sullivan for guidance. Dr. Sullivan explained that a policy revision could be expedited if there was a 2/3rds vote of the school board. Mrs. Fehr recommended the administration review the other policies and make sure the protected classes are in alignment.

Vice president Fehr referenced the DHS handbook changes to the grading percentage and said the conversation had started, to her knowledge, years before with the school leadership committee. Mr. Hepperle said that it was brought to light when competing with other class A schools for scholarships the grading systems were different. DHS was higher as far as percentage and grade scale. The state looks at the GPA. This was taking opportunities away from the students. Mrs. Fehr inquired if the percentages for the grades were set by the Department of Public Instruction. Superintendent Sullivan responded that in his experience they are set at the district level. Similar grading changes were also made at Hagen Junior High and Southwest Community High School. If the Board is interested in having the elementary principals review the change they should notify the superintendent. There was discussion regarding the high school dance policy in the student handbook, extracurricular activities at SWCHS, lunch at SWCHS, and lockers at SWCHS. Mrs. Fehr moved to table the discussion of the student handbooks until the May 16 special school board meeting. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously. There was discussion regarding putting emergency, weather related notifications on the

2016-2017 Student Handbooks (cont.)

DPS webpage and FaceBook page. If there is no staff available to get to the office and only limited staff with access to those areas, Dr. Sullivan thought it may make it difficult. Board members felt the DPS website and FaceBook page is the area parents would go to if they thought that school might be cancelled or postponed.

Annual Meeting Date and Time - Mrs. Rude moved to schedule the annual school board meeting for Monday, July 11, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Office. Mr. Seaks seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion: Vice president Fehr noted since there will be at least one new school board member and Mrs. Rude will be unable to attend the meeting to make sure there will be a quorum on this date. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

School Board Regulation FGA Revision, First Reading and Final Adoption – The North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) recommended revisions to Board regulation FGA BR-Student Education Records Access and Amendment Procedure. A copy of the revised regulation is posted under Supporting Documents. Areas on the regulation that are new are noted in red text. Administrative recommendation was to revise regulation FGA. Policy BDA authorizes the Board to adopt Board regulations with one reading. Mr. Seaks moved to adopt revised Board regulation FGA-Student Education Records Access and Amendment Procedure with one reading, as presented. Mrs. Fehr seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: ayes-Rude, Fehr, Seaks, Ricks; nays-none; absent-Ross. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – Mrs. Rude recognized the students and staff on the consent agenda and wanted to thank them for a job well done. Mrs. Fehr thanked the school district and Mrs. Petersen for the recognition program. She thanked the teachers and staff that were recognized for their years of service and also thanked those retiring for their years of service. Mr. Seaks noted there was another item added to the special school board meeting agenda and therefore made a motion to reconsider the amended motion for the date and time of the special school board meeting and moved to schedule a special school board meeting on Monday, May 16 at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Rude seconded the reconsideration and the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment – At 6:16 p.m. Mrs. Rude moved to adjourn. Mr. Seaks seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Sarah Ricks, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary