

## Unapproved School Board Meeting Notes

Dickinson Public Schools  
Regular Meeting

August 10, 2015; After the Public Hearing  
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on August 10, 2015, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Sarah Ricks, Vice President Kris Fehr, Mrs. Leslie Ross, Mr. Jason Hanson, and Mrs. Tanya Rude. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Ms. Tammy Praus, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Ms. Casaundra Francis, Mr. Henry Mack, Mr. Jay Hepperle, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Ms. Sherry Libis, Dr. Becky Pitkin, and Mrs. Susan Cook. Others present were: Ms. Jarris Bergherr, Mr. Sean O'Connor, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Ms. Abby Kessler from the Dickinson Press.

**Call to Order** - Board President Ricks called the meeting to order at 6:23 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 July 13, 2015, annual meeting; the bills for August 2015; the financial reports for August 2015; the pledged assets report for August 2015; the personnel reports; a tuition waiver request from Jonathan Schamel from South Heart to Dickinson, a tuition waiver request for a child of Pamela Praus, a tuition waiver request for a child of Priscilla Schamel; and to dissolve the open enrollment for two children of Jeffrey Devenport; as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ross. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. **Legislative Implemented Mental Health Professional Development Requirement** – The North Dakota Legislature implemented a new requirement regarding mental health education. All school districts are required to provide eight hours of professional development on mental health and four hours on suicide prevention. These are to be provided every other year. There was a discussion on the requirements for the professional providing the trainings.
- b. **High School Walk Through** – At the last board meeting there was discussion regarding the board members doing a walk through at Dickinson High School. Mrs. Petersen will send out a Meeting Wizard with some proposed dates and times.
- c. **Major Projects List** – The superintendent noted the total cost for the projects on the list posted on the website is \$581,000. These projects are to help maintain the facilities appropriately.
- d. **Elementary Registration** – Dr. Sullivan reported the Central Office in the last couple of weeks has seen more activity in regards to elementary pre-registration. Available on the District website are the dates for the upcoming school registrations.
- e. **Professional Development Days** – August 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> are the dates set aside for district faculty and staff to receive training on the Danielson teacher evaluation model. If board members are interested in attending this training they should contact Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein.

**Business Topics**

**Summer Building and Grounds Project Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep has posted on the school board website a spreadsheet summarizing the completed projects. He noted on the list that the high and medium priority items have been started or are completed. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Health Insurance Committee Report** – Business Manager Vince Reep reported the Health Insurance Committee met on July 15 and recommended to the Budget Committee an increase of 8% on the premiums. Available on the website is a document with a breakdown of the premiums for single and family plans. The employee share of the single plan will increase by \$7.00 per month and the employee share of a family plan will increase by \$21 per month. Mrs. Ross inquired how many Class A schools are self-funded. Mr. Reep responded that all Class A districts are self-funded with the exception of Mandan which is under Sanford. Mrs. Ross noted with the 60,000 state employees switching to Sanford and asked if there has been a discussion state-wide regarding Sanford. Mr. Reep responded that he has contacted Sanford and the company has asked for a written release to gather the claims from the last three years. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Prairie Rose Elementary School Expansion Update** – Assistant Superintendent Reep reported to the board that four of the six classrooms will be regular classrooms. Teachers have begun moving supplies into their new classrooms. The desks are waiting in the gymnasium to be placed in the classrooms. The bathrooms are nearly completed. Some of the exterior contract won't be done for a while. Mrs. Rude inquired if the board members could do a walkthrough of Prairie Rose. This will be organized in the near future. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Roughrider Career and Technology Center (RACTC) Update** – President Ricks is the board representative on the RACTC Governing Board. She attended the recent RACTC Governing Board meeting. At that meeting a new director was hired. He will be working out of Mandan. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Teacher Negotiations Update** – Vice-president Kris Fehr and Board Member Jason Hanson are board representatives on the Teacher Negotiations. Mrs. Fehr addressed the board and reported by mutual agreement Superintendent Sullivan has been chairing the meetings. This seems to give both parties the ability to focus on the topics discussed. The meetings have been very positive. The topics of negotiations have been set. Those topics are: Outside the Day Compensation (additional information has been requested), Personal Leave (a tentative agreement has been reached), Flexibility of Professional Development Days, Grievance Procedure, Summer School Placed on the Salary Schedule, Adjust the Lower Half of the Salary Schedule, Salaries, and a Two Year Contract. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Budget Input and Development Committee** – Superintendent Sullivan addressed the board stating the Budget Committee met on July 15 and August 6. Available under Supporting Documents are the minutes from those meetings. Mrs. Ross and Mr. Hanson are the Board representatives on this committee. Dr. Sullivan explained the topics included TeachScape, a software program to make implementing the Danielson teacher evaluation more user friendly; health insurance premiums; and the 2015-2016 budget. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Budget and Tax Levy** - The Certificate of Levy is due in the County auditor's office by August 15. It may be amended until October 10 and the rest of the budget may be changed at any time by Board action. A public hearing was held prior to the meeting to provide an opportunity for the public to present oral or written comments regarding the property tax levy. Action was requested to approve the expenditure fund levels for 2015-2016. Mr. Reep said there is about \$21 million in revenue as a reflection of the expected bond sales. He noted it takes approximately one year to receive the tax revenues. The budget is high for food services so that he does not have to come back in June for additional funding. There was a loss in food services this past school year. Mrs. Fehr moved to approve the general fund expenditures of \$43,173,226, the capital projects fund expenditures of \$37,583,323, the debt services fund expenditures of \$1,831,369, and the food services fund expenditures of \$1,711,023 for the 2015-2016 school term. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Hanson, Rude, Fehr, Ross, Ricks; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the District's Certificate of Levy for the year 2015-2016 is posted under Supporting Documents. The administrative and budget committee recommendation was to levy for 54.71 mills in the general fund, 10 mills in the building fund, and 23.75 mills in debt services for a total of 88.46 mills. This is an increase of 3.6 mills. The total amount requested for all levies is \$14,531,454. Action was requested. Mrs. Ross moved to approve the Certificate of Levy for \$14,531,454 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Ross, Hanson, Fehr, Rude, Ricks; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

**Open Enrollment Applications** –Mary Gouker applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools from South Heart School District. Christopher Reindel applied for open enrollment for his two children to be admitted to DPS from New England Public. Krista Austin applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to DPS from Richardton-Taylor. All families recently moved and therefore the deadline waiver applies. The administrative recommendation was to approve the applications. Action was requested. Mrs. Fehr moved to approve the request for a child of Mary Gouker, two children of Christopher Reindel, and one child of Krista Austin to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools as per the open enrollment request. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

**School Board Policy Revisions, Second Reading and Final Adoption** –

**Policy FGDD-Student Publications and Freedom of Expression** is available on the website under Supporting Documents. NDSBA has recommended revisions to board policy FGDD-Student Publications based on the passing of HB 1471. Posted under supporting documents is a copy of the policy. Proposed revisions from the NDSBA are noted in red text, proposed administrator revisions are noted in purple text. The administrative recommendation was to revise policy FGDD. Action was requested. Mrs. Rude moved to complete the second reading of revised policy FGDD-Student Publications and Freedom of Expression, as presented. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Hanson, Rude, Ross, Fehr, Ricks; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

**Policy AAC-Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy** is available on the website under Supporting Documents. Attorney Phillips has provided guidance to the Board regarding proposed revisions to the policy. Proposed revisions from the NDSBA are noted in red text; proposed revisions from the School Board are noted in purple text; proposed revisions recommended by Attorney Phillips are noted in blue text. At the March 9 and July 13 School Board meetings, policy AAC was proposed for a second reading but was then tabled. Action was requested. Mrs. Fehr moved to complete the

second reading of revised policy AAC-Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Hanson, Fehr, Ross, Rude, Ricks; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

**Other** – There were no other topics for discussion.

**Adjournment** – At 6:58 p.m. Mrs. Ross moved to adjourn. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Sarah Ricks, Board President

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Vince Reep, Business Manager

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Twila Petersen, Secretary