

Notes from School Board Meeting

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

September 14, 2015; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on September 14, 2015, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Sarah Ricks, Vice President Kris Fehr, Mrs. Leslie Ross, and Mrs. Tanya Rude. Board member absent was Mr. Jason Hanson. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mr. Henry Mack, Ms. Tammy Praus, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Ms. Kristy Goodall, Ms. Sherry Libis, and Mr. Shawn Leiss. Others present were: Ms. Margaret Olheiser, Mr. Lyle Smith, Mrs. Shary Smith, Ms. Kylee Brown, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Ms. Abby Kessler 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. Fehr moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the August 10 Public Hearing, August 10 Board meeting, August 25 Special meeting; the bills for August 2015; the financial reports for August 2015; the pledged assets report for August 2015; the personnel reports; and a tuition waiver request for a child of Kandi Myers; as presented. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan introduced Ms. Kristina Goodall who is the new lead teacher and administrator at Southwest Community High School. Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following topics.

- a. **Enrollment Report** – Dr. Sullivan reported from fall 2014 to fall of 2015 the District saw an increase of 34 students. From June 2015 to September 2015 the student enrollment increased by 154 students. He noted the enrollment was stable.
- b. **Dickinson High School (DHS) Tour** – The scheduled board member tour of DHS will be on Monday, September 28 at 4:00 p.m.
- c. **Teacher Evaluation Instrument Committee** – This committee will have a meeting tomorrow, September 15 at 4:00 p.m.
- d. **North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) School Law Seminar and Conference** – Available under Supporting Documents on the website is the agenda for the law seminar and conference scheduled for October 29 and 30th at the Bismarck Ramkota.
- e. **NDSBA Board Member Service Award** – NDSBA has made available an opportunity for school board members to be recognized for their service to the local, state, and national board. Superintendent Sullivan compiled and completed the forms and distributed them to the board members. Board members were asked to review the information and let him know if there were any revisions.
- f. **School Board Workshop** – In preparation for the October and November workshops scheduled after the school board meetings board members are requested to forward proposed agendas for the workshop to Board President Ricks or Superintendent Sullivan.

Business Topics

Approval of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) VI-B Grant – Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Director of Student Services, addressed the Board regarding the IDEA VI-B Grant. The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction requires assurances that IDEA will be met and the application for funds has been approved by the Board. The summary for this non-competitive grant is available on the website. Mrs. Martinson noted the grant is up \$35,000 from last year. Administration tries to keep teachers within the grant 100% funded. Typically 95% of the grant monies are used for salaries and benefits. Administrative recommendation was to approve the IDEA VI-B Grant application. Action was required. Mrs. Ross moved to approve the application for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act VI-B funds. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: yeas-Rude, Fehr, Ross, Ricks; absent-Hanson; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

ACT Test Results 2014 - The 2014 ACT test results along with comparison data are posted on the website under Supporting Documents. DHS Principal Ron Dockter addressed the Board presenting information and summarizing the results. He noted that since 2013 all reporting included all students, even those with special accommodations. Within the last two years there have been more students taking the ACT than the Work Keys test. North Dakota is one of 13 states that requires all students to take the ACT test. DPS averages 4th or 5th in the state. The report reflect the graduating seniors for 2015. Mr. Dockter noted improvements that have been made in the curriculum to improve scores. He would still like to see further improvement in the scores. Mrs. Fehr inquired if Mr. Dockter is able to take out the students that are college bound. He responded it could be done but it would be a tedious process. He also explained that some colleges do not require the ACT testing and therefore some of the students cannot be followed through to college. Mrs. Rude explained when she attended the national convention schools are moving away from the ACT tests due to it being outdated information. There was discussion regarding only 13 states requiring the ACT, stagnant results, reasoning behind ND requiring the ACT, and providing the students the opportunity to take a higher science course prior to taking the ACT. With the limited number of math and science teachers it is hard to open up higher level courses to sophomore students. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.

New Middle School Construction/Prairie Rose Elementary Expansion Updates – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the board. He projected pictures of the dirt work in preparation for the construction of the new middle school. He noted all of the dirt work has been completed except the access roads. Today the construction company is working on the retention pond. Mrs. Rude inquired regarding the coal bed and pipeline. Mr. Reep responded there is a low risk that the District will need to do anything with the coal bed. There will be a vapor barrier placed. Mr. Reep noted that there has been an abandoned pipe identified on the property that is to be removed by Martin Construction and/or Steier Oil. The precast for the new school should be vertical in January or early February. An MDU line should be on the property in the near future. In regards to the Prairie Rose Elementary expansion, Mr. Reep said it is 99% complete. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Superintendent's Formative Evaluation – DPS will use the same process as last year. President Ricks and Superintendent Sullivan have selected three areas from the superintendent's job description to be evaluated. The areas are: relationship with school board, educational leadership, and relationship with the community. Superintendent Sullivan will respond to the topics in writing and forward the evaluation to the school board members for their comments. Board members are asked to return the evaluation forms to President Ricks by October 23. The written feedback and comments from the board members will be the basis of the evaluation. Due to revisions to House Bill 1316 the

Superintendent's Formative Evaluation (cont.)

deadline for completion is one month earlier, November 15. The board will review the evaluation at its November 9 board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

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 2015-2016 Annual Compliance Report is available under Supporting Documents. Administrative recommendation was to approve the compliance report. Action was required. Mrs. Ross moved to approve the DPI Annual Compliance Report for the 2015-2016 school year, as presented. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: ayes-Ross, Fehr, Rude, Ricks; absent-Hanson; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

Schedule a Special School Board Meeting – Superintendent Sullivan addressed the board to request a special school board meeting to discuss a teacher who has engaged in conduct that may be immoral or unbecoming. He recommended to the board to have attorney consultation to discuss possible options and make a recommendation with appropriate action. Action was requested. Mrs. Rude moved to schedule a special school board meeting on Tuesday, September 22 at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Administration Office. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Teacher Contract Negotiations - This agenda item was discussed in an executive session. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code section N.D.C.C. § 44-04-19.1 (9). The topic or purpose of the executive session was discussion of teacher contract negotiations. As per North Dakota Century Code N.D.C.C. § 44-04-19.1 (9), Mrs. Fehr moved to close the meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of Teacher Contract Negotiations. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: ayes-Rude, Fehr, Ross, Ricks; absent-Hanson; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously. The executive session was recorded and all members of the governing body were reminded to limit their discussion to the announced topic. The prohibition on taking final action during the executive session did not apply to providing guidance or instructions to the negotiator. Board policy BCAD-Executive Session allows certain individuals to be in attendance at the closed meeting as directed by the Board President. The following individuals were authorized to remain in the room during the executive session: School Board Members Ross, Rude, Fehr and Ricks, Superintendent Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Reep, and Recording Secretary Petersen. President Ricks anticipated the executive session to reconvene in the open portion of the meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m. The meeting convened in executive session at 5:38 p.m. and was attended by Mrs. Rude, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Fehr, Chair Ricks, Superintendent Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Reep, and Recorder Petersen. The executive session adjourned at 6:14 p.m. and went back into an open meeting. The public was invited to return to the meeting room.

Other – Mrs. Rude thanked the staff at Heart River for their comments regarding the peanuts and nut allergies. It provided a good explanation. Mrs. Rude inquired regarding Central Office parent communications regarding the dress code. Mr. Reep responded he was not aware of any communications. Mrs. Rude liked Berg Elementary's write up on the dress code. It was noted that the DHS homecoming is this week.

Adjournment – At 6:16 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 6:16 p.m.

Sarah Ricks, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary