



Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
September 24; 8:00 a.m.
Central Administration Office – Board Room

Present: Board Member Leslie Ross, Board Member Jason Hanson, Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, and Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep. **Others present:** Mr. Guy Fridley, Mrs. Twila Petersen and Mr. Andrew Haffner from the Dickinson Press.

Called to Order – The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Leslie Ross.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda Items – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Old Business- There was no Old Business.

New Business

Sixth Grade Athletics – Superintendent Sullivan stated that Director of Athletics Guy Fridley visited with the superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Reep regarding athletics for sixth graders. When the new middle school opens in 2017 it will serve three grade levels; 6th, 7th and 8th. Mr. Fridley explained to the administrators that it would be difficult to have athletics for two grade levels and not the sixth grade. Other schools in the state provide sixth grade athletics as part of the program. Superintendent Sullivan asked Mr. Fridley to put information together which was distributed at the meeting. Mr. Fridley addressed the committee and said his initial thought was to start small and build up. He proposed that next fall sixth grade students be given the opportunity to join the cross country. He recommended sixth graders be provided an opportunity to participate only in those sports that have ample facilities for additional athletes. Mrs. Ross inquired if Mr. Fridley was proposing programs for the 2016-2017 budget or 2017-2018 budget. Mr. Fridley responded that sixth graders should be allowed to participate in track in the spring of 2017. This would require additional funding down the road to attend meets. Mrs. Ross inquired if administrators were asking for track and field for the next budget year. Dr. Sullivan referenced a handout provided by Mr. Fridley. The handout provided an estimate for starting sixth grade athletics in 2017-2018. The handout also provided a time schedule for implementation for different activities. Superintendent Sullivan said the administrators were looking for general approval from the Budget Committee to proceed. There would be no change to this year's budget. There would need to be a consensus from the Budget Committee to move forward. This will provide the sixth grade students an opportunity to participate in a Mandan and/or Bismarck meet. Mr. Hanson was supportive of offering options to sixth grade students in athletics. Mrs. Ross concurred and added that Board members were supportive of students being active and giving them the opportunity to look at lifetime sports. Sometime in the future Mr. Fridley will provide information to the School Board on this topic.

SWDHU Contracted Services – Superintendent Sullivan noted that because of FERPA and student identifiable information he was unable to divulge the reasons for the request for additional contract services from the Southwest District Health Unit. Mrs. Ross understood the FERPA, PII, and HIPPA laws and appreciated the discretion. Assistant Superintendent Reep said that financially the budget has a marker. The District has contracted with SWDHU previously on a number of items. The school nurse/resource person with SWDHU has been very active in the schools as a liaison and trainer. Mr. Reep said the budget last year for these services was \$15,000. With the needed increase in the services provided, SWDHU was asked to find someone suitable to fit the needs. They did find

someone. This would require an increase in the budget from \$15,000 to \$60,000. This person will be on staff and would be able to provide the necessary services for more than one child. Mrs. Ross said she had no objection to increasing the budget from \$15,000 to \$60,000. Mr. Hanson concurred.

Transportation Contract – Dr. Sullivan noted that transportation is contracted through Harlow’s Bus Service and a contract for five years is in place. This contract will expire next year. Assistant Superintendent Reep and Superintendent Sullivan have discussed the contract renewal and recommend to the committee that there be a solicitation for bids from other interested transportation companies when the contract is up for renewal. Mr. Hanson inquired if it is still difficult to find drivers. Dr. Sullivan reported that all driving positions are filled at this point. Mrs. Ross inquired if there are other transportation companies available. Mr. Reep responded at a recent Business Manager’s meeting this topic was brought up and there were names of transportation companies shared. Mr. Reep noted the District has a good relationship with Harlow’s. Anytime there is a contract over \$300,000 it is in the best interest of the District to get bids. Mrs. Ross inquired if the administrators were considering another five year contract and Dr. Sullivan responded that would be the intent. Mrs. Ross said she likes and supports competition.

Other – Superintendent Sullivan noted that several meetings ago the administrators requested permission to secure land for another elementary school with the provision that any agreement would require school board approval. With the slowdown that issue has moved lower on the priority list. Dr. Sullivan wanted this committee to be aware that if a property would become available the administrators would again approach the idea. Mrs. Ross said that forethought for expansion and growth of District buildings has proven very successful for DPS. Some of the District buildings are aging and there will be a time when those older facilities will need to be replaced.

Adjournment – At 8:20 a.m. Chair Ross declared the meeting adjourned.