
Superintendent's Newsletter December 2018

Dickinson Public School families:

I would like to again thank everyone who took part in the continued conversation and engagement around the District's future referendum question to address the various facility challenges we are facing. We appreciate the community's support. We are focused on being able to continue to deliver a high-quality education for all students. A successful referendum this spring will mean we will be able to improve educational programming at the high school and address capacity constraints within our elementary schools and the high school.

Earlier this month, I happened upon one of those incredible moments you get to witness while working around young people. I was walking through a school's playground on my way to a meeting and I was a few minutes early, so I stopped and watched the children play with one another. One student appeared to be having a "sad" morning. She was standing alone, away from the fun and excitement displayed by others. She had a lonely and sad look on her face. I watched this young girl for a time and then decided to approach her and ask if everything was ok. As I was approaching her, another group of young girls ran up to her and asked if she would go play with them. The sad girl didn't immediately reply. One of the girls offered her hand. This gesture convinced the sad girl to trust the group of girls. Both girls held hands and ran off with smiles on their faces. It was a true gesture of friendship and I know it changed the day for the girl who was having a "sad" morning. This interaction didn't happen by accident. It happened because of the awareness exhibited by a group of young girls looking out for one another. That's just one of the empowering experiences this community makes possible each day.

Here are some important reminders:

Severe weather reminder

Our recent snows are a reminder that winter is not far away. It's important for DPS families to ensure the school district has the most current contact information, because the District uses a "call-out" phone system to notify families of any closings. Calls are sent to phone numbers that guardians have registered. You can register for the alerts here: <http://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/2018/01/29/winter-weather-preparedness-safety-guide/>. If there is a closing, information will also be posted on the District's website at (www.dickinson.k12.nd.us), and Facebook page ([facebook.com/DickinsonpublicschoolsND](https://www.facebook.com/DickinsonpublicschoolsND)).

When school is in session, parents should send students in clothing appropriate to wear outside. Students will continue to have recess outside as the weather allows.

Board of Education

The Board will meet again at 5 p.m. Monday, December 10, at the District Central Office. All meetings are open to the public. Full agendas and minutes for all board meetings can be found at <http://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/schoolboard/>

Upcoming events

December 5: Early Release all schools – 1:30pm

December 10: Board of Education meeting

December 11: DHS Holiday Concert at DSU – time TBD

December 21: Storm Makeup Day or Christmas Break begins

January 2: School Resumes

January 11: End of 2nd Quarter

January 21: No School – Martin Luther King Day – District Inservice day

You can access DHS and DMS activities under the “Calendars” tab on the District website (<http://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us/>)

Thank you for all you do to “Empower All Learners to Succeed” in DPS!

Sincerely,



Dr. Shon Hocker, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Dickinson Public Schools