

Dickinson Public Schools
School Board Workshop Minutes
Wednesday, March 7, 2018; 12:00 p.m.
Central Administration Offices Board Room

The Dickinson Public School Board held a workshop on March 7, 2018, at the Dickinson Public Schools Central Administration Offices. Board members present were: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member Tanya Rude, Board Member David Wilkie, and Board Member Jason Rodakowski. Others present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Dickinson High School Principal Ron Dockter, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Jay Hepperle, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Guy Fridley, Mr. Kevin Hoherz, DLR Group Principal Chris Gibbs (via conference call), Dickinson Press Reporter Iain Woessner, and School Board Secretary Twila Petersen,

Call to Order - Board President Seaks called the workshop to order at 12:00 p.m. Topics discussed did not require any action by the Board. They may become agenda topics for future Board meetings.

DLR Group / Dickinson High School Long-range Planning – A copy of a Power Point presentation prepared by the DLR Group was distributed to those in attendance. Another handout from the DLR Group was a planning and design proposal. Dickinson High School Principal Ron Dockter summarized the Educational Facility Planning and Design Process Proposal for Dickinson High School. He noted there were four phases to the entire proposal. Phase I, Community Input, has been completed. The information gathered during phase I resulted in the stakeholders wishing to make the current high school property the home for the high school. The stakeholders provided three main drivers: integration, community, and collaboration. Mr. Dockter provided several examples of integration.

There were several constituent groups that would be important partners in the designing and planning of the high school into an educational facility to meet the needs of the growing enrollment.

Phase II of the DLR Group's proposal is the Programming Plus phase. This process is broken down into Bridging Operations Learning and Design Planning (B.O.L.D.), Benchmarking, and Program Development. During the B.O.L.D. planning, the outcomes would be educational vision, profile of a graduate, and professional development framework for high school staff. Part of the benchmarking would require representatives from Dickinson High School to review the design and educational concept of other schools throughout the country. The program development steps would prepare a baseline for 1,200 students at Dickinson High, and also 1,600 students, and then 2,000 students.

Phase III of the DLR Group's proposal could be developed independently over time based on funding. These could include an Applied Learning Center; Performing Arts Center; Commons Renovation/Addition; Athletic/Physical Education Addition; Academic Renovations; Academic Addition(s); General Building Renovations; and Furniture Fixtures, and Equipment.

Phase IV of the DLR Group's proposal is the implementation phase with a potential design schedule completed by August 2019 and potential construction completed by August 2020.

DLR Group / Dickinson High School Long-range Planning (cont.)

Board Member Rude inquired what phase would be the best time to discuss bonding and passing of the bond. Superintendent Sullivan responded the funding should be secured by March of 2019. Assuming the bond election would be in March 2019, he felt the communication with the community regarding the reasoning for the bonding should begin no later than September of this year. He noted it takes a great deal of time and efforts of many individuals to do the presentations and relay the message. Mr. Chris Gibbs from the DLR Group added the work in phases II, III, and IV would provide a lot of conversation in and around the community making them familiar with the future of Dickinson High School. Mr. Dockter agreed and conveyed people in the community are already talking about it. The question most often asked is how we are going to proceed and what is the priority. There was lengthy discussion regarding prioritizing. Mr. Gibbs explained there are space requirements for the increased enrollment at the high school with potentially 300 additional students with each increment. He suggested building programs and design for an additional 300 students and the next increment of building for an additional 300 students. Some programs operate with 300-400 students. Mr. Dockter explained when visiting with his staff, they would recommend enhancing and expanding the health careers area and explore a school-centered daycare. Both programs would be partnered with the community. Mr. Gibbs provided some examples of careers based on those fields. Mr. Hepperle added the staff at Dickinson High School do a proficient job with what they have and noted the importance of not setting the ceiling too low. The ability to grow was very important. The applied learning concept has gotten larger than previous concepts.

Board Member Rude referenced the fees for professional services in the proposal and felt they were high. Board President Seaks said he has had conversations with different Board members over the past few months and the input he received is they felt they would like to review some other options. He noted his appreciation for the work the DLR Group has done. He added that Board members expressed their desire to have other firms bid on this work. President Seaks said he had conferred with Superintendent Sullivan and asked with the time schedule and moving forward, how would requesting other bids affect the timetable and Dr. Sullivan shared that it would affect the timetable and push it back. Mrs. Rude expressed the importance of seeking other proposals and added that it would not necessarily eliminate the DLR Group. Dickinson High School administrators shared their concerns with the timetable and the necessity to keep things moving along.

Discussion led to the agreement that keeping phases II, III, and IV bundled together would be advantageous. Mr. Gibbs explained typically a remodeling professional fee is higher than a construction professional fee; however, the DLR Group's professional fees on the proposal for the Dickinson High School remodel was the same as for a new construction. There was discussion to receive clarity regarding the fees in the proposal. Mr. Gibbs explained the fees are based on the cost of the construction that is completed in phases, possibly over a ten-year time span.

Board members individually shared their input regarding bidding out phases II, III, and IV. Board members were favorable to requesting bids before moving forward with phases II, III, and IV. They requested it be an agenda topic for Monday's School Board Meeting. Superintendent Sullivan explained the timeline for advertising for the bids. This would require some work from the business manager. The process requires receiving the proposals and interviewing the bidders. This process could not be accomplished in one month's time.

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DLR Group / Dickinson High School Long-range Planning (cont.)

President Seaks summarized that if the Board decided to bid out for phases II, III and IV, it may not be decided until the May School Board Meeting. It could also be done before May through a Special School Board Meeting. He inquired if it was possible to still meet the September 2020 goal knowing up front that individuals would have to hustle, as there is not as much time. Board Member Wilkie requested input from Principal Dockter. Mr. Dockter responded that three or four more teachers will be teaching in rooms next year at the high school that are currently open. The year after that, it will be even more teachers and again more teachers the year after that. Given the fact that a decision has to be made before the process can get started and depending on what the Board decides to do, it could push the timeline back. He noted it was the Board's decision.

President Seaks explained to Mr. Gibbs that this decision had nothing to do with the company's performance but more in making sure that other bidders have an opportunity. Mr. Gibbs understood the Board's position. He explained if a decision was made in May, the teachers would not be available for input during the summer months and the delay could break the momentum. Mr. Dockter added that he gave his word to the staff that he would do as much as possible and as often as possible and did not want to go back on his word. Board members concurred input from the staff was critical.

Superintendent Sullivan proposed the agenda topic for Monday's meeting include a request for proposal for architectural services for phases II, III, and IV at Berg Elementary. Board members concurred. There was additional discussion regarding the Board's motion at Monday's meeting and the Board members understood this could push the timeline back. Mr. Gibbs suggested reaching out to a construction firm in regards to construction schedules and how quickly they can build a \$20 million project. A large amount of money will be paid out to the contractor and they will be key to the process.

President Seaks thanked Mr. Gibbs for his time and input and reiterated his appreciation for the work done by the DLR Group.

Adjournment – At 1:12 p.m., President Seaks declared the workshop adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary