

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Special Meeting

August 25, 2015; 8:00 a.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a special meeting on August 25, 2015, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Sarah Ricks, Vice President Kris Fehr, Mrs. Leslie Ross, Mrs. Tanya Rude, and Mr. Jason Hanson. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, and Mrs. Dorothy Martinson. Others present were: Ms. Fern Pokorny, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Mr. Andrew Haffner from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order - Board President Ricks called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Public Participation – There were no requests for public participation.

Open Enrollment Applications – Jolene Rod applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools from Richardton/Taylor School District. Cassaundra Doshier-McClarren applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to DPS from Belfield Public Schools. Brian Farnsworth applied for open enrollment for his child to be admitted to DPS from South Heart Public Schools. These children did not attend Dickinson Public Schools at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year. The administrative recommendation was to approve the applications. Action was requested. Mrs. Fehr moved to approve the request for a child of Jolene Rod, a child of Cassaundra Doshier-McClarren, and a child of Brian Farnsworth to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools as per the open enrollment request. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Fehr requested the status of student enrollment and open enrollments. Superintendent Sullivan responded that last week he and Mrs. Martinson reviewed the classroom sizes and the open enrollment requests. Based on that discussion Dr. Sullivan reported that the District has closed open enrollment in kindergarten and grades one, two and four. Assistant Superintendent Reep shared numbers for classes and classroom sizes. The current projections for enrollment are 300 kindergarteners with an average classroom size of 20; 314 first graders with an average classroom size of 22, 207 second graders with an average classroom size of 24, 269 third graders with an average classroom size of 22, 295 fourth graders with an average classroom size of 25, 258 fifth graders with an average classroom size of 23, and 279 sixth graders. Mr. Reep noted the student enrollments are a moving target, there is a large turnaround of students coming in and out of the district. This could be one of the most volatile years to date. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Tuition Waiver Agreements – Tuition waiver agreements were received for a child of Thomas Wittenberg from Belfield to Dickinson, a child of Carol E. Miller from Hettinger to Dickinson, and a child of Britney Johnson from Belfield to Dickinson. The administrative recommendation was to approve the agreements. Action was requested. Mrs. Ross moved to approve a tuition waiver request for a child of Thomas Wittenberg, a tuition waiver for a child of Carol E. Miller, and a tuition waiver request for a child of Britney Johnson. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Fehr asked if any of these students were within the elementary grades of closed open enrollment. Superintendent Sullivan responded that one of the students did fall under the closed open enrollment grades. Assuming a roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

Consolidated Grant Application Approval for 2015–2016 – A printed copy of the full Consolidated Application was available for board review. A copy of the building allocation for the federal title funding programs was distributed. The District has received notification of the amounts for several of its Federal grants. Those amounts are:

Title I	<u>\$567,757.00</u> + <u>\$137,687.99</u> carryover
Title IIA	<u>\$319,385.00</u> + <u>\$4,778.07</u> carryover
Total	<u>\$887,142.00</u> + <u>\$142,466.06</u> carryover

The Board is required to approve the grant application annually prior to submittal. Action was requested. Mrs. Rude moved to approve the Consolidated Grant Application for Federal grants which includes Title I and Title IIA, as presented. Mrs. Ross seconded the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Ross asked for an explanation regarding the carry over. Dr. Sullivan responded that each year there is an allocation and if that allocation is not spend it will carry over to future years. Director of Student Services Dorothy Martinson addressed the board. She explained that approximately 15% is carried over so that if there isn't enough in a year the set aside amount can cover the difference. The 15% leeway provides a cushion for such things as salary increases. Funds received are based on students eligible for free and reduced lunch. Not all buildings are eligible. Mrs. Martinson explained most of the funding is generally used towards salary and benefits. There was a discussion regarding how much needs to be spent out of the allocation, what is done if there isn't enough to cover the salaries, and the funding transition towards a middle school. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: yeas-Hanson, Rude, Ross, Fehr, Ricks; nays-none. The motion carried unanimously.

Teacher Contract Negotiations - Teacher Contract Negotiations (Pursuant to NDCC 44-04-19.1 (9) an executive session was anticipated). The Board representatives for teacher negotiations are Mrs. Kris Fehr and Mr. Jason Hanson. Mrs. Fehr and Mr. Hanson felt it was not necessary to discuss the topic in executive session. Mrs. Fehr noted there is a tentative agreement on salaries with a calculating base of \$36,000. This represents a 5.5% increase. The beginning teacher salary is \$43,920. Increasing the beginning teacher salary was the objective of the board during the last negotiating sessions. Mrs. Fehr added there is an agreement to have a Memorandum of Understanding drawn up regarding Outside the Day Compensation. This topic will also be on next year's contract negotiations. Because of the volatile enrollment, board representatives were cautious about pursuing a two year contract. The grievance procedure is being reviewed by the negotiating team. This was a topic introduced by the board representatives. Mr. Hanson said in the current contract there is no timeline for teachers to present a grievance to the principal. He added at the negotiations meeting the board requested 30 days, the DEA came back with 60 days and at today's meeting the DEA changed it to 90 days. The board representatives feel that if a grievance is not filed within 30-45 days there isn't really a grievance. Teachers also have the opportunity to continue to file grievances as they occur. Mrs. Ross said that the standard in the business community would not be longer than 30 days and she would not be in favor of anything longer. Mrs. Rude inquired if there had been discussion regarding professional development days, specifically adding days. Mrs. Fehr said there was a discussion regarding flexing professional development days but because the professional development days are already set up for this school year the topic was dropped. The board suggested adding a couple of days to the calendar. Mrs. Ricks has been in the audience at the negotiations meetings and said that she felt the topic of flexible development days will be brought up at future negotiating sessions. Mrs. Fehr said there should be input from the Professional Development Leadership Team and the Director of Curriculum. Mr. Hanson noted there was a tentative agreement on extending the teacher cumulative personal leave days from six to eight. Teachers may use personal leave limited to six consecutive contract days in any one school year. This agenda item was for discussion only. No input was required.

Adjournment – At 8:33 a.m. Mrs. Rude moved to adjourn. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 a.m.

Sarah Ricks, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary