

Unapproved School Board Workshop Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Board Workshop

October 12, 2015; After Board Meeting
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a workshop on October 12, 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, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Kristy Goodall, Mrs. Susan Cook, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Ms. Sherry Libis, Ms. Tammy Praus, and Dr. Becky Pitkin. Others present were: Ms. Lee Mehrer, Ms. Fern Pokorny, Mrs. Twila Petersen and Mr. Andrew Haffner from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order - Board President Ricks called the workshop to order at 6:20 p.m.

Dickinson High School (DHS) Facility – Dr. Sullivan addressed the attendees and noted a few years ago the DLR Group did a facility study in response to the rapid growth. There were three community input forums held. The outcome of the forums was a request for a new middle school. During the forum there were conversations addressing the DHS facility. Ultimately a large majority of the attendees recognized the need for a new middle school as first priority with the high school facility as a second priority. At that time the board did say when the success of the new middle school was accomplished there would be conversation regarding the high school. There also was discussion about repurposing and utilizing the Hagen Junior High facility. Two weeks ago the board members toured the Dickinson High School facilities. Tonight's conversation will help to provide direction to the administration. Dr. Sullivan said that there has been communication from the DLR Group that they are interested in coming back to Dickinson and help with guiding the District and community regarding the high school. Dr. Sullivan reported Dickinson High School opened in 1967-1968; therefore that facility is 47 years old. The administration has done a good job with keeping up with the maintenance. It is an older building that needs some attention. Within the DPS Facility Master Plan drafted by the DLR Group and GT Architecture there are many notations regarding the DHS facility. Improvements that are noted as needing mild to moderate improvement include the curb/sidewalks, exterior walls, windows, roofs, carpeting, ceilings with major improvements to the HVAC system (pages 9.5-9.8). Mrs. Ricks referenced the maintenance priority list. Mr. Reep responded that the deferred maintenance price tag is high. Mr. Reep noted the needed improvement at Heart River's HVAC system. There was discussion regarding many other areas at the high school that need attention. Mr. Reep pointed out that the District would probably need to hold a bond election but it has almost maxed its bond capacity. Mrs. Fehr expressed her concern with the yellow building and greenhouse. She noted at the yellow building there are steps used by students every day intended for a fire escape. Prioritizing the needs of the buildings would need to be done before any decisions are made. A suggestion was to have the DLR Group come back and do another needs assessment. Mr. Dockter felt the biggest concern would be the yellow building and the math annex. Mrs. Ross suggested the needs assessment be based on the infrastructure's ability to provide an environment for students to learn. There was discussion regarding the enrollment in the different grades and Mr. Reep's projection of a large incoming kindergarten class in fall 2016.

Repurpose Hagen Junior High – Superintendent Sullivan distributed a list of possible suggestions for repurposing the Hagen Junior High facility. Items were placed on the list during a brain storming session. There were no judgements made on the value or worth of the ideas and the list has not been prioritized. One suggestion from the list was moving Southwest Community High School (SWCHS) to Hagen. SWCHS is currently serving 25 students with a waiting list of 18 students. Mrs. Goodall said she receives a phone call almost every day asking for alternative high school assistance. The students are disappointed

Repurpose Hagen Junior High (cont.)

when they hear they will be put on a waiting list. There is a potential for the SWCHS to grow as large as 45-50 students.

Dr. Sullivan explained the Adult Learning Center (ALC)/West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center is located in an old house. The building is not handicap accessible and has some concerns. Having RASP centrally located in the Hagen building was discussed. Other possibilities on the list were discussed and some possibilities (such as faculty housing) were removed. Dr. Lewton requested that a “hybrid high school” be added to the list. There was additional conversation about sharing staff with a combined building of the ALC and SWCHS. Mrs. Goodall said adding a daycare to this scenario would be beneficial due to the number of students who have children. There was additional discussion regarding a daycare facility and the RASP program. Mrs. Ross suggested utilizing part of the building for a veterans center. Another suggestion was utilizing the building for a group similar to the Anne Carlson Center. Dr. Lewton noted the Hagen facility was built in 1935 and has load bearing walls. There could not be a lot of renovation without a lot of expense. There are 27 rooms at Hagen. Mrs. Ricks suggested prioritizing the list and then have a plan to get the data. There was discussion regarding Berg Elementary reverting back to a K-5 building. Dr. Sullivan discussed preliminary plans regarding attendance areas. Mrs. Rude inquired regarding the needs for a professional development lab. Mrs. Kathrein explained the area should accommodate 40 people and computers available for training up to 40 individuals. President Ricks suggested researching each suggestion and asked that the parameters on physical space available and what is needed to serve the various organizations and departments now and two years from now and future goals for the projects.

Adjournment - At 7:32 p.m. President Ricks declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah Ricks, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary