

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

October 13, 2014; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on October 13, 2014, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice President Jason Hanson, Ms. Leslie Ross, Mrs. Sarah Ricks, and Mrs. Tanya Rude. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mr. Ron Dockter, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mr. Guy Fridley, Ms. Tamara Praus, Mr. Jay Hepperle, Mr. Thomas Barr, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Ms. Sherry Libis, Mrs. Susan Cook, Dr. Becky Pitkin and Mr. Henry Mack. Others present were: Mrs. Naomi Thorson, Mrs. Fern Pokorny, Mrs. Twila Petersen, Ms. Nadya Faulx from the Dickinson Press and City Administrator Shawn Kessel.

Call to Order - Board President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Public Participation – There were no requests for public participation.

Additional Agenda Items/Removal of Items from Consent Agenda – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Consent Agenda – Ms. Ross moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the September 8 regular board meeting, the October 8 special school board meeting, the October 10 special school board meeting; the bills for October 2014; the financial reports for October 2014; the pledged assets report for October 2014; the personnel reports; the student/staff recognitions; and a tuition waiver request for a child of Sherri Kirchen from Dickinson to Belfield. There was no RACTC report. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following topics.

- a. **North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) Conference** – Superintendent Sullivan reminded Board members of the upcoming NDSBA conference. The agendas for the conference and seminars are posted on the website under Supporting Documents.
- b. **October 16 and 17** – There will be no school on October 16 and 17th due to the NDEA Convention.
- c. **AdvancED Recognition** – Dickinson Public Schools was presented a plaque at the recent AdvancED conference and was recognized by AdvancED for meeting the requirements for the accreditation. Superintendent Sullivan thanked the work the School Improvement Leadership Team did preparing for and during the accreditation process.
- d. **Measure 8** – Dr. Sullivan explained the Measure 8 initiative which would require all North Dakota schools to begin after Labor Day. Athletics and Activities Director Guy Fridley addressed the Board and explained the consequences should this initiative pass. He distributed a handout from the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) expressing opposition to Measure 8. The handout explained the athletic calendars have been drafted and are approved through 2018-19 and the state tournament schedule is approved through 2020-21. Mr. Fridley explained even if classes were to begin after Labor Day, since the sports calendars are already set up seven years in advance, football practice would still begin August 10. Even though the biggest push for Measure 8 is so that students can spend more time with family, those days where students normally attend school in August will be pushed back to June. When Bismarck Public switched and started school after Labor Day they had a decrease of 25% in student participation of activities. Even though the calendar changes, the athletic season will need to shrink. Students cannot be playing football in December. President Fehr inquired if there was any other data available, other than Bismarck Public. Mr. Fridley responded there was a great article in the newspaper regarding Fargo Public Schools. Mr. Fridley explained the reasoning for

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

the athletic events to be set seven years in advance. The locations for events need to be secured as they are shared for extracurricular events and non-extracurricular events. President Fehr thanked Mr. Fridley for the information.

Business Topics

Canvassing the Special Election – The Dickinson Public Schools held a special election on Tuesday, October 7 for the purpose of a bond referendum. Specified in Century Code, the District is required to canvass the election at today's Board meeting. Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board. He passed around the tapes from the polling machines for the Board members to review. Mr. Reep explained there were some ballots dropped off at the Court House that were voided as the patrons voted at the polling sites the day of the election instead of by absentee. There were many absentee forms requested that were not returned. These individuals again could have possibly voted at the polling sites the day of the election. The address books are available for review. He noted canvassing the address books is not necessary. There were four spoiled or rejected ballots where the voter did not sign the envelope. There were three ballots that are certified that were received the canvassing board can open and review and add the three responses to the totals. Mr. Hanson, Mrs. Ricks and Mrs. Fehr each opened one of the certified ballots. The responses on those three were all in favor of the bond referendum. This brought the total number of cast certified votes to 2,336. Action was required. Mrs. Rude moved that she had examined and canvassed the returns of the special election and had determined that 1,716 votes were lawfully cast in favor of approving the Resolution and issuing the Bonds, and that 620 votes were lawfully cast against approving the Resolution and issuing the Bonds. She declared that 73.5% of all the qualified voters of the District voting upon the question were in favor of issuing the Bonds and moved to adopt the Resolution Canvassing Returns and Declaring Result of the Special Election, as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Ross-aye, Rude-aye, Ricks-aye, Hanson-aye, and Fehr-aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Prairie Rose Elementary Expansion Update - Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep provided updated information regarding the progress towards the expansion at Prairie Rose Elementary. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Student Mobility Report – Assistant Superintendent Reep has posted under Supporting Documents the following reports: Inward and Outward Migration report, a 5-year summary, and comments. Mr. Reep referenced the inward and outward mobility report noting that last year the District had 1,078 students going either in or out of the District. When comparing to last year, there are 1,244 students that came or left; this is a net gain of 126 students. Students are becoming more and more mobile. There are students from 45 different states and seven different countries. Texas had the largest number of mobile students with 49 coming in and 41 going out. The high student mobility creates a challenge for administrators, teachers and staff. Mrs. Rude inquired if there was a way to track if some of the same students are leaving the District and then returning. Mr. Reep said it could be tracked but would be labor intensive within the PowerSchool system. He is aware there are students that were in the District, left the District, and returned. He doubted there were more than 100 of these students. President Fehr thanked Mr. Reep for gathering the information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Superintendent's Formative Evaluation – DPS will use the same process as last year. President Fehr and Superintendent Sullivan have selected four areas from the superintendent's job description to be evaluated. The areas are: supervision with licensed and non-licensed staff; identification and implementation of board policy needs; effective records management; and supervision of building and

Superintendent’s Formative Evaluation (cont.)

grounds, transportation, and student safety. A copy of the superintendent’s job description is posted under Supporting Documents. President Fehr noted the law states the deadline for this process is December 15. Board members were asked to return the evaluation forms to President Fehr by November 22. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

2014 North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) Resolution – Posted under Supporting Documents is information regarding the resolution to change TFFR funding. All resolutions will be voted on by the delegates at the NDSBA fall conference. Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the changes proposed to the resolution. One of the main changes would provide PERS plans to newly hired teachers and no longer offer TFFR. These are two totally different programs with different funding units. The North Dakota Council of Education Leaders has discussed the change outlined in the resolution and are opposed to this change. Mr. Reep felt if some of these changes would be successful there would be a large amount of teachers that would retire that are eligible for retirement. This change could be detrimental to the District since there is already a teacher shortage. President Fehr explained the process for the resolutions and said this is the opportunity for Board members to make recommendations to the delegates attending the conference. Ms. Ross said she had an issue when NDSBA doesn’t adhere to the reason for committees and does not have input from all sources. In light of this, Ms. Ross would be supportive to the delegates who vote against the proposed resolution. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.

School Board Workshop - There was a board workshop following the regular board meeting. Topics discussed included the DLR Group final report, city growth and planning overview, future planning for the school district, transportation, and funding sources. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

School Board Policy Revision, First Reading – Superintendent Sullivan requested this agenda topic be tabled until the next school board meeting. Ms. Ross moved to table the agenda topic revising board policy DBBA. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – Mrs. Rude suggested the school newsletters reflect that the schools are considered nut free, not just peanut free. President Fehr noted that under the consent agenda, DHS senior Reed Johnson was recognized as receiving the Civics Renewal Network Constitution Day award. He was the only student selected in the State of North Dakota. Reed was very involved in the Vote Yes Committee including working on the DSU homecoming float and a tremendous amount of work on the committee.

Adjournment – At 5:47 p.m. Mrs. Rude moved to adjourn. Mrs. Ricks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary