

Dickinson Public Schools
Unapproved School Board Workshop Minutes
November 19, 2018; After School Board Meeting
Board Room, Central Administration Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a Board workshop on November 19, 2018, at the Central Administration Offices. Board members present: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member David Wilkie, Board Member Michelle Orton, and Board Member Jason Rodakowski. Others present were: Superintendent Shon Hocker, Assistant Superintendent Keith Harris, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Director of Student Services Dorothy Martinson, Business Manager Kent Anderson, Dickinson High School Principal Kevin Hoherz, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Jay Hepperle, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Theodore Schye, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director Guy Fridley, Southwest Community High School Principal Kristy Goodall, Dickinson Middle School Principal Marcus Lewton, Dickinson Middle School Assistant Principal Shawn Leiss, Prairie Rose Elementary Principal Nicole Weiler, Prairie Rose Elementary Assistant Principal Richard Smith, Lincoln Elementary Principal Tammy Peterson, Roosevelt Elementary Principal Henry Mack, Heart River Elementary Principal Susan Cook, Berg Elementary Principal Tracy Lecoe, The Dickinson Press Reporter Kayla Henson, JE Dunn Construction Project Senior Manager Brian Stark, JE Dunn Construction Project Coordinator Melissa Gjermundson, JE Dunn Construction Ryan Anderson, Harlow's Bus Service Transportation Manager Burton Lewton, and School Board Secretary Twila Petersen.

Call to Order – Board President Seaks called the workshop to order at 6:21 p.m.

Busing – Superintendent Hocker provided some background information on how busing the Dickinson Public Schools students has evolved throughout the years. Ten years ago, the District had ten bus routes and operated similar to a smaller district. Currently there are 28 bus routes.

Dr. Hocker explained several months ago the Board discussed how the District could potentially meet the requests of all students that need to ride the bus. Administration did some research regarding continuing to charge for busing or providing free busing services and the ramifications of free busing. Administration feels that there may be some great improvements in the current busing challenges that could provide a more efficient busing service. Some options being reviewed by the administration included: the restricted zones, more neighborhood busing, potential walking zones around each school, review the length of time before a student is picked up after school, review the length of time a child rides the bus, busing service after RASP, and consider other avenues for payment of busing services. Administrators at the workshop suggested closer monitoring of the behavior of the students and consider resolving attendance concerns by providing busing service to the high school for those living in the restricted zone.

Dr. Hocker said the administration will continue to do research and work with Harlow's Bus to review the information and then share the results with the Board in the spring.

Construction Management At Risk (CMAR) for Dickinson High School Including Bond Services for the High School and Future Elementary School – Superintendent Hocker introduced and welcomed representatives from JE Dunn. Dr. Hocker explained the target date for a bond referendum for the high school and future elementary school is possibly April 2019.

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Construction Management At Risk (CMAR) for Dickinson High School Including Bond Services for the High School and Future Elementary School (cont.)

Discussion at the workshop included methods of communicating with the public what the bond referendum means to the taxpayers in the community. JE Dunn Construction Project Senior Manager Brian Stark explained there are two parallel paths. If the referendum were to pass, what would it take for the school to open in fall 2021 and work backwards from that. He felt the April date is a reasonable time frame. It would provide enough time to finish the design and have discussions regarding the intent of the high school and elementary school and what those buildings will look like. To gather this information, there will be a lot of discussion with the task force working on getting clear and concise numbers. Surveys will also be considered that might relay information about what the public is willing to support.

Mr. Stark added that the community needs to have a buy in to the project. It will need to be conveyed to the community what the school will look like and how it is going to benefit the community.

There was discussion regarding utilizing the softball diamonds area by the high school to build the new high school and how that will affect the program. Director of Activities Guy Fridley felt the program would accept a temporary inconvenience knowing in the end there will be better softball fields. The current fields have some challenges.

Adjournment – At 7:20 p.m., Board President Seaks declared the workshop adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary