

Dickinson Public Schools
Unapproved Special School Board Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2018; 5:30 p.m.
Central Administration Office Board Room

The Dickinson Public School Board held a special meeting on February 6, 2018, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member Tanya Rude, and Board Member David Wilkie. Others present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Director of Student Services Dorothy Martinson, Director of Instruction Melanie Kathrein, Dickinson High School Assistant Principal Jay Hepperle, Dickinson Middle School Assistant Principal Shawn Leiss, Heart River Elementary Principal Susan Cook, Lincoln Elementary Principal Tammy Peterson, Prairie Rose Elementary Principal Sherry Libis, Roosevelt Elementary Principal Henry Mack, Jefferson Elementary Principal Sara Streeter, School Board Secretary Twila Petersen, RSP and Associates CEO Rob Schwarz (via webinar), Dickinson Press Reporter Iain Woessner, and KX News Reporter Steve Kirch.

Call to Order - Board President Seaks called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Public Participation - There were no requests for public participation.

Attendance Areas/RSP & Associates – President Seaks invited the Central Office Administrators and the elementary principals to join the Board at the table. Mr. Rob Schwarz with RSP and Associates joined the meeting via webinar and provided a PowerPoint presentation indicating several different options for redistricting. Each option was supported with comprehensive data. There was lengthy discussion with Board members and Mr. Schwarz.

There was discussion regarding potentially adding two sections at Heart River Elementary and also building a new elementary school.

President Seaks requested feedback from the building principals and Central Office Administrators. Superintendent Sullivan responded that the elementary principals and Central Office administrators had multiple meetings and from those meetings requested to provide an administrative recommendation for the Board to consider. The Board welcomed the opportunity.

The administrative recommendation was provided in a PowerPoint with each option having pros and cons. Administrative recommendation was for the Board to consider option 3A. Administrators requested if the Board was not going to consider option 3A, then administrative recommendation was for the Board to leave Berg Elementary closed for another year so that the administration could move forward preparing for 2018-2019.

Elementary principals provided their input supporting option 3A. They explained it was getting late to begin looking for elementary teachers for next fall and appealed to the Board to make a decision soon in the best interests of the students. Overcrowding was already a concern for the buildings. The elementary principals have been talking to their parents and preparing them for the possible change with the redistricting. Mr. Schwarz from RSP and Associates concurred with the recommendation of the administration.

Board members thanked the administrators for providing their perspective and for the presentation. After additional lengthy discussion, Mrs. Rude moved to accept option 3A as guidelines for

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Attendance Areas/RSP & Associates (cont.)

redistricting the Dickinson Public Schools elementary schools. President Seaks twice called for a second. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. Discussion: President Seaks explained before tonight's meeting he still was not convinced on any one option. After hearing the administrators and understanding the urgency he was more convinced to use option 3A and sticking to those boundaries. He added the Board knew it was not going to be a perfect solution. Mrs. Schwartz inquired how many families would be affected by option 3A. With the charts from Mr. Schwarz, it was hard to identify the number of families because some families were attending schools that were a distance from their residence. Mrs. Rude said that the Board has thought very long and hard on a decision and knew that there were going to be families that would not like the decision but by the middle of next year will feel it was a good decision. Mrs. Schwartz called the question. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-4 (Rude, Wilkie, Schwartz, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion passed unanimously.

At 6:48 p.m., President Seaks declared a recess.

At 6:58 p.m., President Seaks reconvened the meeting.

Superintendent Search – Board members discussed potential schedules and different representative groups to be invited to attend meetings conducted by Ray and Associates. These meetings would be to receive input from stakeholders on the qualities and characteristics of a new superintendent of schools. The date for the meetings was decided previously to be February 15 and 16th. Groups were identified and representatives from the groups would be sent an invitation. The groups identified with representatives receiving a personal invitation were: certified staff, classified staff, DEA, non-licensed, Cabinet, business and community leaders, and other teachers and staff. Each meeting would be one hour in length. Additionally, there would be a public open forum scheduled for Thursday, February 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. that all teachers, staff, and community were encouraged to attend. The teachers, staff, and public will also be invited to take a survey that will be posted soon on the District's website.

Adjournment – At 8:00 p.m., President Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary