

Dickinson Public Schools
Unapproved Special School Board Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2018, 2018; 3:00 p.m.
Central Administration Office Board Room

The Dickinson Public School Board held a special meeting on April 3, 2018, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member Tanya Rude (via conference call), Board Member David Wilkie, and Board Member Jason Rodakowski. Others present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Business Manager Kent Anderson, School Board Secretary Twila Petersen, and Mr. Michael Collins, Representative with Ray and Associates.

Call to Order - Board President Seaks called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Public Participation - There were no requests for public participation.

Building Fund Levy – Superintendent Sullivan explained the topic of the building fund levy had been discussed in at least two other Board meetings. The Board considered increasing the fund levy from 10 mills to 20 mills. This would require a vote from the community. The first opportunity for a vote would be the June 12 primary election. If it were to be on the June 12 ballot, information would need to be at the auditor's office at the Stark County Courthouse by April 10. Business Manager Anderson has done some research and there would need to be a 60% pass of the measure. Dr. Sullivan noted the School Board members would be leaving for the National School Board Association conference in a few days; therefore, Dr. Sullivan recommended a decision at today's meeting. The building fund levy was on last week's Budget Committee Meeting agenda. President Seaks stated that he and Board Member Rodakowski represent the Board on the Budget Committee. Consensus of the Budget Committee was to put increasing the building fund levy capacity on the June ballot due to increasing the building fund levy. Another discussion point was HVAC for Heart River and for DHS. Bids on those projects is estimated at \$2.6 million for Heart River Elementary and approximately \$6.5-\$7.5 million for the high school. Additionally the Berg Asbestos Abatement and Berg Elementary playground, which is on tonight's agenda, are costs that were not included in the initial project bid. Mr. Rodakowski added the staffing at Berg Elementary was also discussed at the Budget Committee Meeting.

Mr. Anderson explained there had been discussions of debt limit/debt capacity. He said if the vote passes to change the current building fund levy from 10 mills and increasing it to 20 mills, it could generate approximately \$1.6 million per year in the capital projects. President Seaks noted HVAC needs at Berg Elementary, Dickinson High School and Heart River Elementary would require multi-million dollars in funds. He added that in essence the voters are approving funds for the District. It would need to be explained to the voters what the District is looking for in the increase and why the funds would be beneficial to tie into the educational process for the voters to understand and vote affirmatively. President Seaks said if the Board decides to put it on the ballot and it passes, it could generate approximately \$1.6 million in next year's building fund budget. If it would fail, no additional funds would be available and there is an opportunity to try again. At the Budget Committee Meeting, the Board members felt the timing was right due to the discussion in the community regarding the growing district and there are no surprises that there are financial needs with the building fund. Mrs. Schwartz inquired what the increase in mills would cost a taxpayer who had a \$200,000 assessed home. Business Manager Anderson responded that had not been discussed

Building Fund Levy (cont.)

at the Budget Committee Meeting and was not available. Mrs. Schwartz moved to receive input from the community regarding an increase in the building fund levy from 10 mills to 20 mills and to have this item placed on the June 12 ballot. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Rude inquired what the mills are currently levied. President Seaks responded they are levied at 10 mills. Mrs. Rude inquired how much are the HVAC systems for the two schools. Business Manager Anderson responded they are estimated at approximately \$2.1-\$2.6 million for Heart River Elementary and an estimate of \$6.5-\$7.5 million at Dickinson High School. President Seaks explained in terms of the timing, the superintendent search is currently going on and this project would be in addition to that. It would require individuals to educate and promote this to the community. We do not have the opinion of the next superintendent. Superintendent Sullivan referenced the new superintendent and that person having the option of being exposed to the public and promoting this before it is on the ballot. That is something to consider. Mrs. Rude said that the District currently has a superintendent that could go out and educate the community. She felt this should be attempted now. President Seaks clarified that he did not mean to imply the current superintendent could not promote the mill increase for the upcoming election ballot.

Superintendent Sullivan expressed his concern about the timing. He said there is not a lot of time left between now and the end of May to promote and educate. He added he did not know how long it would take the District to be prepared. When the bonding for the middle school was put on the ballot, there were scores of meetings done by Mrs. Kathrein, other administration, Dr. Sullivan, and community members to promote the bonding. Dr. Sullivan felt there was not enough time between now and the end of May to promote and educate prior to the June election and have positive results.

President Seaks addressed Superintendent Sullivan and inquired if Board members could be involved in speaking to the community. Dr. Sullivan responded they could on an informal basis but not a formal basis. Normally this would become an administrative responsibility. President Seaks requested Board members make themselves available to visit the public as needed the rest of April and May. Mr. Wilkie inquired if the Budget Committee recommended this be moved to the November ballot. President Seaks responded that it was undecided by the Budget Committee. The committee could see pros and cons in doing it now and waiting. If it is on the June ballot and is successful, it could generate \$1.6 for the building fund for next year. One negative aspect if it is on the June ballot and is not successful, it is possible it could have a negative carryover for future elections. Mrs. Rude called the question. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Rude, Rodakowski, Wilkie, Schwartz, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

Berg Elementary Playground Bids Awards – At the March 28 Budget Input and Development Committee Meeting, the committee recommended approving the low bid of \$145,800 from Shep’s Welding and Construction for the Berg Elementary playground construction. The Budget Committee also recommended approving a bid of \$100,000 from BC6 Builders for the Berg Elementary playground equipment. Action was requested. Mrs. Schwartz moved to approve the low bid of \$145,800 from Shep’s Welding and Construction for the Berg Elementary playground construction. She further moved to approve the bid of \$100,000 from BC6 Builders for the Berg Elementary playground equipment. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes (5) Schwartz, Wilkie, Rodakowski, Rude, Seaks; nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously.

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At 3:20 p.m., Superintendent Sullivan and Business Manager Anderson exited the meeting.

Superintendent Search – Mr. Mike Collins, a representative with Ray and Associates, addressed the Board. He provided a brief biography. He noted their firm did do background checks on the individuals. Also checked the media but not a full investigation.

President Seaks explained a bill that was written last year that the pool of candidates for the superintendent position are confidential and are not allowed to talk about them publicly but only in an executive session. When it comes to the point of having the names of the finalists, then that discussion could be made publicly.

Review Confidential Employment Applications for the Superintendent Position (Executive Session Anticipated) – President Seaks noted the next item on the agenda was Review Confidential Employment Applications for the Superintendent Position and that it may be discussed in an executive session. The legal authority for closing this portion of the meeting is North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C) § 44-04-18.27. The topic or purpose of this executive session was to review confidential employment applications for the superintendent position. As per N.D.C.C. § 44-04-18.27, Mr. Wilkie moved to close the meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of Review Confidential Employment Applications for the Superintendent Position. Mrs. Schwartz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Wilkie, Rude, Schwartz, Rodakowski, Seaks); nays-0; absent-0. The motion carried unanimously. The executive session was recorded and all members of the governing body were reminded to limit their discussion during the executive session to the announced topic. Any collective decision, collective commitment, or other final action by the governing body must occur after it reconvenes in an open meeting, unless final action is specifically required by law to be taken during the executive session. Board policy BCAD-Executive Session allows certain individuals to be in attendance at the closed meeting. President Seaks requested the following individuals to be in attendance: the School Board Members Mrs. Tanya Rude (via conference call), Mrs. Kim Schwartz, Mr. David Wilkie, Mr. Jason Rodakowski, President Brent Seaks, Ray and Associates Representative Mike Collins, and Recording Secretary Twila Petersen.

The meeting convened into executive session and the members of the public were asked to leave the room. President Seaks anticipated adjourning the executive session and reconvening the open portion of the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m. The executive session began at 3:35 p.m. and was attended by Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Rude (via conference call), Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Rodakowski, Chair Seaks, Mr. Collins, and Recorder Petersen.

At 4:55 p.m., President Seaks declared a recess. At 5:09 p.m., President Seaks convened the meeting back in executive session.

At 5:45 p.m., President Seaks declared a recess. At 6:10 p.m., President Seaks convened the meeting back in executive session.

Review Confidential Employment Applications for the Superintendent Position (cont.)

The executive session was adjourned at 7:17 p.m. The public was invited to return to the meeting room and the meeting was back in open session. President Seaks stated the discussion of the executive session was reviewing confidential employment applications for the superintendent position and that no other topics were discussed.

Selection of Questions for Candidates – By consensus, the Board members chose questions to ask each of the candidates for the position of superintendent of schools.

Selection of Candidates to be Interviewed for the Superintendent Position – Mrs. Schwartz directed Ray and Associates to invite four semi-finalists to interview for the position of Superintendent of Schools for Dickinson Public Schools. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Finalize Interview Schedule – Mrs. Schwartz moved to schedule a Special School Board Meeting on either Wednesday, April 11 or Thursday, April 12 with a time to be determined and to be held at the Central Administration Offices in the Board room. Mr. Wilkie seconded the motion. Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment – At 7:35 p.m., President Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary