

Dickinson Public Schools
Unapproved Special School Board Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2018, 2018; 8:00 a.m.
Central Administration Office Board Room

The Dickinson Public School Board held a special meeting on April 12, 2018, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Brent Seaks, Vice President Kim Schwartz, Board Member Tanya Rude, Board Member David Wilkie, and Board Member Jason Rodakowski. Others present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Dickinson High School Principal Ron Dockter, School Board Secretary Twila Petersen, and Candidate #1 for Superintendent Position.

Call to Order - Board President Seaks called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He referenced an article in today's Dickinson Press which stated Superintendent Sullivan had recommended Ray and Associates. President Seaks said this was inaccurate information, that the decision to use Ray and Associates was the choice of the School Board. President Seaks did note that Ray and Associates was a reputable firm. President Seaks also wanted to note publicly that the salary of superintendent position is in the range of \$210,000; not the \$250,000 as indicated in today's Dickinson Press.

Public Participation – President Seaks noted there were two requests for public participation. He invited Superintendent of Schools Sullivan to join the Board at the table. Superintendent Sullivan expressed his appreciation for the Board President clarifying the misprint by the newspaper regarding the selection of Ray and Associates. Dr. Sullivan explained at the outset of the superintendent search process, he provided three alternatives to consider but noted it was ultimately the Board's selection of the process. President Seaks thanked Dr. Sullivan for the comments.

President Seaks invited Dickinson High School Principal Ron Dockter to join the Board at the table. Mr. Dockter thanked the Board for this opportunity. He explained years ago he learned that not saying anything is saying it is okay. He expressed that he wished to voice his opinion regarding the interview process for the superintendent of schools. Mr. Dockter shared with the Board that the position of superintendent of schools is an important position for the District and important decision of the Board. He was shocked the interviews for the superintendent position will be in a closed meeting. Having it in a closed meeting relays the impression that the Board does not want input from the community, from the cabinet members, from the faculty, and from the staff. He understood that it would extend the process to receive all the input. He added it is the Board's due diligence to find the best candidate and felt this would include input from the stakeholders. Including other input would not only make sure a candidate was the best fit but also provide an opportunity for the candidate to receive as much information as possible about the District. Mr. Dockter cited the Century Code that allows the Board to go into executive session and noted it was ultimately the Board's decision whether or not to go into executive session. He felt the individuals that the Board represent have a right to know and it should not be done behind closed doors.

Mr. Dockter said he had two questions for the Board: Did the Board members look at all applications and was the criteria changed, added, or deleted during that review? He also inquired why the interviews were not opened to the public and why the lack of transparency. President Seaks thanked Mr. Dockter for the comments.

Interview Candidate #1 for Superintendent Position (Executive Session Anticipated) – President Seaks noted the next item on the agenda was Interview Candidate #1 for the Superintendent Position. This agenda item may be discussed in an executive session. As per North Dakota Century Code §44-04-19.2 and §44-04-18.27, Mr. Wilkie moved to close the meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing candidate #1 for superintendent position. Mrs. Rude seconded the motion. A roll call vote

Dickinson Public Schools
Unapproved Special School Board Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2018, 2018; 8:00 a.m.
Central Administration Office Board Room

Interview Candidate #1 for Superintendent Position-Executive Session Anticipated (cont.)

was taken on the motion: ayes-5 (Schwartz, Wilkie, Rodakowski, Rude, 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. President Seaks stated Board policy BCAD-Executive Session allows certain individuals to be in attendance at the closed meeting and stated the individuals invited to attend the executive session were the School Board Members Mrs. Kim Schwartz, Mrs. Tanya Rude, Mr. David Wilkie, Mr. Jason Rodakowski, Chair Brent Seaks, Recording Secretary Twila Petersen, and candidate #1 for the superintendent position. He noted due to confidentiality and Century Code requirements, the name of the semi-finalist could not be disclosed in an open meeting. Members of the public were asked to depart the room. President Seaks anticipated adjourning the executive session, and reconvening the open portion of the meeting, at approximately 10:00 a.m. The executive session began at 8:10 a.m. and was attended by Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Rude, Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Rodakowski, Chair Seaks, Recorder Petersen, and Superintendent Candidate #1.

The executive session adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The public was invited to return to the meeting. President Seaks stated the discussion during the executive session was interviewing candidate #1 for the position of superintendent and no other topics were discussed.

Adjournment – At 9:25 a.m., President Seaks declared the meeting adjourned.

Brent Seaks, Board President

Kent Anderson, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary