

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

February 8, 2010; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on February 8, 2010, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Dean Rummel, Dr. Mort Krieg, Ms. Leslie Ross, Mrs. Mitzi Swenson, and Mrs. Kris Fehr. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Tammy Praus, Mrs. Becky Meduna, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mr. Calvin Dean, and Mr. Henry Mack. Others present were: Mr. Lew Moormann, Mrs. Beverly Kinnischtzke, Dr. Keith Fernsler, Ms. Beth Wischmeyer from the Dickinson Press, and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

President Rummel called the meeting to order.

There were no requests for Public Participation.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Mrs. Fehr moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the January 11, 2010, regular meeting; bills for February 2010; financial report for February 2010; the pledged assets report for February 2010; the hiring of Tracy Brudwick as an Adult Basic Education Instructor at the Adult Learning Center; the early resignation and retirement notification from Mr. Phil Moormann, math teacher at Hagen Junior High; a tuition waiver agreement for Josi Moyers from Dickinson to South Heart; the Student/Staff Recognition; the RESP report; and the RACTC report. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following:

- a) **Graduation Requirements** – The 2012 high school graduates will be required to take a full credit of English composition as compared to one-half credit in previous years. Implementation will begin the 2010-2011 school year to give those students ample time to complete their credit.
- b) **Kindergarten Enrollment** – The Dickinson Public Schools Central Administration Office is currently accepting registrations for kindergarten students for the 2010-2011 school year. Registration began today and will continue throughout the week. The projected kindergarten enrollment is between 190-195 students. Due to the anticipated increasing class sizes, the Cabinet has met and discussed ways to resolve the possibility of being short two elementary classrooms this fall. Cabinet proposes moving some of the 2010-2011 fifth graders or kindergarteners from Jefferson and Lincoln to Berg Elementary. Dr. Sullivan has sent out a survey letter to Jefferson and Lincoln Elementary parents of fourth graders and included a letter in the Jefferson and Lincoln Elementary kindergarten registration packet. The survey letter asks the parents if they would be acceptable to having their fifth grader or kindergartener attend Berg Elementary during the 2010-2011 school year. The responses should be received in approximately two weeks.

Midget Mascot – President Rummel requested this item to be placed on the agenda so the Board may initiate any discussion about the perception of the DHS mascot. President Rummel began by providing some background information on the midget mascot name. Mr. Rummel explained that approximately 14 years ago, there was a heated discussion regarding the midget mascot name. Due to the recent controversy of the UND Sioux name, Mr. Rummel realizes that time can change the influence or perception of a name. President Rummel provided some handouts and explained the handouts which are available on the school board website under Supporting Documents. The handouts included a copy of a letter from Attorney Gary Thune, a copy of a letter from a DHS alumnus, a copy of an article from USA Today, a NY Daily News article, an excerpt from Wikipedia, and a copy of an undated anonymous letter. The letter from Attorney Thune references that “school officials have authority to determine and change a school mascot” and that “challenges to mascots have usually been unsuccessful.” President Rummel said there was not a constitutional violation, but questioned the appropriateness of the mascot name. He expressed that there doesn’t have to be a change, that he would like the Board members to have the opportunity to discuss the mascot. President Rummel felt 14 years ago when the mascot was brought up for discussion with the school board, it was not handled and discussed properly. He would like to have public input on the topic.

Dr. Krieg gave a brief history on how the mascot name developed. In the 1940’s or 50’s, an announcer made reference to the high school team noting their stature to be small and therefore tagged them as the “mighty midgets”. Dr. Krieg provided as a handout to Board members, a copy of a Dickinson Press article from 1997. Dr. Krieg read a portion of the article which reflected the results of a vote to keep the mascot name. The results were 5 to 1 in favor of keeping the midget mascot. Dr. Krieg emphasized, as of now, the mascot name was not an issue and asked the Board to consider channeling their efforts to other topics. Ms. Ross, Mrs. Swenson, and Mrs. Fehr gave brief comments.

President Rummel is the spokesperson for the school district. He requested feedback from the public and will keep a tally of the input whether it be pro or con. Dr. Krieg also indicated he would keep a tally of any responses he receives.

Lincoln and Jefferson Additions Update – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep gave a brief update to the Board on the progress of the proposed additions at Lincoln and Jefferson Elementary Schools. Background information and the bidder response questionnaire are available as supporting documents on the website. President Rummel encouraged school board members to attend the bid opening.

This Thursday, February 18, there will be a pre-construction meeting at Jefferson Elementary and Lincoln Elementary. This will give bidders an opportunity to ask the architect questions prior to the bid opening.

Superintendent Evaluation - The superintendent evaluation must be completed prior to March 15. The second evaluation is different from the December 15 evaluation. Board members will rate the superintendent on the areas identified without prior comment by the superintendent. The three areas to be evaluated were identified as: relationship with school board, educational leadership, and community involvement. Board members are asked to complete and return the evaluation form to President Rummel before February 26.

2010-2011 School Calendar - The calendar committee proposed a calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. This draft is posted as a Supporting Document on the website. The administrative recommendation was to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar with a start date of August 25, 2010; the last day of school scheduled for May 25, 2011; and Graduation held on Sunday, May 29, 2011; as presented. Discussion followed. Action was requested. Mrs. Swenson moved to approve the 2010-2011 school calendar with a start date of August 25, 2010; the last day of school scheduled for May 25, 2011; and Graduation held on Sunday, May 29, 2011; as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

April 2010 School Board Meeting – The National School Board Association Convention is scheduled for April 9-12 in Chicago. The Superintendent and two members of the School Board are anticipating attending the convention. Mrs. Swenson moved that the regular meeting of the Dickinson Public School District for the month of April 2010 be rescheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Bargaining Recognition of Representative Organization - The administrators requested to recognize the administrative council as the exclusive representative for negotiations for the 2010-2011 contract. Action was requested. Mrs. Fehr moved that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.1-16-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, the school board of Dickinson Public School District #1 recognizes the Dickinson administrative council as the exclusive representative of the appropriate negotiation unit for the purpose of negotiations. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Enrollment Applications – Brenda Kostelecky applied for open enrollment for Logan Kostelecky and Emilee Kostelecky to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from the South Heart School District. Their application indicates they moved so the waiver applies. Sheila Ayers applied for open enrollment for Ronald Bray and Cody Bray to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from the New England School District. Their application indicates they moved so the waiver applies. Cynthia Egeness applied for open enrollment for Alyssa Purvis to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District from South Heart School District. The application indicates they moved so the waiver applies. The administrative recommendation is to approve the applications. Action was required. Mrs. Fehr moved to approve the request for Logan Kostelecky, Emilee Kostelecky, Ronald Bray, Cody Bray, and Alyssa Purvis to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District under the open enrollment policy. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Early Retirement Incentive Application – Mr. Phil Moormann, math teacher at Hagen Junior High has submitted his early retirement incentive application. The early retirement application deadline is March 1, 2010. The District may receive additional applications. The administration will evaluate the vacancy this position may or may not create and will post any openings at a later time. The administrative recommendation is to approve the early retirement incentive application. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the early retirement incentive application for Mr. Phil Moormann, math teacher at Hagen Junior High, and to accept his resignation, effective 05-27-10. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. President Rummel thanked Mr. Moormann for his many years of service.

School Board Election – The city/county election has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 2010. The school board election will be held the same day as the city/county election and at the city/county polling sites in Dickinson. There are three polling sites in Dickinson (Days Hotel-Grand Dakota Lodge, the Dickinson National Guard Armory, and Lady J’s Catering). The city/county ballots will include the school board election. The 2010 school election deadlines are posted as a link on the School Board website. Following is the tentative timelines that will be followed. These dates will be coordinated with the County Auditor.

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 – (30 days before the filing deadline) – Publish notice in the Press with the school board election filing deadline.

Friday, April 9, 2010 – Candidates statement of interest filing deadline.

Monday, April 12, 2010 – Draw for position on the ballot.

Wednesday, April 14, 2010 – Certify names to the Stark County Auditor of individuals who have indicated their intent to be candidates and their position.

Thursday, April 29, 2010 (at least 40 days before the election) – Prepare the official ballots containing the names of all individuals who have indicated their intent to be candidates.

Tuesday, May 25, 2010 (at least 14 days before the election) – Publish the official election notice in the Dickinson Press with the election date, polling sites, times the polling sites are open, and the purpose of the election.

Tuesday, June 8, 2010 – School board election is held.

Wednesday, June 9, 2010, 12 noon – Canvass the election (must be done within three days of the election).

Friday, June 11, 2010 – Notification of election results (must be done within 10 days of the election).

Mr. Dean Rummel, Mrs. Mitzi Swenson, and Dr. Morton Krieg’s terms expire. The terms are four-year terms. The administrative recommendation is to set the school board election date for June 8, 2010, and to designate the polling sites, as presented. Discussion followed. Action was requested. Mrs. Swenson moved to schedule the school board election on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, and to designate the polling sites at Days Hotel-Grand Dakota Lodge, the Dickinson National Guard Armory, and Lady J’s Catering with the polls opening at 8:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions, Additions, and Deletions-First Reading – The North Dakota School Board Association (NDSBA) has recommended revisions to most of the policies adopted by the Dickinson Public Schools. The proposed policy revisions are posted as Supporting Documents under the school board website under the Policy Revisions link. There is a summary spreadsheet available as a Supporting Document that explains the NDSBA revision and the superintendent’s recommendation for the policy. Board members felt they needed additional time to review all the recommended revisions. Action was requested. Mrs. Fehr moved to table this agenda item and put it on next month’s agenda. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Other – Mrs. Swenson reminded members the hospital Valentine cookie sale is held this week. Mrs. Fehr said that the eighth graders were registering for high school this week.

At 6:20 p.m., Mrs. Swenson moved to adjourn. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Dean Rummel, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary