

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

April 16, 2012; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on April 16, 2012, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Leslie Ross, Dr. Morton Krieg, and Mr. Jason Hanson. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Perry Braunagel, Mr. Ron Dockter, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mrs. Becky Meduna, Miss Sherry Libis, and Mr. Calvin Dean. Others present were: Miss Mackenzie Hoffmann, Miss Alyssa Selinger, Miss Beth Honeyman, Mr. Seth Leno, Mr. Leon L. Mallberg, Dr. Rebecca Pitkin, Mr. Marcus Lewton, Miss Ashley Martin from the Dickinson Press, and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

Board President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

There was one request for public participation: Mr. Leon L. Mallberg filed a request for public participation related to agenda item VII. Measure 2.

Ms. Ross moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the March 12, 2012, regular Board meeting; the bills for April 2012; the financial reports for April 2012; the pledged assets report for April 2012; the personnel reports which included the hires of Amber Adams, grade one instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Carly Arterburn, grade five instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Jana Avery, grade six instructor at Berg Elementary, Michelle Bechtold, grade four instructor at Heart River Elementary, Dixie Dennis, mathematics instructor at Hagen Junior High, Kelcey Evers, kindergarten instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Jessica Grove, counselor at Hagen Junior High, Amy Hughes, grade three instructor at Heart River Elementary, Troy Kuntz, grade four instructor at Lincoln Elementary, Alicia Long, grade one instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Marcus Lewton, principal at Hagen Junior High, Susan Miller, grade six instructor at Berg Elementary, Kendra Pasco, grade five instructor at Heart River Elementary, Rebecca Pitkin, principal at Jefferson Elementary, Kate Rothschiller, grade five instructor at Roosevelt Elementary, Chelsey Scherr, kindergarten instructor at Jefferson Elementary, Kristin Seaks, district-wide social worker, Jillene Susag, district-wide psychologist, and Nicole Weiler, kindergarten instructor at Roosevelt Elementary; the resignations of Fernanda Heppner, Spanish instructor at Dickinson High School/Hagen Junior High, Andrew Jangula, elementary music and band instructor at Berg Elementary, Marni Neubauer, grade four instructor at Heart River Elementary, Johanna Njos, district-wide gifted and talented instructor, and Deborah Thompson, language arts instructor at Southwest Community High School; the resignation of Delbert Quigley, elementary principal at Lincoln Elementary; the student/staff recognitions; the tuition waiver agreement for Kennedee Martin, Melanee DiMeo and Emilee DiMeo from Dickinson to Richardton-Taylor; the tuition waiver agreement for Randy A. Paulson from Dickinson to South Heart; the RESP report; and the RACTC report; as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. School Improvement Building Co-chairs and Principals Leadership Team Meeting – The next meeting for the team will be on Tuesday, April 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the Central Administration Office.
- b. April 20–No School – Friday, April 20 will be a professional development day. DPS teachers will be attending the North Dakota Reading Conference that will be held in Dickinson at the Ramada Inn.

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

- c. Upcoming Graduations – Board members were invited to attend the upcoming graduations. The Adult Learning Center graduation will be held on May 10 at 7:30 p.m. The Southwest Community High School graduation will be held on May 23 at 7:00 p.m. The Dickinson High School graduation will be held on May 27 at 1:00 p.m.
- d. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week – Teachers and staff will be recognized during the week of May 7-11.
- e. DPS Teacher/Staff Recognition and Retirement Program – The DPS Recognition and Retirement program will be held on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the DHS auditorium
- f. DHS Student Council Representatives – Board President Fehr recognized and welcomed to the meeting the DHS Student Council representatives.

School Board Vacancy – On April 4, 2012, Dr. Rebecca Pitkin submitted her resignation from the Dickinson Public Schools Board. Dr. Pitkin will be pursuing a new position as principal of Jefferson Elementary. Board policy BBC-Method of Filling a Board Vacancy is posted on the school district website using the school board policy link. Board members discussed the policy and board regulation regarding the procedure for filling the vacancy. The Board vacancy will be advertised. Interested individuals may complete an Application for School Board Position. Deadline for the application will be Monday, May 7. Board members suggested meeting the candidates at a Board meeting. After the Board has made a determination for the position, the newest member could be seated at the next Board meeting. Board President Fehr thanked Dr. Pitkin for her service on the school board and recognized the strengths she had brought to the Board. This agenda item was for discussion only. No action was requested.

Measure 2- At a previous Board meeting, Board members requested information regarding Measure 2. The North Dakota Property Tax Amendment, more commonly known as Measure 2, will appear on the June 12, 2012, primary election ballot. Measure 2 requires legislature to change the funding for local government through the state legislature and eliminate property taxes. As per the Office of the ND State Tax Commissioner, property taxes currently support schools (45.1%), counties (29.9%), cities (20.0%), townships (2.2%) and miscellaneous (1.9%). Available on the website under Supporting Documents is a portion of the North Dakota Constitution and the North Dakota Century Code.

Mr. Leon Mallberg addressed the Board thanking the Board members for their service to the public. Mr. Mallberg gave a history of the intent of Measure 2 and its development. He noted this measure is a change to the North Dakota constitution. Mr. Mallberg stated if the Measure 2 would pass, it would have an implementation date of January 1, 2012. Mr. Mallberg provided a copy of the book *Property Tax Revolution* for each Board member. Board President Fehr requested some financial information. Assistant Superintendent Reep shared that during the 2010-2011 budget, property taxes supported 21% of the revenue that came into DPS. An additional 2% came from the local. Of all the revenues, 61% came from the state level. If Measure 2 were to pass, instead of 61% coming from the state, 81% would come from the state. Mr. Reep explained the school district budgets off of a two-year biennium; half of the funding was received in 2011-2012 and the other half is received in 2012-2013. Therefore, the district has two-year agreements with the teachers that each party has legally bargained and agreed upon. Out of the budget, 80% provides funding for salaries and benefits.

President Fehr requested additional information regarding legal implications and the state process at the next school board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Personnel Report Update – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board providing information regarding the certified resignations received and the certified new hires. There have been 29 certified resignations or retirements. Out of the 29 positions, 21 positions have been filled. Fourteen of the filled positions were individuals that reside in Dickinson. Mr. Reep noted with the housing challenges the District is very fortunate to fill the positions. Two candidates that were offered positions were unable to accept them due to the affordability to move and live in the community. Mr. Reep and Board President Fehr thanked Ms. Cyndee Egeness for her remarkable work and extra effort in the large quantity of applicants and securing qualified candidates for positions. A spreadsheet listing the vacancies and filled positions is available on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Major Summer Building Projects – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board providing information regarding proposed projects to be completed this summer. A summary prepared by Mr. Reep is available on the website under Supporting Documents. The intention is to complete the items with high or medium priority on the list. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

New Elementary School Update – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board providing information regarding the progress towards construction of the new elementary school. Construction bid opening will be on Tuesday, April 24 at 4:00 p.m. There have been ten general contractors that have picked up sets of plans for the new school. There have been seven mechanical contractors and one electrical contractor that have requested a set of plans. There was discussion regarding the reputation of the contractors. There is a questionnaire that must be completed by the contractors submitting bids. After the bid opening, Superintendent Reep proposes researching the bidders and providing information to the Board members at a meeting where the bids will be awarded. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Schedule Special School Board Meeting – Superintendent Sullivan addressed the Board. The bid opening for the construction of the new elementary school necessitates a special Board meeting to review the bids and take action. The administrative recommendation was to schedule the special school board meeting for Thursday, April 26 at 12:00 noon. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to schedule a Special School Board Meeting for Thursday, April 26 at 12:00 noon. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Naming the New Elementary School – Superintendent Sullivan addressed the Board. Approximately 130 proposed names were submitted for the new elementary school. The District-wide PAC reviewed the names and provided four recommended names to the Board. Those four names, in no particular order, were: Washington Elementary, North Star Elementary, Northern Prairie Rose Elementary, and J.F. Kennedy Elementary. Administrative recommendation was to name the new school to assist with budgeting and delivery of products and services. Action was requested. After discussion, Mr. Hanson moved to name the district's sixth elementary school "Prairie Rose Elementary". Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of Energy Development Impact Office (EDIO) Grant Application – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board. A copy of the grant application is available on the website under Supporting Documents. Mr. Reep explained when the grant was written data available indicated 39% of the kindergarten students had a parent employed in the energy sector. This grant reflects a request

Request Approval of Energy Development Impact Office (EDIO) Grant Application (cont.)

of 39% of the projected cost for the construction of Prairie Rose Elementary. The amount requested is \$4,485,000. Action was requested to approve the submittal of the grant. Ms. Ross moved to approve the grant application to the Energy Development Impact Office in the amount of \$4,485,000, as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bid for Bus – The school district advertised for bids for a 29-passenger activity bus with rear luggage. Only one company, Harlow’s Bus Sales, submitted bids which were opened at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2012. Harlow’s bids are posted under Supporting Documents. Assistant Superintendent Reep noted that funds received from the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$48,000 will be used towards the purchase of the bus. The administrative recommendation was to accept the bid from Harlow’s Bus Sales, Inc. to purchase the 2012 (stock) International bus for a price of \$85,202. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to accept the bid submitted by Harlow’s Bus Sales, Inc. and purchase the 2012 (stock) International IC AC 28 passenger bus for \$85,202. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Breakfast and Lunch Meal Prices – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board explaining that schools are required to have meal pricing in alignment with the reimbursement for free and reduced meals. Available on the website under Supporting Documents is a summary prepared by Mr. Reep explaining the recommended rate adjustment. The breakfast meal prices would remain the same as well as the reduced meal prices. Administrative recommendation was to increase the lunch prices by \$.05 per meal to be in compliance with the Section 205. Ms. Ross moved to approve a fee of \$1.85 for lunch for students grades K-6, \$2.15 for lunch for grades 7-8, \$2.90 for lunch for grades 9-12, and \$3.40 for lunch for adults, effective the fall of 2012. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Early Resignation Notifications – Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the classified staff deadline for the Early Resignation Notification was April 1. The following individuals have submitted their notification before the deadline: Mr. Alvin Chalupnik, custodian at Roosevelt Elementary with 40 years of service; Mrs. Sherryl Lefor, library paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary with 11 years of service; and Mrs. Kathy Jesch, general paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary with 22 years of service. Mr. Reep has verified their eligibility. The administration will evaluate the vacancies these positions may or may not create and will post any openings at a later date. The administrative recommendation was to approve these early resignation incentive application requests. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the early resignation incentive applications for Alvin Chalupnik, custodian at Roosevelt effective June 30, 2012; Sherryl Lefor, library paraprofessional at Jefferson effective May 23, 2012; and Kathy Jesch, general paraprofessional at Jefferson effective May 23, 2012. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Board President Fehr, on behalf of the Board, thanked the three classified staff members for the service provided to the students, teachers, and staff and also thanked them for their dedication to the school district.

Board Policy Revisions–First Reading – NDSBA has recommended changes to several Board policies that have been adopted by DPS. Copies of the policies presented for first reading approval are posted on the school board website under Supporting Documents as Board Policies. The administrative recommendation was to revise the following policies presented for first reading: policy ACAC–First Aid/Accidents, policy ACEB–Hazing, policy BCAA–Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation, policy BDA–Procedure for Adopting Board Policy, policy DBAB–Emergency Hiring of

Board Policy Revisions–First Reading (cont.)

Classified Personnel, and policy KACB–Patron Complaints About Personnel. Policy BCAA-Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation was tabled until further revisions are made. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to accept the first reading of the school board policy revisions, excluding policy BCAA, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – Mr. Hanson reported the vacancy notice for the RACTC Director’s position is being advertised. Board President Fehr thanked Mr. Quigley for his many years of service to the District. He has been a valuable leader and his dedication is much appreciated. Board President Fehr congratulated the District’s music instructors, particularly the band directors, for the tremendously, well-done performance at the recent All-City Band Concert.

Adjournment – At 6:28 p.m., Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary