

## Unapproved Community Input Forum Report

Dickinson Public Schools  
Open Forum

May 14, 2012; After Regular Board Meeting  
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a state mandated planning community input forum on May 14, 2012, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Leslie Ross, and Mr. Jason Hanson. Board member absent: Dr. Morton Krieg. 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, Mr. Henry Mack, and Mr. Shawn Leiss. Others present were: Dr. Becky Pitkin, Mr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Twila Petersen, and Miss Betsy Simon from the Dickinson Press.

**Current Enrollment** - Assistant Superintendent Reep distributed a spreadsheet providing information regarding the current enrollment of students in Dickinson Public Schools. The elementary level gained ten students since the beginning of the school year. The spreadsheet reflects Hagen Junior High receiving an increase of four students since last fall and the high school had no change in the number of students. Since May of 2011, the district has seen an increase of 134 students. A copy of the spreadsheet is available on the Dickinson Public Schools website under the State Mandated Planning Information link.

**Projected Enrollments Through 2014**- Assistant Superintendent Reep distributed a spreadsheet with information for projected enrollment at all schools within the district for the fall of 2012, 2013, and 2014 using a percentage adjustment for inward migration. Mr. Reep noted the kindergarten enrollment for next fall as of today is 251 students. Due to the increase, the budget committee approved the hire of another kindergarten teacher. This 13<sup>th</sup> kindergarten classroom will be placed at Lincoln Elementary and Lincoln's fifth grade class will be moved to Berg Elementary for one year. Mr. Reep noted by fall of 2013 the new Prairie Rose Elementary School would be built and students would begin attending at that school. Using the MapPoint program, 245 students have been identified as living north of the interstate. Based on projections in the spreadsheet, the elementary students could see an increase of 245 students from April 1, 2012, to fall of 2014. Projections for the junior high level are an increase of 96 students during the same time frame and the high school may possibly have an increase of 72 students. Due to the age of Hagen Junior High and the projected increased enrollment, the district is taking a proactive approach and reviewing some options available for a new junior high school in the future. Discussion regarding the high school enrollment indicated DHS was a sound building with the ability to handle additional students. A copy of the spreadsheet is available on the Dickinson Public Schools website under the State Mandated Planning Information link.

**Enrollment Trends** – Assistant Superintendent Reep provided a spreadsheet with information for enrollment trends from fall of 2005 through fall of 2011 and estimated trends for fall of 2012. The spreadsheet noted the highest number of students in the district in the seven year span at the elementary level was during the 2011-2012 school year. The largest increase in the number of students between years was from May of 2009 to fall of 2009. The five year average for the students in the elementary level indicates an increase of 1.61%, the junior high level indicates a decrease of -2.4% and the high school indicates a decrease of -4.26 percent. A copy of the spreadsheet is available on the Dickinson Public Schools website under the State Mandated Planning Information link.

**Hagen Junior High Enrollment Trend** - Assistant Superintendent Reep provided a handout projecting the enrollment at the junior high level through 2020. He noted the projected average students in the last column are not the actual number of students in a classroom; some students will be in an elective course

**Hagen Junior High Enrollment Trend (cont.)**

and not all in the core courses at the same time. A copy of the spreadsheet is available on the Dickinson Public Schools website under the State Mandated Planning Information link.

**Measure 2 Discussion-** Assistant Superintendent Reep noted a document available on the website under State Mandated Planning Information regarding the Measure 2 Possible Budgetary Impact. Mr. Reep noted if the district were to be at the level of spending in 2011, the district would need to make budget cuts of approximately \$1.262 million in the next school year. The teacher and administrative contracts would absorb approximately 79% of the budget. The remaining 21% would be funds for equipment, library books, etc. There are obligations that the district must fund and services provided that are not funded by the state. Mr. Reep noted the services not funded by the state include rural busing, kindergarten, and activities such as football, drama, and band. Activities represent approximately \$700,000 a year in expenses, activity busing services costs the district approximately \$95,000, and rural busing costs the district approximately \$245,000 per year. Administrators have looked at some scenarios for budget cuts. None of the scenarios are in the best interest of the students. If cuts need to be made and the new school is built, it would affect the building's textbook supply among other things. In the event Measure 2 would pass, the Board would direct Superintendent Sullivan and Assistant Superintendent Reep to provide the Board with a plan for proposed budget cuts.

Dr. Sullivan briefly noted the continuous registrations being received on a daily basis, including kindergarten students. Inquiries are often received for between-building transportation services. If Measure 2 would pass, the topic of transportation would be placed on hold. Members of Cabinet have discussed the ability of students to get to school and transportation issues. Superintendent Sullivan along with Board members commended Assistant Superintendent Reep on the punctual steps he took last fall to complete the bonding on the new elementary school before January 1, 2012, so the new school could be built regardless of the results of Measure 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

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Kris Fehr, Board President

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Vince Reep, Business Manager

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Twila Petersen, Secretary