

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

May 14, 2012; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting 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. Calvin Dean, and Mr. Henry Mack. Others present were: Mr. Jon Martinson with the North Dakota School Boards Association, Mr. Gregory D. Burns with the North Dakota Education Association, Mr. Doug Johnson with the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Mr. Marcus Lewton, Mrs. Fern Pokorny, Miss Betsy Simon from the Dickinson Press, and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

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

There were no requests for public participation.

Mr. Hanson moved to remove agenda item VIIb. School Resource Officer Update from the agenda and the addition of three classified hires to the personnel report on the consent agenda. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hanson moved to approve the revised agenda including the revised consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the April 16, 2012, regular Board meeting; the April 26, 2012, special Board meeting; the bills for May 2012; the financial reports for May 2012; the pledged assets report for May 2012; the personnel reports which included the hires of Laurae Dykema, elementary music specialist at Berg and Jefferson Elementary; Clarence Hauck, welding instructor at Dickinson High School (DHS); Jay Hepperle, lead teacher/social studies at Southwest Community High School; Dora Jung, Spanish instructor at Hagen and DHS; Johanna Njos, .6 FTE district-wide gifted and talented instructor; Sean Sterkel, physical education instructor at Roosevelt Elementary; Mary Kay Versen, coordinator/basic computer skills instructor/chief GED examiner at the Adult Learning Center; Amy Wyant, kindergarten instructor at Lincoln Elementary; and Jamie Wyant, mathematics instructor at Hagen Junior High; the resignations of Courtney Goldberg, mathematics instructor at Hagen Junior High; and Mark Rerick, district activities director; the student/staff recognitions; the RACTC report; and the RESP report; There were no tuition waiver agreements. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. **Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant** – Dr. Sullivan noted that Assistant Superintendent Reep applied for and received two grants for the district for fruits and vegetables at Heart River Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary Schools.
- b. **Budget Committee Meeting Update** – The Budget Committee met last week and discussed a variety of items. The Budget Committee approved the hiring of another kindergarten teacher (13th teacher). This kindergarten classroom will be located at Lincoln Elementary. Next year's fifth grade class at Lincoln will be moved to Berg Elementary for one school year. Mr. Quigley has a meeting scheduled with the Lincoln fourth grade parents tomorrow. The Budget Committee approved a .25 gifted and talented position. The pre-school is seeing an increase of students with disabilities. The district provides preschool in cooperation with Head Start. Due to the increasing elementary enrollment the district will need to increase its literacy coaches. The DPS budget is currently in the

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

- black of \$50,000. Providing some of the above services is contingent upon the results of Measure 2. If Measure 2 should pass, many of these services would be put on hold.
- c. Marathon Oil – Marathon Oil representatives recently visited the elementary schools and distributed ice cream treats to students to recognize the student's involvement in Earth Day.
 - d. Upcoming Graduations – Southwest Community High School's graduation is on Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. Dickinson High School's graduation is on Sunday, May 27 at 1:00 p.m.
 - e. Title I Monitoring Report – Dr. Sullivan noted the Title I Monitoring Report has been received from DPI. There were no compliance issues. This is a phenomenal accomplishment. Dr. Sullivan congratulated Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Student Services Director, and her faculty on the monitoring results and also thanked Mrs. Ginger Handcock for the extra amount of work load that was placed on her for the past years in preparation for the monitoring. President Fehr also thanked Mrs. Martinson and her faculty and also Mrs. Handcock for their hard work.

Measure 2 – At the April 16, 2012, School Board meeting, Board members requested additional information regarding Measure 2. The Board invited to the meeting Mr. Doug Johnson from the North Dakota Council of Educational leaders, Mr. Jon Martinson from the North Dakota School Boards Association and Mr. Greg Burns from the North Dakota Education Association. All three gentlemen addressed the Board and introduced themselves. Mr. Burns noted the primary objective with Measure 2 is a North Dakota constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes. This measure would take away the control in the local units. If the measure would pass, it would use a formula that would treat all entities equally. Commissioner Fong has indicated if Measure 2 were to pass, sales tax amounts could possibly triple. Mr. Burns also expressed concern with the unanswered questions, such as what is considered a legally imposed opposition. Mr. Martinson explained the school districts would be forced to approach the legislature for funding. Mr. Johnson explained his experience with the foundation aid formula that is currently used in the school districts would be changed and in his opinion, this would be an overwhelming task for the legislature. If the measure were to pass, the legislature may possibly have to have several special sessions. Due to the complexity, the Keep It Local coalition estimates it could require each entity to present and answer questions before the legislature. Due to all the entities, this could require approximately 66 days of legislative time. A question was asked if the three gentlemen had a suggestion for preparing an alternative budget for the district if Measure 2 should pass. Mr. Martinson said that a couple of business managers indicated an alternate budget would be chaotic. Mr. Burns replied that when there was a tremendous shortfall several years ago, there were faculty cuts, reduction-in-force, and the reduction of programs, such as physical education and music, to save money. Vice-president Ross asked if there were any other states that have implemented similar measures. The response was that no other states have passed anything like Measure 2. President Fehr inquired how existing obligations would be handled; the District has contracts and obligations that need to be met. There was discussion on how those would be met. Negotiated contracts with teachers were also discussed. Any increases in teacher salaries would need to be negotiated with a legislative body and approved and a funding formula would need to be devised. President Fehr and board members thanked the gentlemen for attending the meeting and providing information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Curriculum Changes – Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Director of Instruction, addressed the Board presenting information regarding improvements to the language arts curriculum. Mrs. Kathrein has available on the board website under Supporting Documents a list of the changes implemented to the language arts

Curriculum Changes (cont.)

program, some changes as early as the 2012-2013 school year. The language arts committee has been working diligently on the curriculum for the past three years. Mrs. Kathrein commended the elementary teachers and coaches that have assisted with the programs. She thanked the committee members for their dedication and commitment to the project. At the elementary level, students will be involved in a readers and writers workshop. Teachers have expressed the noted growth they have seen in the writing skills of the students that are using the workshop. The Leveled Libraries purchased in 2010 with stimulus funds have enhanced the small group reading abilities. Mrs. Kathrein explained the Phonics and Words Their Way programs will identify where students are in their spelling abilities. At the junior high level, students will select a novel based on reading and writing curriculum. Not every student will read the same novel. At the high school level, students will have an online assessment grading. Mrs. Kathrein also discussed the intervention program which has had great success. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Elementary Schedules–Teacher Collaboration – Mrs. Kathrein addressed the Board explaining proposed revisions to the elementary schedule to enhance the Professional Learning Communities project. High levels of learning require teacher collaboration time to assess the learning targets and procedures necessary if the targets are not met. Finding the time in the schedules was a challenge since some teachers are shared in more than one building. After several meetings, a schedule has been drafted that would allow the collaboration. This will require a different starting time and ending time for a couple of the elementary schools. Staggering the starting time may also assist with traffic congestion. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

District Strategic Plan – Superintendent Sullivan addressed the Board regarding the District’s Strategic Plan that was last revised in 2007. Dr. Sullivan has posted on the website under Supporting Documents the current District Strategic Plan and a separate document containing strategic plan vocabulary to assist in beginning the process of discussion at the July Board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Report on National School Board Association Convention – Board President Fehr, Board Vice-president Ross, Board Member Jason Hanson, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep and Superintendent Sullivan briefly summarized the seminars they attended at the recent National School Boards Association Convention. Copies of summary reports from the convention are available on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Board Vacancy – Business Manager Vince Reep explained applications for the Board vacancy were due in the Central Office on or before May 7. Mr. Reep reported one application was received from Mr. Scott Staudinger. The Board will take action on the application at the June Board meeting. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested at this time.

Prairie Rose Elementary School Update – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep posted on the website a summary of the bid analysis providing the final project budget. The first preconstruction meeting will be held this week Thursday. Mr. Reep discussed the transferring of some of the trees established on the lot. He plans to have an update on the construction project at future Board meetings with photos available on the website. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Amend 2011-2012 Capital Projects Fund Budget – Assistant Superintendent Reep discussed the Capital Projects Fund Budget noting some bills from the general contractor and possibly the electrical contractor may be received before the fiscal year end. Mr. Reep recommends revising the budget accordingly. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the amended budget of the Capital Projects Fund for the 2011-2012 school year and increase the budget for revenue from \$831,600 to \$7,500,000 and the expenditures from \$987,237 to \$2,677,237. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Amend 2011-2012 Debt Services Fund Budget – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board explaining two bond service fees from US Bank totaling \$1,500 were received. The District did not originally budget for these fees. Administrative recommendation was to amend the 2011-2012 Debt Services Fund Budget. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the amended budget of the Debt Services Fund for the 2011-2011 school year and increase the budgeted expenditures from \$215,595 to \$220,000. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2012-2013 Student Handbooks – Available on the board website are copies of the proposed student handbooks for the 2012-2013 school year along with a summary of the changes in each handbook. DHS Principal Ron Dockter explained the revision to absences and tardies in the DHS Student Handbook. Mr. Dockter researched many Class A schools to receive input on an attempt to increase attendance and decrease tardiness. After his discussions with the schools, DHS administrators recommended an incentive for exemption from final exams for students without absences and tardies. President Fehr inquired how this may affect the school when students with illness continue to attend school and also the student's ability to prepare for major exams at the college level. Mr. Dockter felt the courses at DHS would still have major tests to prepare students for college exams. This will be monitored and feedback provided to the Board in spring of 2013. Administrative recommendation was to approve the 2012-2013 student handbooks for the elementary, junior high and high school. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the 2012-2013 elementary, Hagen Junior High, Dickinson High School, and Southwest Community High School student handbooks, as presented. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorized Representative for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program – The District was notified by the Department of Public Instruction that the continuation application for the 21st Century Grant is due by June 8, 2012. The grant must include verification the school board's appointment of an authorized representative. Administrative recommendation was to appoint Assistant Superintendent Reep. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the appointment of Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep as the authorized representative for the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant for the 2012-2013 school year. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting Day and Time – Board members were requested to schedule the annual meeting date and time. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to schedule the annual school board meeting for Monday, July 9, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Enrollment Application – Rebecca Parker applied for open enrollment for Kaitlyn Phelps and Andrew Parker to the Dickinson Public School District from the Belfield School District for the 2011-2012 school year. They have recently moved so the deadline waiver request applies. The administrative

Open Enrollment Application (cont.)

recommendation was to approve the application. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the request for Kaitlyn Phelps and Andrew Parker to be admitted to the Dickinson Public School District under the open enrollment policy for the 2011-2012 school year. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions–First Reading – The North Dakota School Boards Association has recommended revisions to several policies previously adopted by DPS. The administrative recommendation was to approve for first reading the revisions to the policies. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the first reading of the revisions to school board policy BCAA–Board Meeting Agenda and Pre-Meeting Preparation, policy FFA–Student Alcohol and Other Drug Use/Abuse, policy FFE–Extracurricular Participation Requirements, and policy FGA–Student Education Records. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Copies of the policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.

Board Policy Revisions – Second Reading and Final Adoption – The North Dakota School Boards Association has recommended revisions to several policies previously adopted by DPS. The administrative recommendation was to approve for second reading and final adoption the revisions to the policies. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve for second reading and final adoption the revisions to policy ACAC–First Aid/Accidents, policy ACEB–Hazing, policy BDA–Procedure for Adopting Board Policy, policy DBAB–Emergency Hiring of Classified Personnel, and policy KACB–Patron Complaints About Personnel. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Copies of the policies are available on the website under Supporting Documents.

Other – Mr. Hanson reported an offer has been made to a candidate for the RACTC director position. Vice-president Ross commended the district personnel for the activities she attended last week. They were very moving ceremonies and she thanked the teachers and staff for their years of service and wished the best for those retiring. President Fehr thanked Mr. Rerick for his service and wished him well in his next endeavor. She noted he has brought a lot to the district.

Adjournment – At 6:47 p.m., Ms. Ross moved to adjourn. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary