

## Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools  
Regular Meeting

September 9, 2013; 5:00 p.m.  
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on September 9, 2013, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice President Jason Hanson, Dr. Morton Krieg, Mrs. Tanya Rude, and Ms. Leslie Ross. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Henry Mack, Mr. Calvin Dean, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Mrs. Susan Cook, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mr. Jay Hepperle, Mr. Ron Dockter, and Dr. Marcus Lewton. Others present were: Mrs. Twila Petersen and Mr. Dustin Monke from the Dickinson Press.

**Call to Order** - Board President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Public Participation** – There were no requests for public participation.

**Additional Agenda Items/Removal of Items from the Consent Agenda** – There were no additions or deletions to the consent agenda.

**Consent Agenda** – Ms. Ross moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the August 12 public hearing, the August 12 regular board meeting, the August 13 special board meeting; the bills for September 2013; the financial reports for September 2013; the pledged assets report for September 2013; the personnel reports; the student/staff recognitions; a tuition waiver request for two children of Jeff Devenport; a tuition waiver request for a child of Shirley Binstock; the RACTC report; and to dissolve the open enrollment requests for the children of Jason Schmidt, Teresa Serafin, Michelle Renner, Sharon Jones, Natalie Wicklund, and Finiola Martinez; as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. **NDSBA School Law Seminar, New Member Seminar and NDSBA Conference** – Available on the website under Supporting Documents are the agendas for the seminars and conference. The seminars are scheduled for Thursday, October 24. The conference is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **Enrollment** – Available on the website under Supporting Documents is an enrollment report. Superintendent Sullivan noted that since May 2013 enrollment has increased by 307 students.
- c. **Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS)** – School Board members were provided with post cards and “lifesavers” as a demonstration of information provided to staff as part of the safe and civil schools process. Due to legislative action, the District is involved in an bullying prevention program. Part of the program includes training on PBIS. Last year the District conducted three trainings on PBIS. Training is supported by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. There is a building leadership team at each building. In addition to the training received during the professional development days in August, the District has two more training sessions scheduled for this year. Mrs. Karen Thompson is the PBIS coach for the school district.
- d. **School Board Workshop** – Following the October 14 and November 12 School Board Meetings, there will be Board workshops. Board members are encouraged to forward topics for the workshops to President Fehr or Superintendent Sullivan.
- e. **September 30** – There will be no school on September 30 as it is designated as a professional development day.

**Business Topics**

**Prairie Rose Elementary School Update** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep addressed the Board and provided an update on the construction wrap up of Prairie Rose Elementary. He said they continue to work with the architect and contractors to work through the items on the punch list. The sprinkler system has been put in and the grass is beginning to grow. Mr. Reep said the retention pond is a requirement of the City and seems to be working. The City will be controlling the mosquitoes in the retention pond. Mr. Reep reported there will be a public open house at Prairie Rose Elementary on Wednesday, September 25 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Student ambassadors at Prairie Rose will be giving tours of the school. Mrs. Rude inquired if there were crosswalks and curbs marked at the new school. Mr. Reep responded those are maintained by the City. He said there are some crosswalks and school zone signs up at the new school; however, there are no stop signs to help with the flow of traffic. This has been brought to the attention of the city administrators. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**ACT Test Results 2012** – DHS Principal Ron Dockter addressed the Board. He has available three documents pertaining to ACT scores that are posted on the website under Supporting Documents. The Class A schools ACT test scores are shared information by the principals at the Class A schools. This data is from the seniors that graduated in the spring of 2013. The data shows that 63% of those students are college ready. The tests were administered to the seniors during their junior year. The article in the local newspaper was misleading. The summary of the scores the newspaper used did not include the students in the combinations that took those tests. This spring, 21 students (or 11%) took it with a combination. Traditionally those students score lower. North Dakota is one of few states that require all juniors to take the test. The newspaper article compared students to other states, such as Minnesota. Minnesota does not require all students to take the ACT test. It is not comparing apples to apples. Mrs. Rude inquired regarding figure 3 in the table which indicated a flat line for biology and chemistry. Mr. Dockter explained that the students need to take the science courses in a sequence. Some courses are not available to the DHS students prior to administering the ACT test. For example, physics cannot be taken until the senior year. There was discussion regarding the writing component of the ACT tests. Mr. Dockter explained that many colleges will use their own writing assessment when placing students. President Fehr noted that the Class A school student percentages were low in mathematics, reading and science. Mr. Dockter said that the base test scores in reading were increased. President Fehr noted that only 35% of the students are ready in science which is not acceptable. Mr. Dockter explained the DHS teachers and administrators also share some of those concerns and some changes are being implemented. Mr. Dockter said he has looked at each individual score (196 were tested). Almost 50% of the students scored between 18 and 24, 16% scored between 25-29, and 1% scored between 30-36. There were approximately 70-75 students that qualified for the North Dakota Academic Scholarship which requires a minimum score of 24. He commended the students, parents, teachers, and counselors for this success. President Fehr thanked Mr. Dockter for compiling the information and presenting the material. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update 2013-Program Improvement** – Dickinson Public Schools' Program Improvement Plan and each District School Program Improvement Plan have been submitted to the Department of Public Instruction during this past summer. These reports are available on the DPS website home page. Building Administrators, Superintendent Sullivan, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, and Mrs. Melanie Kathrein prepared the plans. Superintendent Sullivan addressed the Board informing the School Board members that none of the schools or the District satisfied the requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) this past year. AYP is a requirement under the No Child Left Behind Act. Failing to meet the requirements will have new implications to the District and schools. Some funds in the Title I

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update 2013-Program Improvement (cont.)**

program will be required to be set aside for supplemental services and also for professional development. Director of Instruction, Melanie Kathrein, addressed the Board. She explained the District is moving towards the common core standards. There have been significant changes at the junior high and senior high schools. The transition to the common core will take some time. It will take approximately 3-4 years to implement all the changes. Mrs. Kathrein explained the NWEA testing is currently administered in the fall. That will change to spring in 2015. President Fehr inquired what would happen if the District did not make AYP this year. Superintendent Sullivan explained that the NCLB was signed in 2002 and was supposed to be reauthorized in 2007. The reauthorization still has not taken place. Educators are lobbying for a different model. If the reauthorization does not take place the District will proceed with the same rules it has now. President Fehr thanked Mrs. Kathrein for the update. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers 21<sup>st</sup> (CCLC) Grant** – Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep reported the District was awarded a CCLC grant in the amount of \$217,400 for year one. Available on the website is a letter from State Superintendent Baesler regarding the grant. Funds from the grant support the Regional After School Program (RASP). President Fehr and Board members congratulated Mr. Reep on submitting the grant proposal and the District receiving funds for the grant. Mr. Reep reported the dollar amount received was a reduction from the original grant submission of \$285,000. There are some changes to the grant including no funding for the summer RASP program and reduced fees for families receiving free or reduced meals. Mr. Reep has discussed the changes with the principals. This agenda item was informational only. No action was required.

**Facility Master Planner** – Dickinson Public Schools accepted applications for the position of Facility Master Planner. Board representatives on the interview committee were Ms. Leslie Ross and Mr. Jason Hanson. The interview committee interviewed all four applicants that submitted proposals. The Request for Qualifications specifically requested proposals from architectural companies “capable of providing comprehensive building assessments and master planning for the district.” At this time, the school district is not negotiating for the services of an architect for the design and construction of facilities. Those discussions will take place at a future date depending on the results of a school construction bond election. All companies interviewed in person and were well represented and provided good presentations. A list of those interviewed is available on the DPS website. At the conclusion of the interviews it was the sentiments of the interview committee that one company stood above the rest. The DLR Group had experience with bond referendums and their track record indicated a high success rate in bond referendums. Mr. Reep stated the District is not just looking at buildings but also the educational delivery model. President Fehr inquired regarding a timeline. Mr. Reep said a contract would be signed within a week. The Facility Master Planner will be interacting with District staff, stakeholders, and the community. Ms. Ross explained the District was focused on a facility planner at this point in time, not an architect. The sequence of whether the architect would be on board prior to the bond election or after the bond election may be dependent upon the decisions of the planners and focus group. Chair Fehr inquired how the time frame is in alignment with enrollment. Mr. Reep responded that the District has been proactive and prepared with the additions at Lincoln and Jefferson and then the construction of the new school. As far as planning for the future, now is the right time. The Board is to a point where it needs some experienced resources and guidance to develop a plan for the future. Mr. Hanson moved to direct the administration to negotiate and develop a contract with DLR Group and GT Architecture for Facility Master Planner. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. It was noted the Budget Committee had allocated \$200,000 for the service; however, Assistant Superintendent Reep said it would likely be significantly less

**Facility Master Planner (cont.)**

because the cost would be negotiated on a per square foot basis. The motion carried unanimously. President Fehr thanked board members for participating. Board members thanked Mrs. Kathrein, Mrs. Cook, and all the staff members who took time from their busy schedules to participate in the interview process.

**Department of Public Instruction Certificate of Compliance** – Dickinson Public Schools is required to file a report annually with the Department of Public Instruction certifying that all teachers in the District have a valid teaching license and are highly qualified. The report also stipulates that DPS does background checks on certain individuals and follows a review process as outlined in Century Code. A copy of the 2013-2014 Annual Compliance Report is available under Supporting Documents. Once approved by the Board, the report is submitted to DPI. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the DPI Annual Compliance Report for the 2013-2014 school year, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) VI-B Grant** –The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction requires assurances that IDEA will be met and the application for funds has been approved by the Board. A summary of the Title VI B Grant is available under Supporting Documents. Action was requested. Mrs. Rude moved to approve the application for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act VI–B funds, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. President Fehr inquired if there was a reduction in funds for the grant. Mr. Reep responded there was a \$40,000 reduction bringing it down to \$150,000. He noted that services would continue to be provided with funds coming out of the general fund. There was no further discussion on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Open Enrollment Applications** – There were three open enrollment applications requesting action by the Board. Karen Hale applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to Dickinson Public Schools from Hebron Public. Shonnon Cruz applied for open enrollment for her two children to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools from Hebron Public. The administrative recommendation was to approve the applications. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the open enrollment request for one child of Karen Hale and to approve the request for two children of Shonnon Cruz, as specified in the open enrollment requests, to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools under the open enrollment policy. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. It was noted these students were enrolled in grades 7-12.

**Other** – There were no other topics for discussion.

**Adjournment** – At 6:08 p.m., Mrs. Rude moved to adjourn. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 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