

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

September 10, 2012; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on September 10, 2012, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Jason Hanson, and Dr. Morton Krieg. Board members absent were: Ms. Leslie Ross and Mr. Scott Staudinger. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mrs. Tamara Praus, Dr. Becky Pitkin, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mr. Henry Mack, Mr. Guy Fridley, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mr. Ron Dockter and Miss Sherry Libis. Others present were: Mr. Pat R. Beckman, Mrs. Twila Petersen and Miss Betsy Simon from the Dickinson Press.

Call to Order - Board President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Public Participation - There were no requests for public participation.

Additions or Deletions to the Consent Agenda – Mr. Hanson moved to add a Request for Approval of the EDIO Grant Application to the agenda under Business Topics as item f. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda – Mr. Hanson moved to approve the revised agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the August 13 public hearing and the August 13 regular board meeting; the bills for September 2012; the financial reports for September 2012; the pledged assets report for September 2012; the personnel reports; the RESP report and the RACTC report, as presented. There were no new certified hires, no tuition waiver requests and no student/staff recognitions. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following topics which do not appear elsewhere in the agenda.

- a. **School Board Workshops** – Superintendent Sullivan reminded Board members there would be workshops following the October and November school board meetings. Board members are encouraged to provide input for topics and a list will be developed.
- b. **Perception Surveys** – As part of the upcoming accreditation, Dickinson Public Schools will be administering a survey to students in grades 2-12. The survey will also be available to faculty and as many parents as possible. The window for completing the survey will be October 29 through November 16.
- c. **September 24** – There will be no school on September 24 so that faculty and administration may attend professional development.
- d. **North Dakota School Boards Association (NDSBA) School Law Seminar/New Member Seminar and Conference** – The NDSBA will hold a School Law Seminar/New Member Seminar on Thursday, October 25. The NDSBA will hold the annual school board association conference on Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27th.
- e. **Enrollment** – Superintendent Sullivan noted that the enrollment numbers fluctuate on a daily basis. When comparing the most recent enrollment numbers to the fall of 2011 enrollment, there is an increase of 119 students in grade k-6, Hagen Junior High has an increase of 35 students and Dickinson High School has a loss of 12 students. As a district, there is an estimated increase of 142 students compared to the fall of 2011. Dr. Sullivan noted the two

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

sections of second grade at Heart River have 24 and 25 students. It is anticipated no more students will be added to those classrooms. The fifth grade classes at Jefferson (two sections) have 28 students.

Prairie Rose Elementary School Update – Assistant Superintendent Reep provided updated information regarding the progress of the construction on the new school. A handout was provided that indicated the perimeter of the large, non-classroom section of the new school has precast walls put up. He indicated the contractor is on schedule. The steel roof joists should be hung in the near future. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

ACT Test Results 2011 - Available on the website under Supporting Documents are the 2011 ACT test results for DPS and also the ACT test results for 16 school districts in North Dakota. DHS Principal Ron Dockter addressed the Board. He noted that DPS student ACT scores are in the middle in comparison to other ND schools. There are several areas that DPS is higher than the state average and one area (writing) where DPS is lower than the state average. Last year was the first year that the writing portion of the ACT test was administered to the DPS students. Mr. Dockter explained students receiving a benchmark score of 18 on the writing portion of the ACT test and receiving a benchmark score of 22 on the math portion have a chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding college course. From the class of 2012, 23% received a score of 24 or above on the ACT. Almost 40% of last year's seniors qualified for the North Dakota Academic Scholarship. Mr. Dockter noted that is a very good percentage of students. President Fehr inquired regarding the science scores, especially the low scores in biology and chemistry. Mr. Dockter explained that when the students take the ACT very few of them have had the opportunity to take those classes. President Fehr commented that students attending Governor's School take those courses in their sophomore year. Mr. Dockter responded that, to his knowledge, sophomore students may take the courses in their sophomore year but it may not fit with the way the curriculum is set up. Advanced students are encouraged to take upper level courses or take a course at the college. Mr. Hanson inquired regarding the writing scores being lower than average, even though the English scores are on target. Mr. Dockter responded this was the first year there is data for the writing since it is the first year it has been administered in the ACT to the students. President Fehr inquired if the district is maintaining or dropping in scores. Mr. Dockter felt the district was maintaining and the students appear to be increasing in their mathematics scores. There are reading and writing committees that are initiating programs in the District as a continuous effort to increase scores in those areas. President Fehr thanked Mr. Dockter for providing the information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update 2011-Program Improvement – Under Supporting Documents on the school board website is posted the 2012-2013 Program Improvement Plan for the District and also the 2012-2013 Program Improvement Plan for each school in the District. Superintendent Sullivan explained the plans include the steps taking place at the individual buildings and the individual grade levels to achieve better AYP scores. Dr. Sullivan thanked Mrs. Martinson, Mrs. Kathrein, and the building administrators for the time devoted to preparing the reports this summer for submission to the Department of Public Instruction. Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Director of Instruction, addressed the Board explaining the district-wide improvements to the writing programs. She explained the district is attempting to find the specific areas that need improvement using a student-by-student and skill-by-skill evaluation. The timing of the state assessment data hinders this

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update 2011-Program Improvement (cont.)

process. Future consequences to the schools and district for not meeting the AYP standards will depend if the No Child Left Behind waiver request from Dr. Sanstead, State Superintendent, is approved by the Department of Education. President Fehr thanked Mrs. Kathrein and the administrators for their hard work on this project. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

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 2012-2013 Annual Compliance Report is available under Supporting Documents. Administrative recommendation was to approve the compliance report for submittal. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the DPI Annual Compliance Report for the 2012-2013 school year, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Open Enrollment Applications – There were four open enrollment applications requesting action by the Board. Truce Trujillo applied for open enrollment for his child to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools from the Belfield School District. Brian Hampton applied for open enrollment for his children to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools from the Killdeer School District. Lorrie Nantt applied for open enrollment for her child to be admitted to the Dickinson Public Schools from South Heart School District. The administrative recommendation was to approve the applications. Action was requested. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the open enrollment request for the two children of Brian Hampton, approve the request for a child of Truce Trujillo, and approve the request for a child of Lorrie Nantt, 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.

Request Approval of Energy Development Impact Office (EDIO) Grant Application –The State Land Office is accepting project applications for funds from the program for the open grant round for infrastructure impacts resulting from energy activity. Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board and explained a similar grant request was done in April of this year; however, DPS was not awarded any funds from that application. A copy of the newest grant application is available on the website under Supporting Documents and was presented for consideration by the Board. The deadline for the application in the amount of \$3,055,000 is September 27. Mr. Reep explained 47% of the kindergarten students have a parent connected to the energy field. The \$3,055,000 amount represents 47% of the DPS interim fund used for the construction of Prairie Rose Elementary. Action was requested to approve the submittal of the grant. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the grant application to the Energy Development Impact Office in the amount of \$3,055,000, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – There were no other topics for discussion.

Adjournment – At 5:54 p.m., Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary