

Unapproved School Board Workshop Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Board Workshop

October 8, 2012; After Board Meeting
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a Board workshop on October 8, 2012, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Jason Hanson, Ms. Leslie Ross, and Mr. Scott Staudinger. Board member absent was Dr. Morton Krieg. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mrs. Tamara Praus, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mr. Henry Mack, Mr. Guy Fridley, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mr. Ron Dockter and Miss Sherry Libis. Others present were Mrs. Twila Petersen.

Board President Fehr called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

No action will be taken. Topics may become agenda items at future Board meetings.

Topics for discussion included:

Enrollment – Assistant Superintendent Reep recently attended a meeting coordinated by the N.D. Department of Commerce. The Governor was in attendance at this meeting and asked for input regarding the impact to the different public entities. The City distributed a list of their needs which totaled \$660 million. Senator Wardner asked the DPS administrators to provide him with a list of infrastructure needs within the school district. At a recent Community Relations Meeting, City Administrator Shawn Kessel discussed a study done by NDSU. The statistics project Dickinson's population to be 47,000 by the year 2020. Mr. Reep stated there was a study also being done by the North Dakota Oil and Gas Producing Counties that DPS was anxious to review.

Assistant Superintendent Reep distributed four handouts. One handout provided information from the NDSU study for the City of Dickinson with population projections and taking those projections and reflecting possible student enrollment. Other handouts included information for potential future infrastructure needs, maximum enrollment capacity at the elementary schools, and junior high school enrollment projections.

Using the relationship factor, projections for 2015 would be at 3,800 students. This reflects an increase of 600 students in the elementary level or 2,200 students, 545 students in grades 7 and 8, and 1,000 students at the high school. Projections for the year 2020 would grow to an estimated 4,600 students; 2,700 in the elementary schools, 661 at the junior high and 1,200 at the high school level. If NDSU's projections are correct, DPS would need to add another K-5 building by 2015. The projections also indicate Dickinson doubling its population by 2020.

There was discussion regarding reorganizing the grade levels at the schools, the need for a new junior high school and the need to remodel or add onto the high school. Cost estimates for these potential infrastructure construction needs were reflected on one of Mr. Reep's handouts. The cost for the land to build the new schools and potential sites for an elementary and junior high school were discussed. DPS is communicating with the Dickinson Park District regarding land purchases. Ms. Ross inquired when the park board was meeting with Meyers Group. Mr. Reep responded he thought the meeting would be held this week. President Fehr noted that when reviewing the handouts it appears the district could potentially start the conversation for the next elementary school next year and the middle school shortly thereafter. There was discussion regarding a bond referendum. Ms. Ross stated she didn't believe the population projections were realistic.

Enrollment (cont.)

Other discussion included feeding a large number of students at the high school and the air quality in the buildings.

Prairie Rose Elementary – Assistant Superintendent Reep updated the group on the process for hiring new staff at the new school and identifying students for the school. The Central Office Administrators and elementary principals have met several times and have been reviewing the list of students and verifying the location of the students. Prairie Rose will need eight teachers plus six specialists. A form will be sent out to elementary certified and classified staff on November 1 asking for volunteer transfers to Prairie Rose Elementary. The forms will be due back by November 21. Starting in late December, the district will advertise for teaching positions and also advertise for a head cook, secretary, janitor, etc.

Mr. Reep reported parents of the students that will be placed at Prairie Rose may be informed in January. There will be students in grades K-4 the first year the school is open. Ms. Ross inquired if the district was going to be flexible with student placement due to siblings attending multiple schools. Mr. Reep responded that the district will be doing what is best and that students are more flexible than parents. A principal for Prairie Rose will be hired before hiring the staff so that the principal may be involved in the hiring process. If there is not a transfer request for a principal within the district then it will be an advertised position. President Fehr inquired if a teacher was volunteering to transfer, was he or she given a guarantee they will get the transfer. Mr. Reep responded that there are no guarantees. There was discussion regarding shortage of housing and the impact that could have on hiring teachers. Transportation of students was briefly discussed.

Open Enrollment- Superintendent Sullivan provided handouts that included the number of incoming and outgoing open enrolled students, a copy of the open enrollment policy, the Century Code regarding open enrollment, and information available from NDSBA regarding tuition waivers and open enrollment. Dr. Sullivan felt it would be a good time to discuss open enrollment since there are schools in the oil impacted cities that are no longer allowing open enrollment. The handout with the number of incoming and outgoing open enrolled students indicated that DPS has six more students coming in than going out. At this time it does not appear to be an issue and Dr. Sullivan did not think the district should consider closing open enrollment. He did note that the district might consider being prepared for a future discussion on this topic and writing a letter to legal counsel might be an option. Rural transportation and special education costs were briefly discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary