

Unapproved School Board Workshop Minutes

The Dickinson Public School Board held a Board workshop on November 13, 2012, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Jason Hanson, and Ms. Leslie Ross. Board members absent were: Dr. Morton Krieg and Mr. Scott Staudinger. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Dr. Marcus Lewton, Mr. Henry Mack, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mr. Ron Dockter, Miss Sherry Libis, Dr. Becky Pitkin, and Mr. Jay Hepperle. Others present were: Mr. Ed Courton and Mrs. Twila Petersen.

Board President Fehr called the meeting to order at 6:24 p.m.

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

Topics for discussion included:

Facilities – Mr. Ed Courton introduced himself. He is the City Planner for the City of Dickinson. Mr. Courton provided three handouts; Planned Growth, Expected Development Versus Housing Demand, and Development by Planning Period. The Development by Planning Period handout was the anticipated growth within the next 20+ years. Mr. Courton invited individuals to attend the next public input meeting on Thursday and also recommended checking the Dickinsonplan.com website for more information. The Planning Period diagram was broken up into projected development in the time frames of 2013-2016, 2017-2018, and 2019-2035. As the city expands there are proposed names for the projects and annexations. The expected housing unit factor being used by the city is 13,912. This is the total expected development. The projections are based on scenarios presented by the NDSU research team. Speculation is that the city will continue to see growth for the next 3-4 years, it will reach a plateau, and then taper off. If the EPA required a change in fracking this could change the population projections. There was discussion regarding the state requirement to have land set aside for parks but no requirement for land to be set aside for school districts. Mr. Courton recommended the school district put together some sites where they thought schools should be available so that when negotiations are taking place he can use the information to help secure land for the school district at a reasonable rate. He also offered to assist if the school district lobbied the legislators to change the ordinance to get land set aside for school districts. President Fehr inquired if the city was using a formula for speculating the amount of families with children. Mr. Courton responded the latest census is used. The initial people that are coming in are single. It is anticipated next year there could be a significant increase in the number of spouses/significant others that will be moving here along with their children. Mr. Courton explained that the oil field companies are trying to buy properties for their employees with families. He explained the rise in the number of permits given out. One permit could be for a 400 unit apartment complex. He felt more permits are being given out for apartment buildings and therefore more apartment buildings will be built next year. These apartments may help to stabilize the housing market. President Fehr thanked Mr. Courton for all the information.

Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the district will need another elementary school by 2015 and another middle school by 2019. The district will need to watch the enrollment numbers closely on a year-to-year basis. Mr. Reep said that the district will need to consider a bond issue. The amount he had in mind for the bond was between \$75 million to \$95 million. That would factor approximately 10 mills. On a \$200,000 home, the bond issue may increase property taxes by \$90 per year or \$7.50 a month. In

Facilities (cont.)

1996-1997, Mr. Buck Haas was the superintendent and was successful in passing a bond referendum. Mr. Reep suggested pulling the old files and reviewing how the bond issue became successful. Ms. Ross inquired what would happen if the bonding didn't go through. Mr. Reep explained that the number of students in the classroom would have to increase. He also explained that kindergarten is not a requirement of the state of North Dakota and could be removed. President Fehr explained when Century High School in Bismarck was a proposed bond issue one alternative being considered if the bond didn't pass was dividing the school day into a.m. and p.m. with some students going as early as 7:00 a.m. and another group staying as late as 8:00 p.m. President Fehr suggested 2-3 years for a bond issue before a new school could be opened. Mr. Reep inquired if the district should expand Prairie Rose Elementary or add onto Heart River Elementary. Does the district want an elementary school with 600-700 students? Replicating Prairie Rose Elementary into a new elementary school could be a \$2 million savings. President Fehr asked if the district was projecting "X" amount of students, can the needs be met by adding onto a school, or would this only be a temporary resolution. There was other discussion regarding how big of an elementary school to build, efficiency, safety, air factors, traffic, gymnasium space and time, and cooperating with area towns in sharing buildings.

Teacher Recruitment – Assistant Superintendent Reep said that last year \$400,000 had been set aside for teacher housing in an anticipation the school district would be partnering with the city and DSU. Those funds ended up going towards Prairie Rose Elementary. Mr. Reep asked principals if they had an estimate of what teachers may be retiring or leaving due to the high cost of living here. There was discussion if the district was in the landlord business what teachers would be given the opportunity for housing. Mr. Reep distributed updated DPS Buildings and Grounds material.

The workshop was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary