

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

November 13, 2012; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on November 13, 2012, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Jason Hanson, Dr. Morton Krieg, and Ms. Leslie Ross. Board member absent was 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, Mr. Jay Hepperle, and Mr. Calvin Dean. Others present were: Mr. Larry Sebastian, Mr. Ed Courton, Mrs. Twila Petersen and Miss Katherine Grandstrand 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.

Additions or Deletions to the Consent Agenda – There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the October 8, 2012, regular board meeting and board workshop; the bills for November 2012; the financial reports for November 2012; the pledged assets report for November 2012; the personnel reports; the student/staff recognition; the RACTC report; and the RESP report, as presented. There were no tuition waiver requests. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Sullivan reported on the following topics.

- a. **American Education Week** – During American Education Week, the district recognizes the contributions the teachers and staff have made to the education of the students. Various community members have volunteered to either read to students in the classroom or attend meetings thanking the teachers and staff for their dedication and work. Superintendent Sullivan thanked Marathon Oil for the numerous volunteers that are reading to students in the classroom this week.
- b. **Meeting with Legislators**- Recently DPS administrators met with legislators to discuss foundation aid payments, property tax relief, infrastructure grants, and the common school trust fund. Superintendent Sullivan and Mr. Reep expressed upon the legislators the need to maximize the foundation aid payments by funding per pupil. President Fehr inquired if the administrators were able to visit with the legislators about paying on the current year. Mr. Reep did emphasize with the legislators the need to pay on this year's student enrollment instead of a one year lag and basing the aid payment on prior year's student enrollment.
- c. **Perception Surveys** – The perception surveys prepared by AdvancED are available to the district parents, students and faculty through the end of the day on Friday, November 16. As of last week Friday, the district has received responses from 235 parents, 215 staff, 619 elementary K-5 students, 68 students at Berg, and 478 Hagen or DHS students.
- d. **EIIO Grant Application** – The district did not receive funding from the recent application grant submitted to the Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office. Available on the website is a spreadsheet listing the recipients of the grant.
- e. **High School Attendance and Tardy Data** – During the 2012-2013 school year, DHS implemented a test exemption policy to improve attendance and lessen the number of tardies at DHS. DHS Assistant Principal, Calvin Dean, has provided information regarding the attendance and tardies at

Superintendent's Report (cont.)

DHS since the beginning of the school year and comparison data to last year. This data is available online under Supporting Documents. The data from the high school reflects a decrease in absences and tardies. The first quarter of this current school year, there have been 1,718 tardies and 3,933 total class period absences. The first quarter of the 2011-2012 school year there were 2,391 tardies and 5,502 total class period absences. The first quarter last year, there were 56 students with perfect attendance. This year there are 117 perfect attendances for the first quarter.

- f. Budget Committee Meeting – Posted on the website are the minutes from the October 31, 2012, DPS Budget Committee Meeting. The minutes reflect the approval by the committee to hire an additional ELL instructor. Also approved at the Budget Committee Meeting was a request for replacing the bus radios and additional contract days for the new Prairie Rose Elementary principal, Miss Sherry Libis.
- g. Common Core Standards – Director of Instruction, Melanie Kathrein, addressed the Board explaining some of the recent improvements made in the K-5 curriculum. The Common Core standards was the driving force in most of the improvements. The Common Core standards are national standards that states elect to adopt. Most states, including North Dakota, have agreed to adopt the Common Core. To be in alignment with the Common Core, DPS has implemented improvements in English Language Arts and mathematics. Mrs. Kathrein shared examples of changes in the reading and writing curriculum and using critical thinking. Due to requests from teachers in the district to review the grading system, the district has also implemented a standards based report card. Mrs. Kathrein distributed a brochure and a sample of the new K-5 report card for language arts. The new report card was used with the most recent parent/teacher conferences. The feedback from the parents was positive with appreciation for the additional information. Soon the state assessment tests based on the Common Core standards will be administered. These will be administered in the spring. The tests will also be conducted electronically instead of the current paper format which has been previously administered in the fall. Mrs. Kathrein noted this is the first full year of the writing workshop. The Benchmark Assessment is being given three times this year and an additional level of the Leveled Literacy Intervention was added. President Fehr thanked Mrs. Kathrein for the information.

Roughrider Area Career and Technical Center (RACTC) Update – Mr. Larry Sebastian, RACTC Director, addressed the board. He provided a summary report of the goals, mission and financials which is posted on the website. At the meeting he distributed additional material with details specific to DPS. This year, DPS is at 60% funding and is in the fifth year of the cycle. Next year the funding will drop to 40% and remain at 40% thereafter. There are 51 DPS students participating in RACTC courses this semester. Next semester there are 48 students registered for RACTC courses. Total tuition for this school year will be \$46,200. Mr. Sebastian explained most of the DPS students enrolled are in health career related courses. President Fehr inquired if the counselor was the only RACTC staff member through DPS. Mr. Sebastian said there were no other staff members but the counselor. President Fehr inquired if a survey had been done asking the students for their interests in topics. At this time, Mr. Sebastian was not sure if such a survey has been done. There was a discussion regarding conflicts with scheduling classes at DHS due to the block schedule. President Fehr thanked Mr. Sebastian for his reports and for providing the updated information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Southwest Community High School (SWCHS) Report – SWCHS Principal, Jay Hepperle, addressed the board. Available on the website is a summary report provided by Mr. Hepperle. At the meeting he distributed information regarding the student population this school year. Mr. Hepperle noted that 75% of the students are referred to SWCHS from DHS. The remaining 25% are students arriving from outside the district who will be more successful at SWCHS. SWCHS is an accelerated program. Courses are taught in a shorter amount of time. Students enrolling at SWCHS typically have failed more than one class in the past. Requirements for credits at SWCHS are higher than the state standards. Maximum enrollment remains at 20 students. There are currently three students on the waiting list. President Fehr explained at the recent school board convention there was discussion regarding having alternative school as low as the 9th grade. Mr. Hepperle responded with the accelerated program there is a large amount of work that needs to be done on a daily basis by the students, many times without a teacher beside them all the time. It would be hard for students to stay on track unless there was some form of reward. President Fehr appreciated and thanked Mr. Hepperle for the updated information. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Prairie Rose Elementary School Update – Assistant Superintendent Reep has provided on the website copies of the minutes from the October 17 construction meeting and also a construction timeline update. Mr. Reep explained the walls are up at the new school and the contractors are enclosing the windows with plastic in preparation for the temporary heating system so that work on the interior may continue during the winter months. President Fehr thanked Mr. Reep and appreciated the pictures posted on the website. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

School Board Workshop – A Board workshop immediately followed the Board meeting. The agenda for the workshop is posted on the website under the workshop agenda link. Topics discussed at the workshop may become agenda items at future Board meetings. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Dickinson City Planner, Ed Courton, arrived at the meeting.

North Dakota School Boards Association Convention – Superintendent Sullivan and Assistant Superintendent Reep attended the law seminar. Superintendent Sullivan commented that one discussion was regarding open meetings. He felt this Board did a good job of letting the community know when meetings are being held. Superintendent Sullivan and President Fehr attended the convention. Dr. Sullivan attended workshops on workplace violence and responding to emergencies. President Fehr commented that it was a strong convention. She brought back some policies for the district to review. She also brought a book to share regarding diversity. Available on the website are summary reports from President Fehr, Dr. Sullivan and Mr. Reep. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Addition of English Language Learners Instructor – The Budget Committee recently met and approved the addition of a second English Language Learners instructor. The recommendation of the Budget Committee was to fill the position as soon as possible. There are currently 45 students within the district who have tested and require assistance with the program. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to authorize the administration to add one more English Language Learners instructor for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Collaborative Bargaining Recognition Petition from the Dickinson Education Association (DEA) – The DEA submitted two petitions which are posted on the website under Supporting Documents. The administrative recommendation was to recognize the DEA as an appropriate negotiating unit and to recognize them as the representative organization for contract negotiations. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.1-16-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, the school board of the Dickinson Public School District #1 recognizes all licensed personnel employed, or to be employed, by the Board in positions requiring a license issued pursuant to Chapter 15.1-13 of the North Dakota Century Code, except administrators and substitute teachers, as an appropriate negotiating unit for the purpose of 2012-2013 negotiations. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hanson moved that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 15.1-16-11 of the North Dakota Century Code, the school board of the Dickinson Public School District #1 recognizes the Dickinson Education Association as the exclusive representative of the appropriate negotiating unit for the purpose of the 2012-2013 negotiations. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application – Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the justification for the grant application request to the Dunn County Commissioners. The \$81,432 request would help defray the costs for a new bus and also the increases in transportation. President Fehr inquired if the amount requested was a percentage. Assistant Superintendent Reep explained it was a portion of the total cost of \$344,000. A copy of the grant application is posted under Supporting Documents and was presented for consideration by the Board. Action was requested prior to submitting the application. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the grant application to the Dunn County Commissioners for the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$81,432 for the purchase of a bus and for additional transportation costs incurred by the District, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application – Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the request to the Stark County Commissioners for the infrastructure grant in the amount of \$81,432 was similar to the Dunn County Commission request. A copy of the grant application is posted under Supporting Documents and is presented for consideration by the Board. Action was requested to approve the submittal of the grant. Ms. Ross moved to approve the grant application to the Stark County Commissioners for the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$81,432 for the purchase of a bus and for additional transportation costs incurred by the District, as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other – There were no other topics for discussion.

Adjournment – At 6:06 p.m., Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary