

Unapproved School Board Meeting Minutes

Dickinson Public Schools
Regular Meeting

November 14, 2011; 5:00 p.m.
Board Room, Central Office

The Dickinson Public School Board held a regular meeting on November 14, 2011, at the Central Administration Office. Board members present were: President Kris Fehr, Vice-president Leslie Ross, Dr. Morton Krieg, Mr. Jason Hanson, and Dr. Becky Pitkin. Administrators present were: Superintendent Douglas Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent Vince Reep, Mr. Perry Braunagel, Mr. Ron Dockter, Miss Sherry Libis, Mrs. Dorothy Martinson, Mrs. Melanie Kathrein, Mrs. Becky Meduna, Mr. Shawn Leiss, Mr. Mark Rerick, Mr. Henry Mack, Mrs. Tamara Praus and Mr. Calvin Dean. Others present were: Mr. Austin Boepple, Mr. Austin Mack, Miss Lynae Messer, Miss Madi Steier, Miss Emi Binstock, Mrs. Naomi Thorson, Ms. Jan Prchal, Mr. Scott Wegner, Mrs. Twila Petersen and Ms. April Baumgarten from the Dickinson Press.

President Fehr called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

There were no requests for Public Participation.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Ms. Ross moved to approve the agenda including the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the October 10, 2011, regular Board meeting and the October 10, 2011, Board workshop; the bills for November 2011; the financial reports for November 2011; the pledged assets report for November 2011; the personnel reports; the RACTC report; and the student/staff recognitions; as presented. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. DPI Title I Allocation – Dickinson Public Schools has been notified the Title I funding will decrease by approximately \$6,500 due to a decrease in the federal budget.
- b. American Education Week – American Education Week is being recognized November 13-19. There are various activities occurring throughout the District. Many elementary classrooms have guest readers. The individual school Parent Advisory Committees are also sponsoring events during the week. Rotary will be distributing dictionaries to students in the third grade at all the elementary schools in Dickinson.
- c. Minot Public Schools – Posted on the website under Supporting Documents is a certificate thanking Dickinson Public Schools for their contributions to the Minot flood relief effort. Many teachers, staff and students assisted the Minot Public Schools either with donated items or monetary gifts. President Fehr commended the teachers and staff for their contributions to the flood relief.
- d. Bullying Committee – The next Bullying Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 4:00 p.m.
- e. District-wide Technology Committee – The next District-wide Technology meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m.
- f. DHS Student Council Representatives – Superintendent Sullivan and President Fehr welcomed to the Board meeting Dickinson High School Student Council representatives.

Southwest Community High School (SWCHS) Report – Principal Shawn Leiss addressed the Board providing information regarding the enrollment trend at the Southwest Community High School. On average, there are approximately nine students that graduate each year. This year it is anticipated 16 students will graduate. He also explained the new schedule at the SWCHS that provides more time for staff collaboration and intervention. A copy of the new schedule along with a report is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Update – Hagen Junior High Principal Perry Braunagel and Dickinson High School Principal Ron Dockter addressed the Board providing updates regarding the PLC implemented at the junior high and senior high schools. A copy of Mr. Braunagel’s report and Mr. Dockter’s report are available on the website under Supporting Documents. Mr. Dockter explained the opportunity period at the high school and the positive results reflected from the opportunity period. Mr. Dockter estimates between 50-100 students participate in the opportunity period on their own. DHS is targeting students in the Tier II group-those students who choose not to do their homework. There is great cooperation and collaboration amongst the teachers at the high school. DHS continues to make improvements to help students with writing and working on its common assessments. Hagen Junior High has also seen improvements since the implementation of its opportunity period. This school year, the opportunity period is expanded beyond the noon hour. Hagen teachers have grade level meetings to try and identify students that are struggling. Hagen has expanded their Power Standards by involving teachers in the 6th grade and high school level. The number of students failing one or more classes has dropped from 60 to 11. This agenda item was informational only. No action was requested.

North Dakota School Board Association Convention

- a. **Convention Report** – President Fehr and Dr. Rebecca Pitkin gave brief reports regarding the North Dakota School Board Convention. Copies of their written reports from the convention and seminars are posted on the website under Supporting Documents.
- b. **Legal Seminar Report** – Assistant Superintendent Reep and Dr. Pitkin gave brief reports regarding the legal seminar they attended. Their written reports are available on the website under Supporting Documents.
- c. **New Member Seminar Report** – Dr. Pitkin gave a brief report regarding the New Member Seminar. A copy of her summary report is available on the website under Supporting Documents.

Cooperative Girls’ Tennis Agreement – Activities Director Mark Rerick addressed the Board. There is one student from South Heart schools and one student from Mott-Regent schools that wish to participate in the DPS girls’ tennis. Both districts have requested a cooperative agreement with DPS. The cooperative agreements are posted on the website under Supporting Documents. The administrative recommendation was to approve the agreements. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the extracurricular cooperative agreement with South Heart School District and Mott-Regent School District in girls’ tennis for the 2011-2012 school year. Dr. Pitkin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

North Dakota Educational Technology Council (ND ETC) Grant Application – Administrators in the District have been meeting to discuss the possibility of applying for a grant that would allow the District to pilot a technology program. After several discussions, the administrators suggested applying for the grant and utilize the funds to purchase iPads to be used for students in the 8th grade at Hagen Junior High.

North Dakota Educational Technology Council (ND ETC) Grant Application (cont.)

Background information regarding the grant application is available on the website under Supporting Documents. The grant application requires school Board approval. The funding from the grant is approximately \$70,000. Funds must be matched through the District either through purchases, professional development expenses, or in-kind contributions. After discussion, Board members requested the item be tabled until further research could be done and additional information gathered. Consensus of the Board was for the administrators to complete the application and bring it back to the Board members for review along with additional information regarding the program. A Special Board Meeting could be held to review the material, when available. Deadline for the application is December 2.

School Facilities – At a recent Board workshop, Board members requested additional information regarding the District facilities. At the workshop there was discussion regarding the economic activity in the region and the potential impact on student enrollment. Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board and explained there have been discussions in the past regarding restructuring the K-5 schools or building a new school. The District will be out of classroom space in the year 2014 if it sustains its current enrollment. Mr. Reep said it has been more than 30 years since a new school has been built in Dickinson. Ms. Jan Prchal from Hulsing and Associates addressed the Board with a proposal for a new elementary school located in north Dickinson on land currently owned by DPS. The handout she provided was for a new school approximately the same size as Jefferson Elementary. Ms. Prchal explained information she has gathered indicates that 10th Avenue West will be a main thoroughfare. This will run adjacent to the proposed school. Her plan suggested a student drop off area and faculty parking that is located within the property. This would help reduce congestion on the main thoroughfare. The area owned by DPS is located near subdivisions that are proposed to be developed residentially. The approximate cost for the new elementary school would be \$11,500,000. It would be approximately 55,000 sq. ft. with 18 regular education classrooms. A timeline for construction would be 12-14 months. Within the plans is an area for future expansion.

Mr. Scott Wegner from Arntson Stewart Wegner PC addressed the Board explaining how the new school construction could be financed by utilizing \$5,000,000 from the sale of bonds, \$1,500,000 from an HVAC levy, and the remaining \$5,000,000 from the interim fund. The following documents pertaining to resolutions for building the new school are posted on the website under Supporting Documents: Initial Resolution, Resolution Providing for Sale, Resolution Authorizing Sale, and Resolution for Participation in the Credit Enhancement Program. The Initial Resolution is \$5,000,000 general obligation building fund bonds payable from the building funds levy. This commits approximately 6 mills out of the 10 mills to cover the debt service on \$5,000,000 and is paid over 15 years. There is a 60 day protest period. The second resolution provides for the sale of the \$5,000,000 and directs the Dickinson Public Schools to prepare the offering documents that are given to investors. The proposed sale date would be December 12. The third resolution is for a \$1,500,000 HVAC levy for the heating and air conditioning system in the newly constructed school. This is approximately two mills. The final resolution enhances the rating to provide a lower interest rate. If a payment is missed it would be picked up by the Department of Public Instruction.

There was further discussion regarding building the new school larger, expanding other schools in the District, downsizing the larger classrooms at Jefferson and Lincoln by moving students to the new school, transferring some staff to the new school, the cost to run the new school and taxable valuations. After additional discussion, Mr. Hanson moved to approve the initial resolution authorizing the issuance and

School Facilities (cont.)

sale of \$5,000,000 general obligation building fund bonds, series 2011A. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aye-Dr. Pitkin, Ms. Ross, Mr. Hanson, Dr. Krieg, and Mrs. Fehr. Nay-none. The motion carried.

Ms. Ross moved to approve the resolution providing for the sale of \$5,000,000 general obligation building fund bonds, series 2011A. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aye-Dr. Krieg, Mr. Hanson, Dr. Pitkin, Ms. Ross, and Mrs. Fehr. Nay-none. The motion carried.

Mr. Hanson moved to approve the resolution authorizing the sale of \$1,500,000 limited tax bonds, series 2011B. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aye-Ms. Ross, Dr. Pitkin, Dr. Krieg, Mr. Hanson, and Mrs. Fehr. Nay-none. The motion carried.

Dr. Pitkin moved to approve the resolution providing for participation in the School Bond Credit Enhancement Program. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Aye-Dr. Krieg, Dr. Pitkin, Ms. Ross, Mr. Hanson, and Mrs. Fehr. The motion carried.

President Fehr thanked Ms. Prchal, Mr. Wegner, Superintendent Sullivan and Assistant Superintendent Reep for the extensive research they have done on this project.

School Construction Request – Part of the process for constructing a facility in a North Dakota school district is a review process through the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The review process requires the school district to submit a School Construction Approval Request form for review and approval to the DPI. The form has been provided on the website as a Supporting Document. After discussion, Ms. Ross moved to authorize the administration to submit the School Construction Approval Request form to the Department of Public Instruction for the construction of the North Elementary School. Dr. Krieg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application – Assistant Superintendent Reep addressed the Board explaining the justification for the grant application to the Dunn County Commissioners for the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant to help defray the increases in transportation costs. A copy of the grant application is posted under Supporting Documents on the website. The amount requested is \$78,300. The grant funds may only be used for transportation costs. Administrative recommendation was to apply for the grant. Action was requested to approve the submittal of the grant. Ms. Ross moved to approve the grant application to the Dunn County Commissioners for the Dunn County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$78,300 for costs due to increased transportation activity incurred by the District, as presented. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Request Approval of the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application – Assistant Superintendent Reep explained the justification for the grant application to the Stark County Commissioners for the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant to help defray the costs for the purchase of a bus and also to defray the costs incurred by the District for the increased transportation fees. A copy of the grant application is posted under Supporting Documents. The administrative recommendation was to apply for the grant. The amount requested is \$111,570. Action was requested to approve the submittal of the grant. Mr. Hanson moved to approve the grant application to the Stark County Commissioners for the

Request Approval of the Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant Application (cont.)

Stark County GPT Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$111,570 for the purchase of a bus and for additional transportation costs incurred by the District, as presented. Dr. Pitkin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dickinson Park and Recreation Land Lease – Assistant Superintendent Reep informed Board members the area of property owned by DPS and leased to the Dickinson Park and Recreation is up for lease renewal. The lease has expired and the Dickinson Park and Recreation wishes to renew their lease with DPS. A copy of the lease agreement is posted on the website under Supporting Documents. There is no exchanging of monetary funds. The agreement has a clause in #8 that either party may terminate the agreement with a 30 day written notification. The administrative recommendation was to renew the lease for five years. Action was requested. Dr. Pitkin moved to approve the land lease agreement with Dickinson Parks and Recreation for a term of five years beginning November 14, 2011. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy Revisions, Additions and Deletions–First Reading – Copies of the Board policies proposed for first reading approval are posted on the school board website under Supporting Documents as Board Policies. The administrative recommendation was to revise the following policies: policy AAB–District Goals and Objectives; policy ABBB–Community Use of School Facilities; policy ABBE–Displays of Religious Objects or Documents; policy ABCC–Dickinson Public Schools Wellness Plan; policy ACAB–Emergency Plans and Drills; policy ACAC–First Aid/Accidents; policy ACDA–Acceptable Use; policy ACEB–Hazing; policy BBBB–School Board Committees; policy BBC–Method of Filling a Board Vacancy; policy BCBA–Public Participation at Board Meetings; policy DBAA–Recruitment, Hiring, and Background Checks for New Classified Personnel; policy DBAB–Emergency Hiring of Classified Personnel; policy DBAC–Recruitment, Hiring, and Background Checks for New Instructional Personnel; policy DBBA–Drug and Alcohol Testing for Employees; policy DCB–Overtime and Compensatory Time; policy DDDF–Educational Leave; policy DDEA–Jury and Witness Duty; policy DFAA–Evaluation; policy DFC–Transfer and Assignment; policy FACB–Transfers and Withdrawals Records; policy FDB–Education of the Homeless Students; policy FFB–Attendance and Absences; policy FFEA–Use of Controlled Substances by Activity Group Members; policy FGA–Student Education Records; policy FGCB–Searches of Students and Students’ Personal Property; policy FGCC–Student Interviews; policy GAAC–Review and Complaints of Instructional and Resource Material; policy GAAD–Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials; policy GABC–Sex Education; policy GABDB–Federal Title Programs Dispute Resolution Policy; policy IE–Transportation; policy KAAA–Visitors in the Schools; policy KAAB–Volunteers at Schools; policy KAAD–Distribution and Posting of Noncurricular Material in School; policy KAB–Title I Parental Involvement; policy KBA–Relations with the News Media; and policy LBB–Relations with Department of Human Services. The administrative recommendation was to add the following policies: policy DEBF–Employee Speech; policy FAAB–Early Entrance Requirements; policy FECB–Gifts and Awards to Students; and policy FGDE–Student Distribution and Posting of Noncurricular Material in School. The administrative recommendation was to delete the following Board policies: policy ABBDA–Distribution and Posting of Noncurricular Material in School; policy CABB–Hiring Administrative Staff; and policy GABBA–Programs for Students with Disabilities. Action was requested. Dr. Pitkin moved to accept the first reading approval of the school board policy revisions, additions and deletions, as

Board Policy Revisions, Additions and Deletions–First Reading (cont.)

presented. Ms. Ross seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board members recommended further research done on policy FCAB-Administering Medication to Students recommended for deletion by the NDSBA.

Board Regulation Revisions, Addition and Deletions-First Reading and Final Adoption – Copies of the Board regulations proposed for first reading and final adoption are available on the website under Supporting Documents as Board Regulations. The administrative recommendation was to revise the following regulations: regulation AAC-BR–Discrimination and Harassment Grievance Procedure, regulation ABCB-BR–Sportsmanship Regulations, regulation BBC-BR–Procedure for Selection of Board Appointee, regulation BCBA-BR–Public Participation at School Board Meetings, and regulation DDBB-BR–Holidays for Classified Staff. The administrative recommendation was to add Board regulation FDB-BR–Education of the Homeless Dispute Resolution Process and to delete Board regulations FAAB-BR–Early Entrance Requirements and regulation GABC-BR–Sex Education Law. Action was requested. Ms. Ross moved to approve the first reading and final adoption of the school board regulation revisions, addition and deletions, as presented. Dr. Pitkin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other - President Fehr commended the students that competed in the Robotics competition recently held at DSU. DHS and Hagen Junior High School students will be advancing to the state competition.

Adjournment - At 7:10 p.m., Mr. Hanson moved to adjourn. Dr. Pitkin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kris Fehr, Board President

Vince Reep, Business Manager

Twila Petersen, Secretary